INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS





Office of the Canadian General Vice-President • Bureau du Vice-président général canadien

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May 26 2023

Subject: CANADIAN VETERANS SUPPORT

Brothers and sisters

During the 2022 IAM Grand Lodge Convention in Las Vegas, NV, I had the honour and privilege to serve on the Veterans Committee in an effort to discuss current support mechanisms in place for our IAM members who are veterans, and what we can do to improve this service.

One of the several recommendations of this committee was the following:

Develop the services to include our Canadian veterans. While currently it is not possible, we will pursue a lobbying effort with their government to allow the IAM to service their veterans.

Despite the fact that there are differences in how the US and Canada VA (Veterans Affairs) departments deal with veterans' issues, the ultimate objective remains the same: to help IAM Veterans receive any and all support available to them from their respective governments.

Other objectives include developing a support system for Canadian Veterans in order to aid in transitioning from the military to a civilian career, inform veterans of all services available to them and to develop an online platform upon which to share all relevant information and develop relationships.

In an effort to reach these goals, I propose the following:

- 1. This letter be communicated to all IAM members throughout Canada;
- 2. That the IAM Veterans form be made available to all members, active and retired, so that Canadian Veterans may complete and submit it;
- 3. Form a Canadian IAM Veterans Committee;
- 4. Veteran members become part of an online group in order to share information and support one another.

Please use the QR code below to fill out the IAMAW Veteran Services Contact Information form.

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I understand that this is a huge undertaking and will require the cooperation of all locals, districts and the Canadian Office in order to attain our goals. However, as has been demonstrated in countless events throughout history, when a group of determined individuals band together with a common objective, great things can be accomplished.

In solidarity,

George Zoni

IAM Canada Veteran Services & EAP Representative

President, IAMAW Local 2468