

July 27, 2018

Tom Pistore
Senior VP, Sales and Service
MLSE
Scotiabank Arena
50 Bay St., Suite 500
Toronto, ON
M5J 2L2

Dear Mr. Pistore,

I write to you today with grave concern regarding the lockout of IATSE Local 58 (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) at Exhibition Place. As you know, the Building Trades, Hammer Heads and our affiliates have enjoyed a long-standing relationship with MLSE. Your support of our Hammer Heads Program where we service and link under-resourced youth to a career in the construction industry and, more importantly, a unionized registered apprenticeship, has, over the years, been greatly appreciated and has allowed our partnership to grow not only in ticket sales, but in major sponsorship opportunities with MLSE. In fact, this Saturday, July 28th, is our annual COBT Hammer Heads Night with the TFC for which we have sold over 2500 tickets to our affiliates to raise money for Hammer Heads.

The current lockout at Exhibition Place is between the City of Toronto Board of Governors and IATSE, however, as a key tenant and with ongoing game operations, MLSE is in the middle of this labour dispute. As trade unionists ourselves, my affiliates and I are disheartened to learn the Board of Governors is trying to claw back a substantial amount of jurisdiction from IATSE. The strength of unions comes from our solidarity and, with that, we are standing with IATSE and are looking for MLSE to use your size and influence politically to write to the Board of Governors demanding they get back to the bargaining table and bargain in good faith to negotiate a fair Collective Agreement with IATSE, one that would not include clawing back pre-existing bargaining work and conditions.

In solidarity with IATSE, and as this is a Hammer Heads event, myself along with all of our Hammer Heads Directors will be boycotting our TFC game this Saturday. This includes our President of the Central Ontario Building Trades (COBT), Sean McCormick, who is also the Business Manager of the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 50, Steven Martin, Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 353 and Terry Snooks, International Representative of UA Canada.



Along with boycotting the event, we will be foregoing our formal cheque presentation and all in-game activity related to our program and request to have the lights turned off in our suite as a sign of unity with our locked out IATSE members. I imagine once I share this letter with my other affiliates, that other Business Managers and rank and file members will also boycott Saturday's TFC game. Currently we are working on our next event with MLSE on Exhibition grounds which is with the Toronto Argos, however, in light of this current situation, and unless it is resolved, we will be cancelling this event. These circumstances are unfortunate and we are not against MLSE, however, we must stand united with IATSE.

As you can appreciate, we take IATSE being locked out very seriously. Lockouts affect the livelihood of many of our Brother and Sister members, not to mention long-standing Collective Agreements. My industry and I will be watching to see how MLSE reacts to this matter as it will definitely impact our relationship moving forward. True leadership is exhibited in times of adversity. MLSE has always been a leader in the community and in the workplace; IATSE needs that same leadership demonstrated now on their behalf to the City of Toronto and the Board of Governors at Exhibition Place to demand that they end this lockout immediately and refrain from bargaining against IATSE in poor faith.

I am available to discuss this matter at your convenience and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



James St. John
Business Manager / Financial Secretary
Central Ontario Building Trades
Director, Hammer Heads

cc: Justin Antheunis, President IATSE Local 58
Sean McCormick, President, Central Ontario Building Trades
All COBT Business Managers, Hammer Heads Directors
Anton Wimmer, Senior Director of Membership, MLSE