Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to you today to inform you of some recent developments that will be impacting Local 955.

Yesterday, formal mediation ended between the local and the ACOA (Alberta Crane Owners Association). We are now heading towards a strike or lockout; it appears to be imminent at this point.

We have bargained for almost 20 sessions and took a break from January – February to talk to our respective groups about the “state of the bargaining”. When we returned to the table yesterday, the latest offer was reduced.

As you can imagine, we were expecting good faith bargaining and we did not receive that treatment. In fact, the ACOA believes that the threat to the south will cause a recession, and that Local 955 members should be disadvantaged to help them through this turbulent time.

Obviously, this has become an untenable situation and Local 955 and our membership are fully prepared to fight for what they deserve.

My plan; is to ask for your help. I would like Alberta to be declared a “hot zone” and your membership to be asked not to come to Alberta if this goes unresolved. We would like to be “known” to the ACOA that IUOE Local’s across Canada are supporting us and they cannot depend on Labour from across the country to fill the seats. Luckily, we knew this would be a tough round of bargaining, so we started early. Our hope, with a unified front and a strong arm, the ACOA may have second thoughts. I plan on canceling all travel cards into L 955 as of April 30th and would respectfully ask that you “call them home”.

I’m confident a united front will force the ACOA to reconsider their position quickly. Time is on our side for a change. We can’t strike or be locked out till May 1st.

In Solidarity,

Chris