

PATTY COATES
President
AHMAD GAIED
Secretary-Treasurer
JANICE FOLK-DAWSON
Executive Vice-President



**ONTARIO
FEDERATION OF
LABOUR**

June 29, 2021

Ms. Yolaine Charette
General Manager,
Sheraton Ottawa Hotel
150 Albert St.
Ottawa ON, K1P 5G2

Sent via email: YCharette@SheratonOttawa.com

Dear Ms. Charette,

We write today on behalf of the 54 unions and more than one million workers that comprise the Ontario Federation of Labour to express our outrage at the Sheraton Ottawa and their ownership group, Keck Seng Investment's decision to forgo the extension of recall rights to the unionized members of UNITE HERE Local 261, specifically the decision to proceed with the termination of 70 long-standing employees.

Your decision carries with it consequences. Until this decision is reversed, and the recall rights are extended to all terminated employees, the OFL has endorsed a full boycott of your facility, the Sheraton Ottawa, located at 150 Albert St. Ottawa, effective immediately.

As previous guests of your hotel, attending trade union functions, meetings and conferences on numerous occasions, we are dismayed at the decision to permanently terminate long standing employees, that through no fault of their own, were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

What makes your decision even more galling, are reports that your hotel applied for and received Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) benefits meant to support these workers, yet still in calculated fashion, you proceeded to terminate these 70 employees. Further, with vaccination rates on the rise and an easing of public health restrictions nearing, this decision can only be viewed as an attempt to weaken the union, and the rights and benefits which these workers have collectively bargained for through their union.

Trade union solidarity and our guiding principles prohibit us for rewarding you with our business moving forward and until this matter has been satisfactorily resolved. We await your response and details of the supportive action and measures you will take for these impacted workers.

Sincerely,

PATTY COATES
President

AHMAD GAIED
Secretary-Treasurer

JANICE FOLK-DAWSON
Executive Vice-President

PC/AG/JFD/RH/ph/cope343

C: Bea Bruske, President, Canadian Labour Congress
Sean McKenny, President Ottawa District Labour Council
Ian Robb, Canadian Director, UNITE HERE
Matt Furshong, Assistant Trustee, UNITE HERE Local 261
Shane Chisholm, Business Representative, UNITE HERE Local 261
Melissa Sobers, Research Analyst UNITE HERE Local 75