



Ken Neumann
National Director/ Directeur national

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OPEN LETTER TO LIS PIMENTEL, UNIFOR

Dear Sister Lis,

Thank you for your 'open letter' addressed to me.

Your letter asserts that my Huffington Post piece contained "false claims", but provides no support for that statement. Instead, the letter is in large part a repetition of your faction's varied complaints against your former union, whose local leadership you chose to abandon.

You and I did speak a couple of times about the many internal schisms inside Local 75 during your time as its President. If we had been asked to help you resolve some of the divisions within Local 75, we would certainly have done so, and we would have ensured that UNITE HERE as a larger institution knew of and understood our role.

But there are plenty of things that I would **not** have done: I would *not* have hired some local and international staff from UNITE HERE, hoping to gain access to your former local's membership information; I would *not* have commenced a wholesale raid on your membership; and I would *not* have led my union to quit the CLC in order to do these things unobstructed by rules that my union and all other CLC affiliates had agreed to follow.

Raiding is a destructive and ill-advised activity that does harm to the labour movement, and has a tendency to breed further conflict rather than build solidarity.

Further, conducting a raid without having even tried to utilize the procedures set out in the CLC constitution simply compounds the destructive impact. It destroys trust and sends a message to all Congress members that their hard-won constitutional provisions are a waste of time. That damage is compounded by a unilateral declaration of disaffiliation from the CLC. Indeed, large-scale disaffiliations mean serious financial and material harm to the central labour body and to the programs and personnel of the Congress across the country.

Nothing in your correspondence addresses these issues.

On Monday of this week [a statement was unanimously passed by the CLC's Canadian Council](#) which condemned Unifor's raiding against UNITE HERE because it is "irreconcilable with the principles of solidarity on which our movement was founded". The Council's statement also noted that the actions of Unifor are made worse when they defend their raiding activities with nationalist justifications and wholesale attacks on international unions."

In short, the entire house of labour is united in condemnation of actions taken by you and Unifor. The decisions you have made are on a course to do damage that cannot be easily resolved. And that has nothing to do with building a strong, cohesive, unified, and militant labour movement. Quite the opposite.

In solidarity,

Ken Neumann