

September 7, 2016

To All Friends of Peter Reed,

As the requests and well wishes keep pouring in, we wanted to provide a further update on Brother Peter Reed. Peter remains in ICU but has been making significant progress in working to get off the ventilator. Yesterday, for the second consecutive day, he was off the ventilator for twelve straight hours and only on oxygen followed by an additional two hours later in the evening, again being off the vent and only on oxygen. At this current rate, we're hoping Peter will be off the vent and only on oxygen within a week. If that happens, the doctors anticipate him being able to be off oxygen within a month or two. If that goes well, it is now in the foreseeable future, that Peter could have the breathing tube removed by the end of the year.

I can't tell you how elated his family and I are with the amazing progress Peter has made. It was almost two months ago when the doctors told us he may never come off the ventilator, so he has made remarkable progress and we are proud of the determination and positivity he has shown in fighting every day. Now I don't want to rain on everybody's parade, as this is amazing news, but there still seems to be some confusion and misunderstanding with people about his overall condition. With Peter severing his spine, we are told it is extremely unlikely, without some medical intervention or miracle, that Peter will ever be able to use his arms and legs again. We are ecstatic about the ventilator but still very conscious of the overall picture and, with that, we will be looking at doing an annual charity event for Peter and his family and will provide more information as our plans unfold.

We just celebrated Labour Day and it was great seeing all the people down at the parade. Once again, hundreds and hundreds of people were asking me about Peter's condition and if there is anything they can do to help. Peter and his family do need your help. Some of the business representatives have donated a week's salary and we are encouraging every rep, organizer and all of his friends in the labour movement to seriously consider doing the same. To date, I've been extremely disappointed at the response for our call to action to come to Peter's aid which has been incredibly slow considering the number of people who keep asking if they can help. As a trade unionist, and working with the Building Trades for almost a decade, Peter has come into contact with and touched the lives of thousands upon thousands of our members, contractors and owners. Being part of the labour movement is supposed to be about strength, solidarity and unity. If you truly want to help Peter, then we need to rally around him to raise significant money to give him the peace of mind that somehow his kids, Brody and Mason, will still be looked after despite this tragedy. Let us not forget, his seven year old son Brody is autistic and non-verbal and requires a significant amount of his own therapy. I can appreciate that everyone's personal financial situation is complex and difficult, but I'm hoping you can appreciate Peter's financial situation will be forever changed and limited, so he needs us more than ever. We need to stand together, unite, dig deep and give Peter the reassurance that we'll be there for him and his family moving forward.

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Donations are also starting to come in from some of our affiliates, contractors and owners. Leading the charge has been the Elevator Constructors, Local 50, who represent roughly 1,500 members and graciously donated \$10,000. I hope more of our affiliates will follow a lead like this when they consider making their donation.

For those who would like to donate to Peter's trust, here again is the information: the account is with CIBC, Transit Number 00212, Account Number 1040014. Cheques can be made out to James St. John in Trust for Peter Reed and sent to 2088 Weston Rd., Toronto, M9N 1X4 or electronic money transfers can be e-mailed to PBMTrust@cobtrades.com. If you are doing an electronic money transfer, please remember to e-mail your password.

Peter has recently transferred hospitals and can ***now accept visitors*** and we are encouraging all of you to go see him and remind him he is constantly in our thoughts and in our prayers. Please keep in mind that he is still in ICU and there can only be two visitors at any given time in his room. To gain access to Peter, you need to go to the ICU part of the hospital which is on the third floor and you must check in with the nurses before entering the ICU unit. Follow the signs at the hospital which will lead you towards the two large double doors with a phone hanging on the wall. Pick up the phone and let the nurses know you're there to see Peter Reed and they'll instruct you from there. As he remains on the ventilator, he cannot speak but can communicate by mouthing words with sometimes almost a whispering sound. He is very alert and his mind is fully intact. He does get frustrated when people can't read his lips but remind him to slow down as he tends to speak in full-on sentences in rapid succession.

Peter is at the Markham-Stouffville Hospital, Third Floor, Room 15.

The hospital is located at 381 Church St., Markham, L3P 7P3, intersecting with Ninth Line, north of Highway 7 in the east-end of Markham. For those travelling via 407, exit on Ninth Line and head north approximately 1 km. You will see the hospital on your right.

Remember to donate and please go see Peter.

Sincerely,



James St. John
Business Manager / Financial Secretary

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