February, 18, 2018

Dear Affiliates,

On behalf of OFUR, I requested the considered opinion of the OFL on what impact the recent disaffiliation of Unifor from the CLC might have upon OFUR’s ability to continue (over 45% of OFUR council members and Area Council presidents, including OFUR’s 1st VP, treasurer and convention chair are Unifor retirees) and to hold our biennial convention this spring at the Unifor Family Education Centre in Port Elgin as planned.

Please see the February 14, 2018 OFL response below:

Hi Suzanne,

Thank you for your email, and for the important work that you and OFUR do within the labour movement.

Below as requested are answers to the questions that you have posed in your email.

1) After consultation with the CLC, it has been determined that Unifor’s disaffiliation **should not** affect retirees or retiree groups, including the membership and leadership or representation of OFUR or CURC.

The rationale for this is that neither OFUR nor CURC are considered chartered bodies of the CLC or OFL, as described in Article 3 of the CLC Constitution.

**Article 3**

Membership

*1. Members of the Congress are:*

*• affiliated national, international, regional and provincial        unions;*

*• directly chartered local unions; and*

*• chartered provincial and territorial federations of labour and                   local labour councils.*

As you are aware, CURC has both a voice and vote at the Canadian Council of the CLC.

It would be useful for me to see your constitution or any historical documents regarding the founding of OFUR, I will continue to review our archives to see if I can find anything further.

2) Regarding your question whether OFUR should relocate your upcoming convention from the Unifor Family Education Centre. As discussed, this is a decision that is solely in the hands of OFUR.

We are hopeful that this situation will be resolved as quick as possible. However, I am unable at this time to confirm that will occur before your convention of May 27-29, 2018.

You may wish to consider the costs and benefits associated with relocating versus staying put, or perhaps it may require further discussion with your executive.

I’m certain that whichever decision OFUR makes regarding the venue, it will be a very successful 2018 Biennial Convention, please let me know if I can be of any assistance as you prepare.

3) Can Unifor retirees continue as OFUR officers and council members and can Unifor locals continue affiliation with OFUR?”

The simple answer is yes. They may continue in those positions and affiliation.

As noted above, OFUR is free to conduct its affairs, as it sees fit.

4) Regarding OFUR’s voting status at the Executive Council meetings, after consulting with the Officers, as per the OFL Constitution:

         **Article XI**

         Executive Council

*The Executive Council…shall be composed of:*

* *Two (2) representatives of the Ontario Federation of Union Retirees (Congress of Union Retirees of Canada).*

As such, OFUR representatives have **both voice and vote** at the council, similar to CURC at the CLC.

I realize that you have some decisions to make under a tight timeline, and wish you well in that process. Please feel free to call me if you have any further questions.

Rob Halpin

Executive Director

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Convention committee member Jean Simpson and I investigated various alternative locations and learned that meeting room, audio visual rental, hospitality room and guest room rates are becoming prohibitively expensive for small organizations, and anyone on a fixed income. Such costs would also greatly deplete OFUR’s treasury and impede its ability to continue moving forward doing the work that needs to be done on behalf of our retirees.

After much discussion and deliberation, your OFUR council decided it was in the best interests of all our members to continue as planned and go ahead with the Unifor Family Education Centre location.

OFUR recognizes that this is a decision fraught with much angst and soul searching among our affiliates and members.

It is our hope, that as retirees, we can come together in May in fellowship and solidarity on behalf of all that we do to better the life of our retirees present and future.

In solidarity,

Suzanne Clancy

Suzanne Clancy, President

Ontario Federation of Union Retirees