

UFCW Canada Local 1006A General Membership Meeting
April 19, 2022
Telephone Town Hall Event Transcript

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

Hi, everyone. My name is Glacier Effs-Samuel, recorder of your union. It's great to see many members joining us for our second town hall general membership meeting for 2022. Our town halls are about building connections, strengthening the unity within our membership. It is about informing you, our members, about the latest union news and exciting opportunities, whether it is scholarships or free online courses. We've had to dial thousands of members from across the province, different workplaces, sectors, and cities. So we thank you for your patience as we try to connect to everyone. So with our June provincial election on the horizon, tonight, we'll hear from Ontario MPP Sara Singh. Sara is the deputy leader for the Ontario NDP and a strong advocate for workers and their families. Also tonight, 1006A president Wayne Hanley will provide an update of the latest union news. Also, stay with us for the entire call and you'll have a chance to win a Samsung tablet.

We'll have more details on that later on as usual. So tonight, we hope to hear from you. Telephone operators are standing by to take your questions and pass them on to us. To ask a question, all you have to do is press star three on your phone keypad. Please ensure you give the full question, your name, and where you work to the operator and they will pass your question on to us. And once again, press star three if you want to ask a question.

Questions about individual workplaces will be forwarded to your union representative who will contact you no later than tomorrow night. So as we have done in the past, we will post an audio file meeting transcript and meeting minutes on our union website. During each telephone town hall general membership meeting, members will vote to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting. Stay with us for the entire call again, and you'll have a chance to win a Samsung tablet. So we encourage you to stay for the entire call. All right, let's get started.

We'll be taking the vote for the adoption of the minutes of the telephone town hall general membership meeting, which was posted on our local union website and held on January 18, 2022. Use your telephone to participate. The question before you that you will be voting on is, do you approve of the minutes of the telephone town hall general membership meeting held on January 18, 2022? Press one if you approve of the minutes of the January 18th meeting, or press two if you do not approve of the minutes of the January 18, 2022 meeting. Once again, the question is, do you approve of the general membership meeting held on January 18? Press one if you approve of the minutes, press two if you do not approve of the minutes. As we wait for the results, I will encourage you to visit your union website to stay connected. Each month, your union also sends out emails and some correspondence to our members. If you're not receiving these union emails or our union magazine, please visit our website to update your contact information. Our website is ufcw1006a.ca. Once again, our website is ufcw1006a.ca.

So the results are in and the minutes of the January 18, 2022 telephone town hall meeting has been approved by 92%. Thank you all for participating in that vote. Once again, I want to remind you, if you have a question, we have telephone operators standing by. Press star three on your phone to ask any question. Now, it's my honor to introduce the president of our union, Wayne Hanley, for the state of the union.

Wayne Hanley:

Thank you, Glacier, and good evening, everyone. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be with us here tonight. As many of you know, this June, voters will be heading to the polls to elect the next premier of Ontario. There's much at stake in this upcoming election for our members and for all workers, all Ontarians. Protecting your public healthcare from Ford's Conservative government cuts and privatization gaining paid sick days for all workers so no workers has to come in to work sick, something that this current government has consistently voted against. Having a government that listens to scientists and healthcare workers instead of their corporate buddies so that workers and their families are protected.

With so much at stake, I encourage you to get informed, and also to get out and vote in the upcoming provincial elections. Now, it's my pleasure to introduce tonight's special guest speaker, Ontario NDP deputy leader, Sara Singh. Sara is a strong voice for workers at Queen's Park and has spent the last four years holding the government accountable as the official opposition. We're lucky to have Sara here. She's quite busy out on the road, and we're happy to have her here. And she's on the line here tonight to share her thoughts heading into the next election. And Glacier, I'll turn it back over to you to have a dialogue with Sara.

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

Thanks, Wayne. Sara represents the riding of Brampton Central and is one of two deputy leaders of the Ontario New Democratic Party. Sara serves as the opposition critic for long term care after serving as the opposition critic for the attorney general. She has a long history of local advocacy, being the founding director of the Broadening Horizons, the board of directors of Community Living Ontario and a former vice president of the Brampton Caledon Community Living. Sara has a PhD in policy studies from X University and a Masters of Arts in International Development Studies. She's also the first woman of Canadian-Indo Caribbean descent to be elected to the Ontario legislature. Sara is committed to putting an end to skyrocketing auto insurance rates and postal code discrimination, as well as we'll continue to fight for better hospitals for the people of Brampton. Dr. Singh has been a strong fighter for local businesses, workers' rights, and she's committed to bringing families in Brampton Centre change for the better. Please welcome Sara Singh. Thank you for joining us today, Sara.

Sara Singh:

Thank you so much, Glacier, for that warm introduction and thank you so much to all of our UFCW brothers and sisters that are on the call with us today.

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

So Sara, what inspired you to run for political office?

Sara Singh:

Thanks so much for the question. It's a big one. There were a lot of different things in our community here in Brampton that were not happening the way they needed to. And I think being a founding director for a nonprofit organization that was focused on social justice and youth engagement, as well as my work with Brampton Caledon Community Living and our local community in different initiatives, I saw firsthand how Brampton was being left behind. I was born and raised here in this community and I know that we deserve so much better. And in 2012, I started volunteering with our now federal leader, Jagmeet Singh, as well as it was a teaching assistant for the honorable Steven Lewis. And working very closely with both of them, I quickly realized that perhaps, this was something that I did need to try, with their encouragement and the community's encouragement, to be honest.

Sara Singh:

And I think for a lot of women, especially women of color, it does take a lot of encouragement for us to seek the ballot and even consider running in whatever level of an election. And in 2018, I thought "Enough is enough." We are not getting our fair share here in Brampton. We don't have strong leadership when it comes to the other parties. And I took a chance in 2018, along with my family and our phenomenal team to run and represent the NDP and the values that we hold. And I'm so grateful that folks here in Brampton Centre are willing to give me a try.

And I think, the orange wave was being felt here across the province. And in Brampton and in Brampton Centre, with just 89 extra votes, I was able to make history and help us grow the party by having three seats here in the Brampton community for the NDP. So I say all of that to say that you don't always need to have a clear cut path into politics. Sometimes, people who work behind the scenes and on the ground can take up space. And even in ridings that we don't think we're going to win, we still have to fight and every vote counts. And I think with my election, we were able to see that change happen.

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

Wow, you're so right about needing the encouragement. I'm happy that you actually made the plunge and tried, right? But being in politics is challenging, Sara. What keeps you motivated?

Sara Singh:

Honestly, it's connecting with our community, it's connecting with young people who want to see so much better for our city. And I have to say, also my family helps us, certainly keep me motivated and grounded as well but one of my favorite things is knocking on doors and connecting with our residents and hearing from them and hearing one, that we got to keep fighting but two, hearing their stories and struggles that they face. It actually inspires me to keep fighting harder because I know that way too many people are left behind. Part of my story is that I grew up here in Brampton and we've always only just had the one hospital and I always joke with folks, I was born in 1985, and at that time we only had one hospital, which was the Peel Memorial Hospital.

Sara Singh:

And so when we saw that torn down and we were promised we would get a new facility, it was extremely disappointing for many in our city that we only got an urgent care center and a hospital that was over capacity the day that it opened in 2017. And those were experiences that I had as well of waiting in the hallway for way too long with family members. As a young person trying to access mental health services but also for my grandparents and my aging parents, I'm worried home care support that

they're going to receive. So when I hear these stories in our community as well, it comes from a place of understanding, it helps inform my advocacy, but staying connected to my community is what inspires me to keep fighting because these issues haven't gone away and we need to keep pushing to make sure that Bramptonians and people across Ontario get not only the healthcare services they deserve, but the supports that are necessary to live and thrive in our province.

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

Right. Many of our members are considered essential workers. They work in grocery stores, processing plants, warehousing and distribution centres, bookstores, and cannabis stores. What would an NDP government do to support these essential workers, Sara?

Sara Singh:

Thank you so much for the question. And I think even before the pandemic, we have been the party that has been fighting for workers' rights across the board, but in especially some of these sectors that you've mentioned, whether that is frontline retail in our grocery stores or in warehousing and manufacturing, we know that many workers do not have the supports and benefits that they need, many are precariously employed. And so for us as new Democrats throughout the pandemic, for example, we fought for essential workers to have access to things like paid sick days, but also that they be paid fairly in order to live a decent life and have the protections that they need. And that's something that we'll keep doing. It was really disappointing to see the government applaud all these essential workers, but turn around and do really nothing for them.

Sara Singh:

And as New Democrats, we fought with every tool that we had in the legislature to ensure that legislation would come forward, that would help provide a minimum of 10 paid sick days, not just three, but also that the minimum wage would be increased. And that those additional costs of living are being taken into consideration. So those are just some of the things that the NDP, as a government, would not just fight for but be able to implement. And I think that's a really important part of the conversation. It's a time for us now I think not to just keep fighting for these things, but work towards forming government so we can actually make these policies a reality here in Ontario.

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

Your answer leads me to my next question. The NDP has advocated for 10 sick days for all workers consistently throughout the pandemic but so far, the for government has refused to consider this and voted against it. Why do you believe 10 sick days is such an important issues for workers, especially today?

Sara Singh:

Such an important question. And I think for us, as new Democrats, and I want to thank my colleague, Peggy Sattler for London West. She was very instrumental in bringing forward legislation that called for 10 paid sick days and more during a pandemic because we understood that those benefits were taken away essentially by the Ford government when they formed government in 2018. And that workers, especially during a pandemic, needed those protections. In my previous answer, I didn't share things like fighting for Pharmacare and dental care. I mean, these are benefits and supports that workers deserve to have access to, not only during a pandemic but all the time because many workers don't have access to those, don't have access to paid sick days. And what we saw during the pandemic, especially in a

community like Peel where we were ground zero for the COVID-19, some of the highest positivity rates in our communities were because workers were essential.

Sara Singh:

They had no choice but to go into work even if, unfortunately, they were sick, and they did that because they knew that they one, had to make those difficult decisions between putting food on the table or going into work sick. And that otherwise, supply chains would also be interrupted if many of these workers didn't go into work. And so they made the sacrifices to their own health and their own well being, but also to make sure that Ontario kept moving forward. And that's why we believe and we continue to fight for things like those 10 paid sick days, because it was astonishing to I think many of us here in Ontario that the premier, for example, when he tested negative, I mean, he was in isolation for more than 14 days but didn't want to afford those rights to workers who were going into work even when they tested positive. And so I think we need to look at the science, we need to listen to the experts who all also called for paid sick days during the pandemic and after. It's an important public health policy that just makes sense and it's something that new Democrats aren't going to stop fighting for. And we need to see happen here in the province of Ontario.

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

That's great. I mean it only makes sense to have these sick days. My next question, Sara, is there had been signs that Doug Ford's government continues to look at privatizing parts of our healthcare system, including outsourcing services to independent health facilities, having private PCR testing, having pharmacies handle COVID testing. Do you worry about the increased privatization of our healthcare system and what would the impact be on Ontario's workers and their families?

Sara Singh:

Thanks so much, Glacier, for the question. And it is, I think something that many of us are very worried. With the Liberals, we saw increasing privatization in our healthcare system. One needs to look to long term care or home care to see how detrimental privatization can be with respect to access for those vital services. I'm very worried that not only in healthcare, but in other aspects like education, that this Conservative government is moving forward with a cut and privatization agenda. What this means for people in our beautiful province who value our healthcare system, value our public education system means that the divide of the haves and have nots is going to get bigger and wider. And folks that need access to healthcare services won't be able to access them unless they're ready to pay with a credit card instead of using their OHIP card.

Sara Singh:

We're already seeing this with many diagnostic testing. We saw this with, as you mentioned, the PCR testing and creating these divisions in who could have access and who couldn't. And so this is something we are aware of and we're fighting because we believe that our public healthcare or public education systems need to be publicly funded and publicly operated for the public. And so that's something, as new Democrats, that we're committed to, and we'll keep fighting to make sure that we push back. And that's why we keep reminding everyone, this election is so important because only the NDP is positioned to stop Doug Ford and stop this type of privatization. And the cuts that we know are coming Liberals before us allow this to happen. And so we need to stop Ford in his tracks and make sure that we're fighting back. And that's why we're asking folks to think differently this election and cast your vote for

the NDP, because these are the things we're fighting against, and that we're committed to ensuring that our public services stay public.

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

Thank you for that answer, Sara. I know your party has called for an inquiry into long term care system, a system, which has led to death, the death of many Ontario's seniors. As a legislator, what do you think of how the long term care homes were handled during the pandemic?

Sara Singh:

I think what we saw in the pandemic in our long term care homes was just wide scale devastation and a system in crisis that I think saw over 4,000 seniors and staff lose their lives. It was a tragedy what happened in long term care and I'll point out, it wasn't just seniors and staff, it's also people with intellectual disabilities who live in our long term care homes because there isn't adequate housing. As I said earlier, these are systems that were privatized under Liberals and Conservatives. And with the SARS commission, there were clear recommendations that were made to the Liberal government with respect to investments that were needed to protect and shore up, for example, our long term care homes that were never done. Under the Liberals, we saw 611 beds. I believe it was that were built over their tenure.

Sara Singh:

And I think what we saw in the pandemic was that system essentially just fall to its knees and not be able to move forward. And Conservatives didn't act either. I mean, Doug Ford's government delayed calling in the army, for example, staff in those homes had to beg for PPE that shouldn't be happening in the province of Ontario or anywhere in Canada, frankly. But we also saw stark differences between our long term care homes that are privately operated versus those that are municipally or operated by the not for profit sector, huge discrepancies in the types of outcomes where in the for profit homes, we know that staff were not being paid properly. Staff were rationing PPE, staff were not able to keep up with the demand for care. And frankly, those homes, even though they're generating massive revenues for their shareholders, their corporate shareholders did not reinvest those dollars into our long term care homes that are privately operated. And so they suffered the most, and the seniors and people with disabilities and staff in those homes really bore the brunt of that.

And I think for us as new Democrats, that's why we understand how important it is to take profit out of care. No one, no one should be generating millions of dollars for their private shareholders off of the backs of our seniors. And that's why we have committed to transforming our long term care system and home care supports as well. So that the care and the dignity that people deserve will be there when they need it but that should we ever face a crisis like this again, that we'll be ready to face it. And the supports that people need will be there for them. Honestly, it's just devastating and heartbreaking to understand what happened and the fact that the government didn't act, neither government acted, in a way to protect seniors or to build a system that would be there when people needed it, is just heartbreaking.

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

I agree. I mean, it's an absolute tragedy what happened in these long term care homes and it just exposed the government's weaknesses, but if I'm going to pivot to my next question, which will deal with housing, the cost of housing continues to spiral out of control, and it makes it difficult for workers to afford rent or mortgage. What would the NDP government do to address the housing affordability?

Sara Singh:

Another very important question. And I know I only have about a minute, so I'll try my best but it's a very complex problem. We're seeing not only the market rent go up, but the cost of mortgages are steadily rising and the Bank of Canada is increasing its rate as well yet again, and I know this is putting pressure on homeowners and renters. We did, two years ago, release a housing platform. So I encourage folks to visit our Ontario NDP website to learn a little bit more, but here's another system that is just in crisis when it comes to our housing. Again, the housing, affordable housing, and I'm not just talking about assisted living or supportive housing, I'm talking about homes people can afford, that middle income home housing was never built. And so we have a huge lack of supply here in the market for affordable homes.

Sara Singh:

And so we're committed to when building the housing that needs to be built using measures like inclusionary zoning so that there's diversity in the housing supply, doing things like rent control so that we can stop the above guideline increases that are happening, but also doing things like helping first time home buyers through an equity loan to purchase their first home and supporting them because we know it's getting harder and harder to save. So I think addressing the housing crisis here in Ontario requires a multi-pronged approach, requires bringing different sectors together to address the gaps that are there, but being committed to doing that work and not just handing over the keys to developers who are just seeking a profit, but rather working with our municipal partners and others to create the housing that we need to see so that everybody can realize the human right of having housing and a safe place to lay their head at night.

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

Thank you, Sara. That was well answered. So you've given us a lot to think about prior to this provincial election. I want to thank you so much for joining us tonight. I wish you all the best in the upcoming June election, and I encourage all our members to be informed. And should you have, or require information about the election, visit www.elections.on.ca for poll information and ID requirements. So thank you again, Sara. Really appreciate you attending tonight.

Sara Singh:

Thank you so much, Glacier. It was a fun conversation. I know that our time was super limited, but just want to encourage folks, wherever you are in the province, please get out there, learn about your local candidates, get out there and support NDP members. We are 10 seats away from forming government and defeating Doug Ford, and we cannot do that alone. So in advance, I just want to thank you all for your support, for the boots on the ground, for your time, your energy, and your dollars to help our campaigns across the province.

Sara Singh:

And to anyone that's on the call today that's from Brampton, just a plug for our office opening here on Saturday, April 23 at noon, you can head on over to any of my social media platforms and all of the details are there, but we're excited to open up our campaign office and have a canvas as well in the local community. And we're encouraging folks here in Brampton to come on out and attend or anywhere from the Peel region, you're invited but thank you, thank you so much. And to our Muslim brothers and sisters that might be on the call, I want to wish you a Ramadan Mubarak and a joyous eid with your

loved ones as well, but thank you so much for the opportunity to connect with all your members today. Keep up the work in solidarity. We will get this done on June 2, 2022.

Wayne Hanley:

Thank you, Sara. Thank you Glacier, too, for very informative segment. We must all remember to talk to our friends and family about the important issues. Some that Sara has shared here tonight, like healthcare and sick days, others like affordable childcare, good jobs, they're all important to our province. So we have to share those and we got to talk to people, be able to make informed decisions. I encourage all of you to learn where all the political leaders stand on these issues and what they plan to do to make things better. But most importantly, get out, get out and vote for an MPP that has workers' best interests at heart.

Wayne Hanley:

Now, I'd like to provide you with an update on the latest news within our local. I'm pleased to report that our union is doing better than ever, finding new ways to adapt and meet the needs of our members. Thanks for the hard work of the local union executive board and the support and participation of our stewards, activists and members, we can continue to transform 1006A into the best local union in Canada. Our local continues to grow as we are organizing new members more than now, more than ever in the history of our local. Since January, we've organized more than 200 new members from a variety of sectors, and I'm proud to welcome our newest members from the education center, Clementine in Ottawa.

We have two locations of Tokyo Smokes retail cannabis in Thunder Bay. We have Sessions Retail Cannabis in Timmins. We have a Petsmart location in Toronto. We have Plateau Retail Cannabis with two locations in Ottawa and Kintetsu World Express, a distribution center in Brampton. So many workers are reaching out to us to ensure that they too can have the protection and the benefits that a union contract provides.

Our union negotiating committees continue to do an exceptional work in achieving improvements for more than 1,000 members since our last town hall meeting. We have negotiated several strong contracts, contracts that Aspect Retail Logistics distribution center, at Host International at Pearson Airport, at Marek Hospitality, at Laura's YIG in Kanata, at DoubleTree by Hilton in London, and many more. I want to thank our members for their strong support and the support of their community. It makes a big difference at the negotiating table.

Wayne Hanley:

Currently, we're engaged in negotiations on behalf of 12,000 members with one of our largest employer, No Frills. Negotiations began at the end of March, on March 30 and 31. The next round of negotiating face to face with the employer will take place starting next week on April the 25. And we'll be at the table for five days or more if we made progress. I encourage all of our members, whether you work at No Frills or another workplace engaged in negotiations, to support your negotiating committee. When members are united, when members participate, it shows. It shows that you're serious and committed to achieving a fair union contract.

Wayne Hanley:

Our health and safety department continues to empower activists and stewards with skills and knowledge that they need to protect their coworkers. Since the last town hall, the department held three interactive Zoom seminars on workplace inspections, mental health at work, and an interactive health and safety question and answer session. Thank you to all the members that joined those sessions to learn new skills to take back to your workplaces. I'm hopeful that our education and training department will begin in person training again this fall for our stewards. While we did several online training during the pandemic, in person sessions are vital in connecting with stewards and providing them with the knowledge that they need to assist their coworkers.

Wayne Hanley:

We're also planning to hold our stewards conferences fall in accordance with public health measures in effect at the time. In addition, at scholarship season, again, our scholarship program is open once again, and we offer 42 scholarships worth \$1,006 to members and their dependents. So make sure that you visit our website to apply, that's ufcw1006a.ca. Our WSIB department continues to make a difference in the lives of injured workers. And I'd like to turn things over now to Glacier to share some comments from a member who is grateful to have the union by her side after her injury. Glacier?

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

Thanks, Wayne. Before I share this story, I just want to remind everyone, if you want to ask a question, again, press star three on your telephone keypad, make sure you state your full question, name, and where you work to the operators. So I'll share with you the story of Teresa, who was working as a part-time meat clerk at Loblaws. When she was injured, she was walking towards her prep area when she slipped on a piece of meat paper and fell. She broke her fall with her right hand, fracturing her right wrist. 1006A WSIB department helped Teresa navigate the often difficult workers, health worker safety and insurance board compensation process. Though Teresa's initial claim was partially accepted by WSIB regarding the health benefits, the union helped her prevail with the wage compensation at the workplace safety and insurance appeals tribunal, or known in short as WSIAT.

Glacier Effs-Samuel:

Teresa had this story to say of 1006A's help when she needed it the most" "For nearly three years, the union fought tirelessly to help me obtain the funds that I had been initially denied by the board. Every worker needs to know the union is there for them. I only won my case because the union was in my corner. The union spent the time necessary to ensure I was properly prepared for my tribunal hearing and was willing to accommodate me, including reviewing my case with me after regular business hours. For anyone who has ever doubted the value of being a union member, let me assure you, it's worth it."

Wayne Hanley:

Thank you, Glacier, for sharing Teresa's story. We're proud of the work that we do to help our members navigate the bureaucratic and quite frankly, very lengthy WSIB claims process, and I'm pleased we were able to get Teresa the compensation that she deserved. I'd like to mention an important day, which is coming up, April 28. April 28 is the Day of Mourning. On the 28, we will remember those who have been killed or injured on the job and recommit ourselves to the fight for healthier and a safer workplaces. UFCW 1006A continues our work towards building a more inclusive and equal community. On March 31st, UFCW 1006A observed the international transgender day of visibility. Together, we celebrated transgender communities and reaffirmed our commitment to end the discrimination in transphobia. Our

union also continues to advocate for the 2SLGBTQ+ rights, and are planning to participate in many pride events around the province this year.

Wayne Hanley:

I also want to take time to recognize participation of the incredible activists who come together at different workplaces to mark the International Women's Day. Thank you for standing up for quality and work women's rights at work and around the world. And I'll conclude my remarks tonight by talking about the Ontario six wave. As cases increase, the positivity rate and hospitalization rates increase, public health Ontario highlights the importance of masking and indoor spaces. Ontario's chief medical officer also issued a strong recommendation for individuals to wear mask in indoor settings. I encourage you to get your booster shot and keep masking to protect yourself, protect your loved ones and to protect those that you work with. Glacier?

Glacier Effe-Samuel:

We're looking at questions.

Wayne Hanley:

Well, there's a number of questions that are in individual workplace orientated. So as you mentioned earlier, Glacier will have the reps reach out to the members within the next 24 hours to answer those questions specifically. There was some questions or inquiries about the town hall meeting being used as a political platform for the NDP and questions about the NDP and the cooperation agreement with the Liberals, is there any chance that they'd become one party, et cetera? I just think a comment this way, because it's a question that comes up often. First, Sara today said, "Thank you for your money." To be clear, the union does not and cannot, according to election rules, donate money to political parties. As individuals, people can, but organizationally, we can't. We can do in kind, but we can't do it from money.

Wayne Hanley:

So I just want to make that clear, but the New Democratic Party was formed as a result of the labor movement. And it became the spokesperson for underprivileged, for working men and women, and it really became the party that represented what was important to the social fabrics of our country and the social fabrics that we take for granted and that we see other parties trying to tear down, and Sara talked about this, our healthcare system, our education system were the foundations of the NDP, or certainly, they are what they are today because of the involvement of the NDP as a party, as a political organization. And while they may not have been in power, they have been fighting and bringing these issues front and center to the government. And quite frankly, forcing the government to address them, the agreement, the cooperation agreement between the Liberals and the NDP on the federal level.

Wayne Hanley:

We're seeing issues that Liberals would not have talked about: national daycare programs, national dental, national drugs. These words are coming out of Liberals' mouth because of the NDP's actions. It's not something that they would want to do before.

Wayne Hanley:

Other parties are trying to take up the issues that the NDP have been fighting for, for years. Even in our current government who is not a worker-friendly government, it's not a labour-friendly government, is trying to convince workers by increasing minimum wage after they froze it. And did not implement an

increase four years ago or three years ago, pardon me. So this is not a platform for the NDP, it is a platform to share issues, to share positions of a political party. Ultimately, like I've said earlier in my remarks, we encourage you to gather the information, source out the information, and make an informed decision. And that's what part of our exercise was here tonight.

Wayne Hanley:

So other than that, Glacier, I think that we're coming to the end of our meeting. So maybe I can just say, thank you. We're excited about where we are as a labor union, we're excited about what we've been able to accomplish so far this year. We have so much to be proud of and to look forward to, and we know there's a brighter future out there. The great part is that we're just getting started and together with our membership, we'll reach greater heights. So as we have into the summers months, I encourage all of you to get involved in your union, join us in building a better future for all, have a good next couple of months as we get through spring here and we'll talk to you soon about our next town hall. Glacier?

Glacier Effe-Samuel:

Well said, Wayne, and thank you. For those with questions that we were not able to get to, your union rep will contact you within 24 hours. To find out who your rep is, just visit our website at www.ufcw1006a.ca. Click on the find your rep button, and please remember that an audio file transcript of tonight's meeting will be posted on our website for your convenience and for anybody who wasn't able to attend tonight as well. The minutes of tonight's meeting will be posted for your year review and to be approved during the next meeting, which is scheduled on August 16, 2022. Yay. In summertime.

Glacier Effe-Samuel:

Now, let's just finish off with the final vote for the Samsung tablet or raffle, I should say. So the poll question, sorry. Our last poll question will enter you into the draw for the Samsung tablet. To enter the draw, press one on your telephone. The winner will be announced on our website tomorrow by 3PM. And again, the website is ufcw1006a.ca. Once again, our website is ufcw1006a.ca. For those that would like to leave a question or comment, please stay on the line and thank you all, again, for joining us today. Have a good evening, and we'll talk to you in August. Take care.