

April 12, 2007

**Open letter to Paul Thompson, International President to the United
Transportation Union**

Dear Mr. Thompson;

It is now painfully obvious that the rank and file membership of the UTU in Canada no longer have confidence in the leadership displayed by John Armstrong, Tim Secord and Robert Sharpe. Despite vast amounts of membership dollars spent by the aforementioned on telemarketing firms and dubious legal tomfoolery, they have been able to convince only a small minority into believing their rhetoric. Mistery Armstrong, Secord and Sharpe put their own personal agendas ahead for the wants and needs of the membership. Tuesday's results are also the product of a backlash against the unwarranted interference of the International during early days of the strike. The consequences, due to the lack of support from your office in Cleveland, the subsequent unjustified public lynching of my colleagues and me as well as your apparent support of the employer's position regarding the legality of the strike at the CIRB hearing on Feb. 19, have now come to fruition.

There is a cohesiveness of will power amongst our membership. They want the real issues addressed at the bargaining table with CN. This dispute is not only about money nor is it about treading water until we get our house in order. It is about our **health and safety**. It's about **pensions**. It's about **CN's lack of respect** for us and the collective agreement. The membership wants and deserves to have people at the bargaining table that will have to live and work with any future settlement for years to come.

For these reasons and in order to restore confidence in the Union movement, I demand that you do following:

1. Suspend all strike action and seek the assistance of the Canadian Industrial Relations Board in ensuring there will be a representational vote as soon as possible.
2. Enter into an agreement with CN to ensure the membership is protected under the terms and conditions of the now expired collective agreement(s) until such time a new agreement is ratified.
3. Relieve John Armstrong, Tim Secord and Robert Sharpe of their duties in relation to the bargaining process due to their dysfunctional and failed leadership.
4. Return the wrongfully discharged bargaining committee to office so that we may act as the true voice of the membership in going forward through this chaos.
5. Apologize to the Canadian UTU membership for the shameful behaviour of the National and International officers.

The membership has spoken. Will you listen?



Sylvia LeBlanc
General Chairperson in exile
Prince George, BC.
c.c. - All Rail Workers