

# UVAE NEWSLETTER



December 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Hello everyone,

I'm Toufic El-Daher, your new National President. I was elected to this position by the delegates at the recent UVAE Triennial Convention in October.

I have been your National Executive Vice-President since October 2018 and a committed trade union activist for the last 20 years. I was President of Local 10007 in Quebec for 10 years, an active participant in Equity Groups and the PSAC Quebec Council for many years.

At the convention, I pledged to listen and respond to members' concerns, to help bring members together, to mobilize, to maintain and improve our collective well-being and workplace protections. I intend to fully live up to these commitments and to work collaboratively with members, Locals, and the UVAE National Executive Officers to achieve these goals.



## YOUR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

*From right to left : Priscilla Giroux, Alternate RVP Head Office Charlottetown; Jody LaPierre, RVP Head Office Charlottetown; Gurinder Dev, RVP Western; Martha Josephian, National Human Rights Advisor and Alternate RVP Ontario; Simon Renaud, RVP Quebec; Edwin MacDonald, RVP Atlantic; Daniel Knee, Alternate RVP Atlantic; Diana Monette, Alternate RVP Quebec; Toufic El-Daher, National President; Zarina Khan, RVP Ontario; Damian Dorschner, Alternate RVP Western; Brandon Milford, National Executive Vice President; Gurm Bhangoo, Alternate National Human Rights Advisor; Also pictured Magali Picard, Chair of the Elections Committee.*

## MEET YOUR NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT



Greetings to all of you. I'm Brandon Milford, your new National Executive Vice-President. I was elected to this position by the delegates at the recent UVAE Triennial Convention.

I am extremely grateful for the support I received at Convention and as I pledged there, I intend to work collaboratively with the National President, the National Executive Officers and to address the concerns of our members.

I bring new ideas and approaches to my work as your new NEVP, and I would like to modernize the component with new technologies and provide guidance to the NEO and Locals on how they can be used. Such examples would be digital signature software, how to make full use of the existing Office 365 software and other new systems that would allow us to work more efficiently.

We can be more successful if we work as a team and share knowledge, so that everyone can be informed.

We all win when we work together.

## NATIONAL LABOUR MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

On November 21st the UVAE National Executive Officers attended the National Labour Management Consultation Committee (NLMCC), with the Deputy Minister and senior management. The NLMCC is a forum to discuss issues that affect all UVAE members, we received reports from management about their plans for the future and raised issues. The minutes from this meeting are being prepared and once they are approved by both the employer and the union, the employer will post them on the intranet.

### MEETING WITH THE MINISTER

On November 23, Toufic El-Daher and Brandon Milford met with the new Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada, Ginette Petitpas Taylor. We raised the on-going issues faced by Case Managers regarding the 25:1 caseload promise from the previous Deputy Minister.

We also raised the importance of the Veterans Service Agents and other staff and the difficulties they are facing, including telework.

The Minister listened carefully to our concerns and engaged in meaningful discussion. She committed to meeting regularly with us to hear the concerns of our members.

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

On behalf of the National Executive of the Union of Veterans' Affairs Employees, we want to offer you our best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season. However you celebrate, we hope that you will have some well-deserved time off and that you get to spend it with the special people in your lives.

Take a break. You have earned it.

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