

November 2, 2020

Sent Via E-Mail - lori.procher@fgfbrands.com

Dear Ms. Proche:

I am writing this letter to add my voice to the growing number of people that are alarmed and concerned with the number of workers who are being exposed to and being diagnosed with COVID -19 at FGF. UFCW Local 1006A believes that it is urgent that the FGF management meets with our health and safety experts to assess the current situation and address concerns that we have been hearing from a growing number of FGF workers.

In a recent Toronto Star article you were quoted as saying that FGF Foods was doing “everything we can to ensure the safety of our Team Members in the fight against this highly-contagious virus” – I have to question the validity of this statement as the case numbers continue to increase in your facilities.

Local 1006A has successfully worked with employers large and small across Ontario to assist them during this difficult time. We have helped find creative solutions to the unique challenges that they and our members face as a result of this pandemic.

Some examples of our success include our work with employers like Unifirst Canada and Real Canadian Superstore where, in cooperation with management, we have been able to resolve overcrowding issues during staff lunch breaks by offering alternative locations for staff to eat and installing plexiglass barriers on tables.

In hotels like The Double Tree by Hilton and The Holiday Inn Express we have been able to assist our members and their employers in establishing policies and procedures for staff to safely enter occupied rooms that may be in need of repairs.

At Brandt Meats, where many workers are first generation Canadians and where English is a second language, our union was able to work with the employer to produce health & safety posters that are easily understood in spite of possible language barriers.

The Health and Safety Department of our organization also provides ongoing online virtual training, specific to COVID-19 that are available free to our members. This training is designed to strengthen our membership’s understanding of workplace health and safety. We also are in close contact with our Worker Joint Health and Safety Committee Members, providing guidance and assistance whenever it is needed.

Our union is firmly committed to protecting the health and safety of all workers. A sustained workplace outbreak is not normal. I have the honest belief that our voice in your facilities can only be a positive one in affecting the changes that are gravely needed. I respectfully ask that you contact me to discuss how we can assist.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Richard T. Young
Health and Safety Representative, UFCW Canada Local 1006A