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Jagmeet Singh, MPP
Bramalea-Gore-Malton

March 18, 2014

Gerry Cadeau, President
Teamsters Local Union 647
2180 Steeles Ave W, Suite #305
Concord, ON L4K 2Z5

Dear Mr. Cadeau,

Thank you for attending the town hall meeting on jobs and affordability. The meeting was a huge success, attended by over 250 people – all concerned about their jobs, affordability issues and how to make ends meet. We invited Tom Mulcair, The federal NDP leader and leader of Canada's Official Opposition as a special guest speaker and the local media to report on these issues.

The event was organized in response to the layoffs at Gate Gourmet to raise awareness on how this incident is another example of temporary agencies growing too big, controlling too many jobs and exploiting workers. Replacing full-time permanent jobs with temporary workers through a temporary help agency is simply unacceptable. Across Ontario, more and more workers are hired on short-term contracts, with no job security or access to benefits. From the day this was brought to my attention, I have been committed to standing with the workers to ensure their concerns were raised with the Ontario Government. My office created a petition asking the government to prevent companies from taking permanent jobs from Ontarians and replacing them with temporary contracts.

On February 20, I asked the Minister of Labour, in the Legislature during Question Period, to explain why this government is allowing companies like Gate Gourmet to exploit Ontario workers and eliminate good-paying, permanent jobs. I asked that he commit to serious legislative changes to protect permanent, full-time jobs in Ontario.

In one of my follow-up meeting with the workers, I learned about their concerns on national security and the possibility that the temporary agency workers may not have the proper security clearance to come-and-go as the permanent works do.

The severity of this concern prompted me to raise the issue with Tom Mulcair and involve our federal counterparts.

I will continue to work closely with all necessary parties to fight for a positive resolution. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or my office for further assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jagmeet Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jagmeet Singh, MPP
Bramalea-Gore-Malton