

Notes for Remarks

By Jack White

Vice-Chair

General Presidents' Maintenance Committee

\$400K NMC Donation announcement

Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre

June 24, 2014

(Check against delivery)

Good Morning, everyone. My name is Jack White, and I am the Vice Chair of the General Presidents' Maintenance Committee. We are an alliance of international building trades unions, specifically industrial maintenance. We currently negotiate and oversee labour agreements with over 120 companies, which employ over 14,000 skilled trades peoples across Canada.

We have a strong presence here in Fort McMurray. Our union members maintain the equipment required to extract and refine oil. Whether our members are temporary residents, or have relocated permanently and are raising families here, they all require access to quality healthcare. Simply stated, they cannot perform their jobs without it.

We are unfortunately all too familiar with workplace injuries. Our members depend on the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre to get the treatment they need - everything from consultations to X-rays to surgery to outpatient care to managing chronic conditions.

The Northern Lights Regional Health Centre, through Alberta Health Services, provides an incredible array of healthcare options to both our members and the entire Wood Buffalo area. We all know quality healthcare is a strong foundation for any community. We believe in the importance of investing where our members live, work and play.

And so, it gives me great pleasure to present the Northern Lights Health Foundation with this cheque for \$400,000. This donation is a demonstration of our ongoing commitment to Fort McMurray. I would like to extend my most heartfelt thanks to Northern Lights staff for all you have done and will continue to do for our members, and the community as a whole.

News Release

General Presidents' Maintenance Committee

June 24, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unions donate \$400,000 to Northern Lights Health Foundation in Fort McMurray

Fort McMurray, AB – A group of 13 unions whose members perform maintenance work on large industrial facilities in the oil sands and elsewhere in Canada has donated \$400,000 to the Northern Lights Health Foundation, which will benefit the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre in Fort McMurray.

The donation was formally presented today at a meeting of the General Presidents' Maintenance Committee (GPMC).

"It's extremely important to us to invest not only in our members but also the wider community," said GPMC Vice Chair Jack White. "We hope our donation will help the community, our members, and the many workers from across Canada who have made Fort McMurray either a temporary or permanent home.

"Workplace injuries are an unfortunate fact of life in our industry," said White. "Our members depend on this hospital for high quality health care. This donation shows our appreciation to everything this hospital has done for our members and other employees who work in the construction industry."

The General Presidents' Maintenance Committee is an alliance of international building trades unions that negotiates and administers labour agreements tailored for maintenance work at industrial plants in Canada. The organization negotiates and administers agreements with more than 120 employers, which employ more than 16,000 skilled trade people across Canada.

Members of the Committee include:

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers  
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America  
International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators & Allied Workers

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons'  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
International Association of Iron Workers  
Laborers' International Union of North America  
International Union of Operating Engineers  
International Union of Painters & Allied Trades  
United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters  
Sheet Metal Workers' International Association  
Teamsters Canada

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Article for union newsletters/websites

Unions donate \$400,000 to Northern Lights Health Foundation in Fort McMurray

Fort McMurray, AB – Unions have always supported local charities in communities where their members live and work. They provide financial support for sports clubs, food banks and many other worthy charitable groups.

But sometimes unions give back to the community in a really big way.

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