



## TEAMSTERS CANADA RAIL CONFERENCE

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### CONFÉRENCE FERROVIAIRE DE TEAMSTERS CANADA

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National Legislative Director  
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# TCRC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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## A message from the President

As 2020 comes to an end, we are looking ahead to 2021 and the promise of vaccines to hopefully end this pandemic and bring back some sense of normality to our lives. In the interim we continue to stress the importance of following the provincial and federal health guidelines to stay safe and healthy through this holiday season.

It would be easy to dwell on all the events and activities that were summarily cancelled or postponed in 2020, but I'm choosing to highlight the success and achievements by the TCRC this year.

Consistently throughout the Collective Agreements that were ratified within the TCRC in the past year, member participation in the voting process has been on average in excess of eighty five percent. This is a vastly significant increase from previous years. This level of participation and engagement amongst our membership is unprecedented and extremely encouraging to our TCRC officers at all levels of OUR UNION.

We recently sent out an electronic survey to every division President and Secretary Treasurer to gather opinions on videoconferencing for division meetings. The responses received were overwhelmingly in favour of utilizing videoconferencing. Consequently, the TCRC Executive Board has amended our bylaws to incorporate videoconferencing and created a policy to govern division meetings. In my opinion this is a tremendous stride towards embracing technology which, not only facilitates the modernization of our organization, it is a necessary response to the request and needs of our membership.

Many of our members chose to utilize our Dues Maintenance policy in 2020, this policy has become very popular since its inception earlier this year. I'm pleased that many of our members have embraced this option and chosen to stay in good standing.

On December 3, 2020 Brother Don Ashley and Niki Ashton (Federal NDP Critic for Transport) co-sponsored a petition (e-3024) calling on the government of Canada to launch a full and independent criminal investigation into the deadly derailment of CP train 301 (Field Hill). On December 16, 2020 I received the news that the RCMP major crimes unit in British Columbia has opened an investigation into Field Hill. On behalf of the entire membership, I wish to thank Brothers Ashley, Doherty, Fulton and Edwards for their efforts and the members who took the time to sign and share this petition. I would also like to thank Teamsters Canada for their support and assistance in achieving our goal.

Wishing all of you a safe and festive holiday season!

In Solidarity,

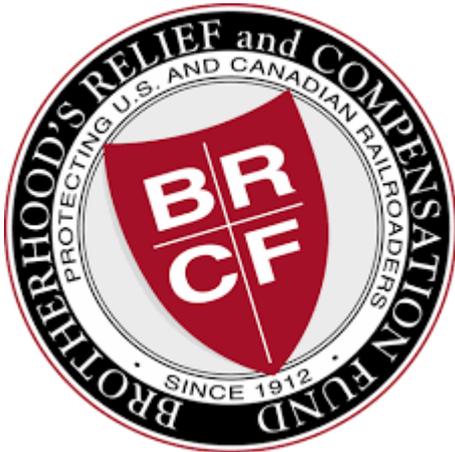
Lyndon Isaak  
President – TCRC



## Executive Board Activities

The TCRC Executive Board met Oct 20 – Oct 21, 2020:

- The Executive Board discussed the status of the education program. Currently the various manuals are in the process of being updated and progressively being adapted for the ZOOM format.
- The Executive Board was updated on the status of the CP RTC Collective Agreement bargaining by Brother McCulloch. Negotiations remain ongoing.
- The Executive Board was given an update on our actions regarding the Field Hill tragedy. In joint collaboration with Caley Wray (our Counsel) we crafted a letter concerning the need for an independent investigation into the Field Hill tragedy. This letter was sent to the federal Ministers of justice, labour and transportation and copied to every member of parliament in Canada.
- The Executive Board has elected to amend the TCRC bylaws to allow for videoconference monthly division meetings. A policy to govern our members at monthly meetings was also created and authorized.
- The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for January.



## Secretary Treasurer's Report

This year has been challenging for all of us due to the pandemic.

We have seen a notable fluctuation in membership throughout 2020 and a subsequent reduction of income from dues. The fiduciary responsibility of the National Office has mitigated these losses and as a result the TCRC remains financially stable.

I'd like to thank all the Secretary-Treasurers that have invested significant time into ensuring their records current and accurate, I appreciate your dedication and commitment. Your work is essential in keeping our Union functioning.

The National office has taken great strides to modernize and streamline our financial processes, our capable office staff have embraced the changes as well as providing valuable feedback. I also want to extend my appreciation to the Secretary Treasurers who have volunteered to try different software and approaches to record keeping. Without this assistance it would be impossible to write new computer programs to facilitate this advancement in our organization.

Over the past 2 years I have been working on multiple projects which will become integrated into one system. These applications will encompass different facets within our organization from dues and accounting to communication systems. I envision finishing this system within my term, it is a slow process but I have made significant headway.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all our Secretary Treasurers that their yearly reports are due by March 31 each year. For those who have not yet submitted their yearly reports, I will be contacting you in the near future to inquire as to the status.

I'm always available to answer questions or provide assistance, you need only ask.

Best wishes to you and your family during the holiday season.

Sincerely and in Solidarity,

Christopher Friesen  
Secretary Treasurer - TCRC



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