



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES, AFL-CIO

February 14, 2017

To: Members of District Council 97

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I write to inform you fully concerning a recent review of District Council finances and operations by the International Union and to clear up any confusion spawned by rumors circulating concerning the scope and findings of that review.

For some time now – indeed since the financial difficulties created by the actions of prior administration in starting a rival union – District Council 97 voluntarily has submitted monthly reports to the International Union concerning its receipts and expenditures. BMST Desjardins agreed to this system in light of the substantial financial support provided to District Council 97 by the International Union and by other Canadian District Councils.

Certain items in these reports triggered a more general review of District Council 97 and its affiliated locals, 1135, 1929, 349 and 349A. BMST Desjardins cooperated completely in this review. Thus, even though he initially had a different reading of the Bylaws, when the International questioned certain payments regarding vacation pay and expense reimbursement, BMST Desjardins promptly acquiesced to the International position.

Beyond that, after completion of this review, the International Union and District Council 97 agreed to a plan to place the District Council on a path to financial stability. This plan calls for a budget that will pay all the Council's existing debt and result in future surpluses. We applaud BMST Desjardins and the other Representatives of the Council whose sacrifices have made this plan viable.

Office of
Kenneth E. Rigmaiden
General President

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District Council 97 Members
February 14, 2017
Page 2

Beyond that, please know that, despite operating on a very lean budget, District Council 97 remains very competitive. In fact, we were one of the top unions in Quebec in terms of membership gains. Rest assured that as we work to improve our Union, the International will maintain rigorous oversight of the finances of District Council 97. We are confident that, as they have in the past, the BMST and officers of the Council will cooperate fully in that review. As paying members, you deserve no less.

Together we cannot fail. Divided we cannot succeed.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth E. Rigmaiden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Kenneth E. Rigmaiden
General President

cc: GVP Kucheran
GPR White

kds/iupat 1937
f/DC 97

District Council 97 Members
February 14, 2017
Page 2