

Dear Brother Hargrove,

I just wanted to let you know that I am now in receipt of a copy of your e-mail to Robert Carmichael where you make certain assertions that are, to say the least, inaccurate.

Firstly, let me state quite clearly that you never, at any time, received an invitation from me to join or assist the TWU Bargaining Committee. In fact I was told that your involvement was to be the link to the minister of labour Joe Fontana and that you would report back to him on the progress of our negotiations.

That is why, when it became apparent to me that you were going to be on the committee, I expressed my confusion and asked the question of you, " What is your role in our Bargaining committee?" Your reply to me was " I am here to help in any way I can, and at the end of the day I hope you will join our union."

While it may be true that you have not violated the CAW Constitution, I would like to remind you that, in my view, your participation in private meetings with the company and your exchange of proposals at the bargaining committee constituted a violation of both our union policies and our union's constitution. And while you may not feel that this reflects on you or your union, I would respectfully disagree.

Instead of staying on course and demanding a revised and respectful collective agreement you took part in destroying 50 years of bargaining, job action and sacrifice. It was your recommendation, not mine, that we accept:

- massive contracting out and work moving overseas
- office closures
- crossing other union's picket lines
- getting rid of our maintenance of membership clause
- no seniority rights on job postings
- longer hours for operators
- mandatory overtime for plant/craft
- splitting the east away from the main contract
- scabs not paying union dues for the duration of the strike (which takes away one very important method of repayment to the members)
- giving away our legal right to make complaints or continue them (including the use of scabs)
- deleting our 'all employees are to be treated in a just and equitable manner' clause, etc.

The above list, although certainly not exhaustive, contains the elements that our President promised our membership that we would fight tooth and nail for. Furthermore, he promised that no terminated member would be left guessing about their future and that the whole unit 'won't go back until we all go back'.

In my view, yourself and Hemi Mitic were certainly helpful in making this betrayal of the membership possible. You 'assisted' the committee into believing that the company requires the ability to contract out even though Telus has been wildly successful with our current protections in place. You stated that we are in a new era. You helped the BC believe that unions have to take less and we must bow to Darren's demands or he will make good on his threats.

I am heartsick at the result of this round of bargaining and how much we have lost, both in terms of our stand against the company and in the eyes of our members. Our members feel betrayed and so do I. If your participation was an example of how the CAW functions then I want no part of it and I would not hesitate to say that I believe a majority of members would agree with me.

Sincerely,

Lila Hackett  
President Local 50 TWU  
Member of the Bargaining Committee  
Cc: President Bruce Bell  
VP Hope Cumming  
VP Peter Massy  
ST Jim Christensen  
CAW Member Robert Carmicheal  
TWU Members