



*Statement by USW National Director Ken Neumann*

*April 9, 2020*

## Equity in Hard Times

“Solidarity Forever” is a core principle of the United Steelworkers.

During the coronavirus (COVID-19), it is a principle we need to remember and count on more than ever.

It is a powerful principle because it recognizes that an injury to one is an injury to all and sets the stage for understanding that human rights are workers’ rights.

During this time, we must embody Solidarity Forever by including ALL in our recognition of harm.

Think of all those infected or affected by this deadly virus.

Think of those who have lost their jobs and incomes.

Think of the targets of domestic violence, who may be living in quarantine or self-isolation with their abuser.

Think of those with mental health injuries, who have the added stress and uncertainty of the pandemic and restricted access to drop-in and support services.

Think of newcomer workers, racialized workers, Indigenous workers, who draw strength from community in dealing with racism, and who now cannot gather together. And think especially of workers of Asian heritage who are unjustly blamed and attacked because of the part of the world where the coronavirus first claimed lives.

Think of workers living with disabilities, who have fought hard to enter or return to the workplace and now face uncertainty as well as added challenges from service closures.

Think of LGBTQ2SIA+ workers and youth, who draw strength and find safety by gathering together and who now cannot.

Think of all the workers, who are worried about today’s bills and their economic security in the future, including those without a union and without full-time or full-year jobs.

Think of workers around the world, especially in countries with fragile health-care systems, high rates of poverty and unemployment, and war.

Steelworkers are promising to ALL those impacted, that the United Steelworkers union is with you in thought, spirit and action. Know that your struggles are our union’s struggles and they shape the way that the USW responds each day to the global pandemic.

We are stronger together.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Neumann".

**Ken Neumann**  
**USW National Director**

**USW information and updates during COVID-19: [www.usw.ca/covid19](http://www.usw.ca/covid19)**

### **Resources for those facing domestic violence or sexual assault**

- [Shelter Safe](#)
- [Ending Violence Association Canada](#)

### **Resources for Indigenous people, including residential school survivors**

- [First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness](#), 24/7 Help Line: 1-855-242-3310
- [The National Residential School Crisis Line](#): 1-866-925-4419

### **Resources for trans people**

- [Trans Lifeline](#), for all ages: 1-877-330-6366

### **Resources for children**

- [Kids Help Phone](#): 1-800-668-6868 (for ages 20 and under)

### **General toll-free resources**

- [Canada Suicide Prevention Service](#), available across Canada, in French or English, 24/7: **1-833-456-4566**
- [211.ca Referral Services](#), currently available in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

### **Provincial toll-free resources**

- [Alberta Mental Health Helpline](#), 24/7: 1-877-303-2642
- British Columbia Mental Health Support Line ([Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC](#)), available in over 140 languages: 310-6789
  - British Columbia Suicide Crisis Line ([Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC](#)), all ages, available in over 140 languages: 1-800-784-2433
  - British Columbia Seniors Distress Line ([Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC](#)), for seniors: 604-872-1234
- [Manitoba Reason to Live Crisis Line](#), all ages, available in over 175 languages: 1-877-435-7170
- [New Brunswick Crisis Line \(Chimo Helpline\)](#), all ages: 1-800-667-5005
- [Newfoundland and Labrador Mental Health Crisis Line](#), all ages: 1-888-737-4668
- [NWT Help Line](#), all ages, 24/7: 1-800-661-0844
- [Nova Scotia Crisis Line](#), all ages: 1-888-429-8167

- [Kamatsiaqtut Nunavut Helpline](#), all ages, 24/7: 1-800-265-3333
- Ontario Mental Health Helpline ([ConnexOntario](#)), all ages: 1-866-531-2600
  - [Ontario York and Simcoe Support Services Network](#): 1-855-310-2673
  - Ontario – Kenora, Dryden, Fort Frances, Rainy River and everywhere in between ([Crisis Response Services Kenora Rainy River District](#)): 1-866-888-8988
- [Prince Edward Island Crisis Line](#), all ages: 1-800-218-2885
- [Quebec National Crisis Line](#), all ages: 1-866-277-3553
- [Saskatchewan Mobile Crises Services Line](#), all ages: 1-306-525-5333
- [Yukon Distress & Support Line](#), all ages, 7 p.m.-12 a.m. (PST): 1-844-533-3030

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