



NORTHERN ALBERTA
Orthotics

Hugh MacDonald
Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
Lodge 146

Dear Mr. MacDonald;

I have had the pleasure of working with some of your Brotherhood in the past, providing bracing and footcare in the form of foot orthoses (arch supports) or footwear advice.

In fact- you should be aware that we have, for a long time, had a two-for-one offer for foot orthoses (arch supports) for your members and their families.

This came about from working with Blair Savoie. Aside from being polite, courteous and appreciative of what I have been able to do to help him be on his feet with less discomfort, Blair has always been supportive of my business; relaying through word of mouth to his brothers in the union that they will be well served if they come here. He was the one that suggested the two for one offer, and I thought it was a good idea. He is a good ambassador for your Brotherhood, and a pleasure to serve.

A few weeks ago, he was in my clinic for follow up care, when one of the elastics on the N95 mask I was wearing let go as we were speaking. After a few jokes back and forth, in a bit of a role reversal between caregiver and patient, Blair asked how WE were doing. The truth is, we are doing well. We had closed our doors and had been isolating and waiting for the world to settle, and seeing only more urgent cases in our clinic since we closed voluntarily on March 16th. We did not want to risk spreading the virus. When he asked about our PPE situation- I told him that was my only mask. We had only what we had on hand prior to the state of emergency, but were waiting for supplies we ordered in early March. (As you can imagine- everything is backordered, and we are still not sure when we will be getting supplies.)

A few days later, I received a phone call from Blair. He inquired if I was in our clinic, and I was. I asked if he needed another adjustment, and he said no, but he had something to show me. I told him what times I was available, and when he would be able to come by.

When he arrived, he held out a bag for me. He had brought with him a box of N95 masks and a respirator. In these times, when PPE is hard to find, it was such a generous gesture, and such a genuine help in these scary times. I felt like a starving man who had been offered food by a friend.

Blair expressed to me that your union was doing well, and wanted to be able to support others who were perhaps in more dire need. Having these masks ensures that I can continue to provide service to the emergency cases we are seeing, with less risk of transmission.

I really enjoy what I do for a living. The fact that in addition to paying my mortgage, I get to help people in need is icing on the cake.

I am used to being the one offering help to others.

To be on the receiving end of an unsolicited, (but needed), generous act of kindness was unexpected, and humbling.

I cannot find the words to express how that made me feel. As though in some ways I was being taken care of by your Brotherhood, like a junior member!

I want to thank you so much for your generosity, and support, and I look forward to continuing to provide service to your members.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Mueller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Mueller C.O(c)
Certified Orthotist
Northern Alberta Orthotics