

Advice to Guild Members in the Event of a Strike in the St. Lawrence Seaway – October 2023

Many Guild Members are likely aware that UNIFOR has reached an impasse in their Collective Bargaining on behalf of their workers in the St. Lawrence Seaway and has served strike notice.

In the event of a strike, Guild Members, unless directed otherwise by the employer, are required to proceed to their assignment or workplace in their usual manner. When arriving at that location, if Guild Members are prevented from entering the workplace by a UNIFOR picket line, or any picket line, then there shall be no confrontations. Guild Members should remain in the vicinity (or nearby) and contact the employer for instructions.

Unions that support other unions in the event of a strike need to do so in a manner that does not contravene federal legislation. In order to fulfill their duties, Guild members should present themselves at the entrance or access point to their place of work in the normal manner, and then see what the situation is first-hand. Our bargaining units are not on strike, and we have no right to participate in a strike by another bargaining unit. It is also possible that a Guild Member could arrive at their usual work location or access point, and then it turns out that there is nothing preventing them from accessing that location or workplace. The UNIFOR strike strategies will be determined by UNIFOR. The Guild is an affiliated union of UNIFOR.

Guild Members shall not physically force their way thru any picket line. If the employer attempts to make arrangements for Members to access a work location using an alternative route, then the employer's instructions should be followed except in case of a safety hazard.

Guild Members can obtain more information and assistance by contacting their local Guild office.