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United Food and Commercial Workers Canada Union Local No. 401

June 12, 2013

Gil McGowan  
President  
Alberta Federation of Labour  
10654 101 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5H 2S1

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 401 started an organizing drive in March to unionize the i-Hotel in Red Deer Alberta, which was formerly the Holiday Inn on 67<sup>th</sup> Street. Workers were interested in getting better working conditions, with the ultimate goal of reaching a fair union contract.

During the process of showing support for the union, owner Amin Suleman was made aware of union activity, and interfered with the organizing efforts of Local 401. Mr. Suleman expressed his dislike for unions very clearly to members that were supportive, and sent a message to others members who have not been approached yet, not to join a union.

Attached you will find the complaint sent to the board on behalf of the 3 members that have been harassed, intimidated, and even terminated for expressing their legal right to join a union. The Alberta Labour Relations Board set aside May 30, 2013 to discuss the allegations UFCW Local 401 claimed, along with the response from the employer. The resolution conference was productive, but in the end the employer did not agree with the consent order that was drafted by the board.

Local 401 agreed with the consent order (attached), and would even remove the charges initially laid out if the parties were made whole, and the union was given time to talk to the workers. The union explained to the employer that they just wanted the workers to be given the information, and for them to make their own choice whether a union was right for this workplace.

At this time Local 401 needs your help. We are asking all labour organizations, but specifically the AFL to please help us in the fight against a ruthless employer to show how much business the Labour movement gives to companies that are labour friendly. Being unionized in Alberta can help growing businesses because the labour movement continuously supports each other. Organizer Joe Irving assigned to this campaign is working very hard to get union hotels and meeting spaces across the province, for labour organizations to use when needed.

If the AFL can get in touch with as many organizations as possible to let them know that Local 401 needs their help in this matter by boycotting this employer until, an agreement can be made between the union and the employer. Local 401 does not want this business to suffer to the extent of where they will have to shut their doors, rather to bring to their attention how much business the labour movement brings now, and even more in the future. This is why it is crucial when asking them to cancel their reservation, letting the hotel know why they are pulling their business, but would be willing to use the hotel in the future, given the employer runs an ethical business. This employer currently owns and operates 2 hotels in Alberta. The first being the i-Hotel at 6500 67 St. Red Deer Alberta, and the Edmonton Hotel and Convention Centre at 4520 76 Ave Edmonton Alberta.

The first step UFCW Local 401 is asking for the employer to agree to the consent order that was turned down in the resolution conference, so the workers can get the information on Local 401, and how being unionized can help their working conditions.

If you have any further questions please get in contact with the Director of Organizing, Chris O'Halloran at [cohalloran@ufcw401.ab.ca](mailto:cohalloran@ufcw401.ab.ca) or at 403-797-2878. Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DOH', written over a horizontal line.

Douglas O'Halloran  
President  
UFCW Local 401

/mld

cc Siobhan Vipond