

# *Amalgamated Transit Union Canada*



## *ATU Canada Conference Day 1*

*Date: September 26, 2023*

*Location: Fairmont Palliser Calgary, AB*

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ATU Canada Conference September 2023



Date: September 26, 2023

Time: 9:02am

### **Roll Call**

Attending:	John Di Nino	President
	Eric Tuck	Executive Vice President
	Aleem Tharani	Financial Secretary
	Darcy Pedersen	West Board Member
	Bill Johnson	West Board Member
	Jack Jackson	East Board Member
	Clint Crabtree	East Board Member
	Vacant	East Board Member
	Manny Sforza	International Vice President
	John Callahan	International Vice President
	Ken Wilson	International Vice President

### **John Di Nino**

- Need to make some changes of the opening ceremony due to Mayor Gondek schedule
- Greeting from host Local Mike Mahar and introduction of Mayor of Calgary Jyoti Gondek
- Greetings from Mayor of Calgary
- Singing of national anthem
- Moment of silence and acknowledgement of Ken Foster passing
- Land acknowledgement
- Shannon Johannson provides reading of prayers, explains/performs smudging
- explains meaning behind smudging, and traditional gift presentation
- Presents gift to Shannon on behalf of delegation
- Rose walks through web app for conference
- Asked 1<sup>st</sup> time delegates to stand
- Introduction of Yvette Trujillo, IVP's, ATU Canada Board
  
- Greetings from Yvette Trujillo International Executive Vice President
- Greetings from Senior IVP Manny Sforza
- Greetings from IVP John Callahan



- Greetings from IVP Ken Wilson
- Greetings from Labour critic Peggy Wright for Alberta NDP

- Di Nino talks importance of Federations of Labour
- Greetings from AFL President Gil McGowan

### **Appointment of Sergeant-at-arms**

John Di Nino-Appoints and provides acknowledgment to Kathy Crawford and Zul Vira as ATU Canada Sergeant-of-arms

### **Appointment of Committees:**

- **Bylaw**
  - Marvin Alfred Local 113 Chair
  - Mike Gauthier Local 741
  - Scott Bate Local 1189
  - Cory Macleod Local 1320
  - Andrew Salabie Local 1573
- **Balloting**
  - Paul Doucette Local 107 Chair
  - Kyron Lewis Local 113
  - Cornel Neagu Local 134
  - Mike Lewis Local 279
  - Darlene Malayko Local 569
  - Jack McLaren Local 846
  - Christian Brambilla Local 1505
  - Brent Cerenzia Local 1767
- **Harassment**
  - Renee Dunn Local 583 Chair
  - Sheldon Phaneuf Local 1290
  - Laura Wylie Local 1724

### **Reading of the minutes**

- Motion- by Pino D'Armiento, Local 113, to adopt the minutes, seconded by John Zahreddine local 1573, -no further questions, motion carried



## **Financial Report**

- Current financial positions is \$1,334,395.92
- Motion to accept the financials by Pino D'Armiento Local 113, Seconded by Brent Cerenzia, Local 1767, no further questions, motion carried

## **Guest Speaker(s)**

- Di Nino introduces Laura Walton President of CUPE Ontario School Boards Council of Unions (OBSCU)
- Laura Walton talks about worker power, organizing workers and strengthening union power. Touches on solidarity with ATU 1587 & illegal strike of 55,000 education workers. Importance of mapping workers and organizing. Talks about Keep transit public and the necessity of it being in every community. The need for us to be more involved in Labour Councils & Federations of Labour
- Di Nino asks how much fines were
- \$4000 per worker and 0.5 million a day for union
- Mark Beeching Local 1724 asks about including para transit in public transit and the importance
- Laura respond by stating this is our problem & a community problem
- Eric Tuck leads chant "Ignite the fight"
- ATU Canada endorses Team Ignite for OFL
  
- Greetings from Cynthia Watson and Riley Palmer who sponsored lunch
- Riley Palmer talks about arbitration case with ATU 1572 "dash cam red light infraction" with success
- Riley talks about resources on website
- Cynthia Watson talks about tech change, gender issues, climate change & erosion of privacy rights and how it will impact Trade Unions. We need to be more proactive and thing bigger
- Cynthia speaks about importance of mental health and how people should be treated with respect and dignity
- Cynthia touches on transit workers being frontline hero's during covid and no recognition from media or transit agencies
- More engagement from ATU in E & I committee
- Education offered by law firm and educating members to join mailing list



## Break for lunch

- Di Nino thanks host Local from last year conference
- Di Nino talks about Local 1587 strike and updates from last year
- Di Nino thanks Eric Tuck for stepping up in his absence
- Gives update from CLC & EB meeting in Calgary during provincial election
- Di Nino talks about Provincial election in Manitoba and work with 1505
  
- Roland Beaudet Local 113 asks about last year's incident in Saint John, NB
  
- Di Nino addresses and stated no victim came forward. ATU Canada is working with legal to address and improve harassment statement and will be presented at next year's conference
  
- Di Nino thanks IVP Manny Sforza & IP Costa for support during his tragedy
- Candid discussion on mental health with John Courtney President ATU 265 & John Di Nino
- Derek Hanley 1505 comments on what PTSD looks like
- John Courtney talks about how happy he is that this is on the agenda and how we are trying to help people. It is our responsibility as leaders to recognize and help all
- Di Nino talks about condo board and draws similarities to union executive board
- Di Nino talks about locals must train in mental health and build awareness
- John C. talks about the peer-to-peer support system and all the support that the union provides. We need to do a better job of following up. He states transit agencies won't go above and beyond and are insensitive. He talks about metaphor of backpack and taking care of yourself
- Natasha Local 583 – I believe peer-to-peer is important and we should have an international peer support because people don't want co-workers to know but people who understand
- Grace Local 113 – talks about carrying stress and confidentiality due to sensitive nature of work as elected official
- John C. talks about setting personal boundaries
- Bill – Local 583 thanks both John Di Nino and John Courtney for doing this and shares work incident
- Cory Local 1320 talks about Labour community advocate training
- Di Nino talks about supporting local program
- Chris Local 1505 talks about successful things 1505 is doing like mental health check and reaching out to members who have been impacted within 24 hours
- General discussion
- Di Nino brings Doreen on stage and congrats to John Courtney on his retirement



Coffee break

- Di Nino recognizes Sarah Maceda-Maciel and ATU Canada staff
- IP Costa arrives
- Ian Fellows presents on charter challenge on the right to strike with Local 113
- Fellows give background/history of charter
- Fellows talks about strategy on how Local 113 would challenge along with UPFH
- Touches on impact of loss of right to strike
- Give definition of essential service
- Fellows give brief on how case went and how we became successful
- Marvin Alfred 113 thanks Ian for success
- Eric Tuck 107 asks can this case stop other unions from going on strike or illegal strike
- Ian responds that this will help but not completely stop

**Motion: to adjourn carried**

Minutes submitted by Aleem Tharani  
Secretary to the Board ATU Canada

