



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS

boilermaker.ca

Joseph Maloney, M.S.C., International Vice President

January 22, 2018

Dear Owner/Contractor:

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALBERTA OWNERS & CONTRACTORS COVERED BY THE NATIONAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT (NMA)

It has come to my attention that, for the past number of months, rumours have circulated among owners and contractors that the Boilermakers union is not a team player and does not co-operate with the rest of the Building Trades in Alberta's maintenance industry. These false rumours seek to impugn our reputation as a reliable, professional workforce that gets our jobs done safely, skillfully and on time.

I want to be very clear that we do have concerns with the NMA. It is about their structure and business processes. This is a one-union-one-vote structure with no consideration for equity in its representational structure. Boilermakers Local 146 represents approximately 40% of the hours worked under the NMA in Alberta, yet we have no more voice than unions with little or even no involvement in the maintenance industry. We have repeatedly asked for change but the current leadership of the NMA refuses to acknowledge our legitimate concerns.

We have also suggested that the NMA establish Mechanical and Civil divisions to properly reflect market realities. But again, our suggestion fell on deaf ears. We also attempted to establish our own Boilermaker-specific Maintenance Agreement because we were advised that the current NMA may not be in compliance with Alberta legislation.

I am writing today to assure you in the strongest possible terms that the Boilermakers continue to provide the best qualified and most skilled workforce in Alberta's construction and maintenance industries, and that our members are trained to work co-operatively with owners, contractors and other trades.

As the attached fact sheet shows, members of our Local 146 have built and maintained every heavy industrial facility in Alberta. Local 146 only works in heavy industrial environments, so we focus our training in this area. This makes us the most qualified workforce available in our industry.

As a very progressive craft union, we always meet the demands of industry, from the common core curriculum of our apprenticeship program to the specialized training opportunities afforded to our members. Safety is paramount to everyone and our training not only saves on costs, it's also the most current in meeting the needs of industry.



Could it be that the people spreading the rumours simply do not understand our industry and methods? Unlike other unions, we don't work in the civil sector. The specialized needs of our members, our clients and our industry dictate that our way of doing things must be a little different from that of other organizations.

I ask you to review the attached list of facts and then decide for yourself whether we are team players.

In closing, I would remind you that my door is always open. If you have any questions or concerns with our performance or operations, please don't hesitate to call me. It is of utmost importance to me, and to every officer in our union, that we listen to and deal openly and honestly with any issues our owner and contractor clients face. If we are successful in doing so, I am confident we can continue to build on what has been a solid and productive working relationship.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH MALONEY, M.S.C.
International Vice-President

Enclosure

cc: International Representatives (*Canada*)
Mr. Dean Milton, BM/ST Local 146

Facts about the Boilermakers union

- ✓ Boilermakers Local 146 has been working with owners and contractors in Alberta's construction and maintenance industries since 1948.
- ✓ Local 146 only works in heavy industrial facilities, so we focus our training in those environments.
- ✓ Our training is *state of the art*. Multimillion-dollar facilities in both Edmonton and Calgary train our members in the latest technological innovations and techniques. This training is designed in co-operation with our contractors.
- ✓ Local 146 includes thousands of fitters, riggers, welders and apprentices. If needed, we can call on a pool of thousands more from outside the province.
- ✓ Since 2011, Local 146 has dispatched 67,880 Boilermakers, welders and apprentices to 12,870 job calls. In the 2017 calendar year, Local 146 dispatched 8,261 boilermakers, welders and apprentices to 1,630 job calls. Every year, Local 146's training facilities test thousands of welders for weld tests alone.
- ✓ When Local 146 supplies a Boilermaker, he or she is Job Ready and trained in working at heights, fall arrest, confined spaces, respirator fit testing, WHMIS and CSTS. In 2017 alone, Local 146's training fund devoted \$367,000 to this training. In addition, Local 146 ensures all members complete audiometric testing, as mandated by Alberta law.
- ✓ The Boilermakers have also embarked upon a program of creative recruitment techniques to continue to provide the most skilled people to accommodate our clients' needs. Local 146 aggressively recruits from First Nations and women's groups, as well as Armed Forces veterans and reservists through the Helmets-to-Hardhats program.
- ✓ In addition, Local 146 administers its own temporary foreign worker program, which has been applauded by the owner community. Since its inception in 2011, we have placed 650 TFWs, all qualified to Canadian standards, with more expected this year. In times of peak demand, Local 146 makes sure owners can count on getting the Boilermakers they need.



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS LOCAL 146

Edmonton Hall
15220 – 114 Avenue | Edmonton, AB T5M 2Z2
tel: 780-451-5992 | fax: 780-451-3927

Calgary Hall
11055 – 48 Street SE | Calgary, AB T2C 1G8
tel: 403-253-6976 | fax: 403-252-4187

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