



TEAM-IFPTE Local 161

February 13, 2024

The Honourable Malaya Marcelino
Minister of Labour and Immigration
Room 156 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Email: malaya.marcelino@yourmanitoba.ca; minli@manitoba.ca

Dear Minister Marcelino,

I am writing on behalf of [TEAM Union, IFPTE Local 161](#) representing over 500 members across Manitoba to request an opportunity to meet with you to discuss Bell Canada's recent announcement to cut approximately 4,800 positions, representing 9% of the company's workforce. This decision will no doubt impact a significant number of Manitobans, including TEAM-IFPTE 161 members.

[TEAM Union](#) was founded in 1970 and is currently made up of working Manitobans employed by Bell Canada across a variety of fields of work, including IT, Network Engineering, Sales, Marketing, Business Administration and Finance. We are Local 161 of the [International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers](#) (IFPTE) which represents 90,000 members in Canada and the USA.

Over the last two years, we have met with you to raise concerns about our workplace and Bell's direction since it took over MTS in 2017. Just last month, you attended our union's legislative advocacy conference and we felt a strong sense of hope while you laid out our government's priorities.

Since the acquisition, our union has observed a significant erosion of local jobs. This is a contradiction to Bell's commitment to Manitobans when it pledged to make Winnipeg the central hub for its Western Canadian operations in 2017. Instead, Bell has chosen to reduce its presence as an employer in our province by decreasing investments in maintenance and service expansion and implementing multiple rounds of job cuts.

An opportunity exists in the coming months that we would like to discuss with you. We understand that the wireless contract for Manitoba Government Services expires this year, and we believe this is an opportunity for our province to establish a fairer arrangement with Bell as it relates to the employment of Manitobans in good jobs.

We would appreciate an opportunity to discuss our experiences as employees of Bell and our recommendations for government intervention that would help protect our existing jobs and improve job creation for Manitobans in the sector. Do you have any availability to meet with us in the coming weeks?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Eyjolfson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "D" and "E".

Dave Eyjolfson
President
TEAM-IFPTE Local 161