

Newly Certified Warehouse Workers at CSA Transportation Experience Success with the Teamsters

Local 31 wins fight over direct assault on employees' right to organize

In the Fall of 2016, warehouse workers contacted the Organizing Department at Local 31. Shortly thereafter a short organizing drive ensued and on February 9th, 2017 the Teamsters filed an application for certification at the Canada Industrial Relations Board to represent the warehouse workers in Surrey, British Columbia.

CSA Transportation is an interprovincial and international trucking firm with terminals in various provinces in Canada and United States of America with its head office in Toronto, Ontario.

Prior to applying at the Board to be certified as the bargaining agent, the Employer terminated three union supporters. This was a direct assault on the employees' rights to organize collectively. Without delay, the Teamsters filed several complaints at the Labour Board seeking to have these warehouse workers immediately reinstated. The Board decided to conduct a full Hearing into these matters in Vancouver, BC, in April and further in June.

Teamsters Local Union No. 31 In-House Counsel, David Reynolds, and Organizer, Ben Hennessy and the three terminated warehouse workers immediately assembled a strong case against the employer. On all evidence, the Board was persuaded that the reliability of the vote taken soon after the terminations of the three union supporters would compromise the vote and it might not reflect the true wishes of the employees.

After a hard fought Hearing at the Labour Board, it was declared that the employer violated the Code when it terminated the three union supporters. The employer was directed to reinstate the three warehouse workers and to post on the company bulletin boards a notice confirming the rights of employees to the freedom of association and the right to join the union of one's choice. Furthermore, the Labour Board directed the employer to compensate each of the employees for lost wages. Moreover, the Labour Board granted the Teamsters request for outright certification and ordered that the ballots casted in the February 22nd vote to be destroyed.

Stan Hennessy, President, Local 31 stated, "after experiencing the trials and tribulations, it is pleasing to witness the success of our newly certified Teamsters at CSA Transportation. The Teamsters never back down and we'll always produce the ultimate in representation and support for our Brothers and Sisters!"

On August 21, 2017 Teamsters Local Union No. 31 was certified to the warehouse workers at CSA Transportation in Surrey, British Columbia.

President Hennessy has assigned Business Representative, Larry Sargeant to represent the CSA Transportation Service Teamsters.

Please contact the Teamsters Local Union No. 31 **Organizing Department** at 604-527-2722 or bhennessy@teamsters31.ca to help unionize your workplace.