



Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Kin,

Spring is finally here! I hope everyone is staying safe and is in good health. Since we have not been able to hold our regular membership meetings, I wanted to share a few highlights of things that happened during the first quarter. We also have a few important updates.

IMPORTANT: In our last update it was announced that the 2nd quarter dues payment had been postponed from April 1st until July 1st. After a careful review last week of the Local's finances, the Executive Board has decided to waive the 2nd quarter dues. Any member that has already paid for the 2nd quarter will receive a credit for the next quarter. If you prepaid for the year you will start 2021 with a credit. The 3rd quarter dues payment will be pushed from July 1st 2020 until October 1st 2020. Any member currently in arrears from previous quarters will also be granted the same extension.

Earlier in the year, members that have a Health Spend Account card would have been notified by mail or email if they had a remaining balance about to expire on April 1st 2020. In Canada Health Spend Accounts are regulated by the government and any unused portion must expire after 2 years, because of this there was no option to extend the April 1st expiry date. BUT Keith along with other plan administrators across Canada have been discussing a solution to this so that your expiring balances will not go to waste. Those expired amounts have been removed from your account, but Keith will receive a report listing each individual member's expired amount. We know this has been a concern for a lot of people, so just know that once we have an official update Keith will send that information out.

Thank you IATSE 634 for coming to Sault Ste. Marie to host the Motion Picture Technician workshop.



Over the last few months, we brought the Orientation Workshop to Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, North Bay, and Ottawa. Since this Orientation course is mandatory for all members to take before Jan 1st 2021, and considering our current situation, we will be offering the orientation as a webinar through Zoom. Zoom is a video conferencing platform that can be accessed through a computer or a free app for your phone.

Once dates are set you will need to sign up in order to be admitted into the webinar. Class sizes will be limited to 30 people.



IATSE C.A.R.E.S. is a new initiative designed to provide support to fellow members. Members in need may request deliveries to their door or request a buddy through the buddy system.

Please do not be afraid to reach out for assistance. Over 700 people across Canada have already signed up to be volunteers and are waiting to help. Visit <https://iatsecares.org/> IATSE C.A.R.E.S. website also has a Mask Crafting Portal for resources, how-to- guides, and patterns.

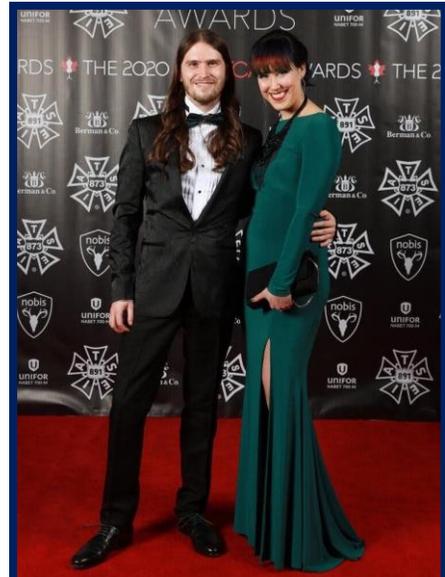


We are looking for more women to join the Local 634 Women's Committee. It would be great to have members representing each of our major urban centres. Please email Tiffany if you're interested and include the city in which you reside tiffboivin@gmail.com The first initiative of the committee is a donation drive. We will release a list of things that can be donated once we know the items that each shelter will be accepting.

When physical distancing restrictions are lifted, The Women's Committee will be collecting donations to distribute to Women's Centres in our communities. We are asking everyone to hold onto any donations for now and once it is safe to do so we will gather the donations.



You may recognize our Assistant Business Agent for Ottawa, Shawn Kazda. On February 25th IATSE reps from across Canada participated in the CLC Lobby Day on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. They met with MP's and Senators to lobby for a Federal minimum wage of \$15 per hour and rising with inflation, protections for workplace pensions, the implementation of legislation around Violence and Harassment in the workplace, and a national pharmacare plan for all Canadians. Big thank you to Shawn for being there to represent Local 634!



This year Local 634 participated in the sponsorship of the 2nd Annual CAFTCAD Awards. We invited all members of the costume department to enter their name into a draw for 2 tickets to attend the award night on behalf of the local. The recipient of the 2 tickets was Stephanie Smethurst. She is pictured here at the awards night with Billy Gridley.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) Updates

The federal government has just announced that they are expanding access to the CERB. To help more Canadians benefit from the CERB, the government announced these changes to the eligibility rules:

- Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB.
- Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their regular seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak
- Extend the CERB to workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19

It is very important to know that if you are currently on EI you should not be receiving EI and the CERB at the same time. If you applied for EI after March 15th 2020 you will automatically convert to being processed under the CERB. If you are entitled to the CERB be aware that you will not automatically be enrolled each period. This is due to the government wanting to know that your income situation has not changed. Details on all of this important information can be found on the Government of Canada website <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>



IATSE Canada created a website in response to COVID-19. This website is constantly being updated with information that is important to all members. We encourage everyone to check this website regularly. It also provides links and information on financial assistance, health plan, retirement benefits, mental health resources, and the AFC. <https://iatsecanada.net/>



ANNOUNCEMENT

The AFC is the lifeline for Canada's entertainment industry. Through compassionate and confidential support, they help Canadian entertainment professionals maintain their health, dignity, and ability to work. The entire globe is battling COVID-19, and we are in uncharted territory. We have all faced challenges in our life, and this may be one of the biggest challenges some people may face. Financial uncertainty is a huge burden to bear. The AFC has been working tirelessly to process the influx of applications for financial assistance.

The Executive Board of Local 634 recognizes the essential services The AFC is offering to our industry, and for this reason, we have decided to donate \$25,000 to assist them in providing crucial support to our members.

We encourage all members to reach out and request assistance if needed. Application can be found here <https://afchelps.ca/covid-19-guide/>

We know these times are tough on everyone right now. That is why the Executive Board of Local 634 and IATSE at all levels is working diligently to advocate for our fellow brothers, sisters, and kin. IATSE is making every effort possible to make sure our voices are heard and that we are supported as arts and entertainment workers.

On a positive note, once we can hold meetings again, we will be holding a special meeting in Ottawa to swear in all our new Ottawa region members. We had hoped to do this in April, but it seems that this will have to be pushed until the summer or fall. We will provide a date to everyone as soon as we can. We can look forward to commemorating the growth of Local 634 in Ottawa, and at some point, having everyone together and celebrating the Local's 100th Anniversary. Until then, stay safe and in stay in good health everyone!

In Solidarity,

Your Executive Board

Tiffany, Keith, Wayne, Ashley, Scott, Shawn, and Jamie