



## **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION LOCAL 118**

May 20, 2025

### **Re: Insulators Raise Questions on TFWs at St. Paul's Hospital News Release**

**BC Insulators Union requests investigation by BC and federal Labour Ministries after raising questions on possible use of illegal Temporary Foreign Workers at new St. Paul's Hospital construction site, union asks if workers in Canada with official work permits, being paid market wages or not**

VANCOUVER – The BC Insulators Union is questioning the possible use of illegal Temporary Foreign Workers at the new St. Paul's Hospital construction site, asking both the provincial and federal labour ministries to investigate evidence alleging workers there may not be in Canada on approved work permits and may be paid sub-standard wages.

BC Insulators Union Business Manager Rob Sheck says the union has told both ministries that some workers at the provincially-funded project working for Legends Insulation have told the union they are in Canada on student and travel visas – not under official Temporary Foreign Workers permits. The union has not yet received replies from the two ministries, he added.

“Our union has talked to some of these workers, who told us they are here on student and travel visas – not work permits as required – and that they claim they are being paid substandard wages of between \$17 and \$23 per hour – well below industry standards, which would be on average \$35 to \$55 per hour” Sheck said. “This shouldn't be happening anywhere in BC but definitely not on a provincially-funded hospital project.”

Sheck said the union's legal counsel sent a letter to Legends Insulation, an Ontario-based sub-contractor, outlining its questions and respectfully requested that the company produce the Labour Market Impact Assessment documents that are required to bring Temporary Foreign Workers into Canada when there is a shortage of local workers in their occupation. The BC Insulators also copied the letter to Modern Niagara, who sub-contracted the St. Paul's work to Legends Insulation, but did not receive a response.



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“Legends Insulation replied to our lawyer without providing any evidence of LMIA documents being filed or approved – which would have easily proven they were legally working at St. Paul’s – and merely said their workers were ‘employed lawfully’ and ‘paid competitively’,” Sheck said. “If that’s the case, show me the government authorization and show me the pay stubs – but they didn’t.”

Sheck says there are plenty of trained and skilled insulators available to work in BC and in Canada.

“Unfortunately, here in BC we have had many other occasions where workers from another company arrive here and are exploited by the employers who brought them into the province to provide cheap labour,” Sheck said.

“Previously unions uncovered that workers on the Canada Line tunnelling project were being paid less than even minimum wage, working long hours without overtime and in unfair working conditions – we don’t want to see that happen ever again,” he said.

Sheck said the union is waiting for responses from the provincial and federal labour ministries and will continue to push for additional investigations.

“We do not want law-abiding construction companies who hire our members and other workers to have to compete against other companies unscrupulously using Temporary Foreign Workers being paid substandard wages and not providing reasonable and safe working conditions,” Sheck said.

“Regrettably, our union is seeing more and more use of Temporary Foreign Workers coming to Canada without appropriate government approvals. We will continue to speak out anytime these situations are brought to our attention.”

### **For more information:**

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