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GoodLife Instructors and Personal Trainers eagerly await union vote results

TORONTO, June 17, 2016/ - Over 900 Toronto-area GoodLife Fitness Personal Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors cast a ballot during a union certification vote held on June 6th.

Workers United Canada Council, the Union seeking to represent GoodLife Fitness Professionals, initially filed to hold a certification vote for only City of Toronto Instructors and Personal Trainers. However, GoodLife requested that the Labour Board include workers from six other cities in the Greater Toronto area – without those employees' knowledge or ever having participated in the union drive. As a result, the Labour Board sealed the ballot boxes.

An upcoming Labour Board meeting to resolve this issue between GoodLife and Workers United is scheduled for June 29th, 2016.

“Workers are disappointed that GoodLife has attempted to manipulate the bargaining unit to avoid having Toronto workers unionize,” said Tanya Ferguson, Workers United Organizing Coordinator.

Despite this legal challenge, Workers United argues that votes could be counted for 70% of the undisputed ballots, if both parties agree to it.

“It's pretty straightforward - nearly a thousand workers showed up to decide whether they want a union. We believe the workers' votes should speak for themselves. Let the workers decide,” Ferguson added.

Fitness professionals have raised a number of issues and concerns regarding working conditions at GoodLife, including: lack of WSIB coverage in case of workplace injuries, wage theft, out of pocket expenses, and forced to sign non-compete clauses that restricts their ability to work as trainers or instructors elsewhere.

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