

# International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers



## LOCAL UNION No. 280

(Sheet Metal, Roofing, Production)



6188 KINGSWAY, BURNABY, B.C. V5J 1H5 • PHONE 604 430-3388  
B.C. TOLL-FREE 1-800-242-8645 FAX 604-431-1864 INTERNET: [www.smw280.org](http://www.smw280.org)

March 27, 2020

**Brothers & Sisters:**

### COVID 19 Update

I trust that this notice finds all members and their families doing well. In the past few weeks, we have witnessed massive changes in what we have all considered as a normal environment. Members have left home for work in the morning only to return in the evening with everything being changed. The stress that members have been feeling due to these daily swings in events has not been lost on Local 280.

On Thursday, March 26, 2020 the BC Minister of Public Safety, under the Emergency Program Act, issued an order including an “**essential services list**”. Construction work is to continue to be considered as essential service and is defined in the following manner:

*“construction work, in accordance with the Public Health Officer (PHO) direction, construction firms, skilled trades and professionals, and construction and light industrial machinery and equipment rental”.*

Through the BC Building Trades, Local 280 has been working to have WorkSafe BC do more jobsite inspections to ensure that they meet the sanitary conditions as stated in the WCB Regulations. If you have a concern on a jobsite, please report it or contact a Business Representative and it will be reported to WorkSafe for inspection.

You are also aware that concerns of the spread of COVID 19, all gatherings of 50 or more are prohibited by the PHO. Local 280, in an abundance of caution, cancelled the March Executive Board and March General Meeting which were planned for the Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre.

SMART General President Joseph Sellers Jr., in a letter dated March 26, 2020 has now stated:

*“I hereby authorize all SMART local unions to suspend their regular membership meetings from now until June, 2020 meeting. I may extend this authorization if the crisis conditions persist in late May.”*

So as of today’s date, both the April and May monthly general meetings are effectively cancelled. Local 280 will keep you updated.

Local 280 is also putting steps into place that will allow the Executive Board to continue to function and allow the regular business to take place and still maintain social distancing.

*Quality through Craftsmanship*



And lastly, at the November General Meeting, a motion was passed that Local 280 hire a Full Time Organizer. I would like to thank all those members that showed an interest and made inquiries about this position. I especially would like to thank each member that applied. All of those that were interviewed had unique characteristics and qualifications, as well as a variety of different thoughts on organizing.

Brother Steve Davis was selected and offered the position of Organizer and joined the SMART Local 280 team on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. I know that the membership of Local 280 joins me in wishing him success that will ultimately benefit our various industries.

In closing, please remember to stay safe, maintain social distancing as much as possible, at home and at work. If you are not feeling well or have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID 19, stay at home and self-isolate.

Fraternally

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Paquette', written in a cursive style.

James Paquette  
Business Manager and  
Financial Secretary

JP/hm

move**up**

N:\Common\JIM PAQUETTE\Jim 2020 Documents\COVID 19 notice to members 3-20.docx