

Gilles Halle  
President – TCRC

January 10, 2007

Brother Gilles:

I am writing this in an attempt to articulate my disgust with your unwarranted attacks on my credibility throughout your campaign for re-election as President of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference. I have been active in our Union for over twenty years, and I have never witnessed such a shameful performance. You and your “slate” of candidates for the top positions in our organization purport to be the conscience of our membership. Nothing could be further from the truth. It would appear to me that your slate’s entire election platform is predicated on a smear campaign directed against anyone whom you feel would not support your candidacies. Using every propaganda tool at your disposal, you have attempted to depict everyone outside your camp as either a liar or a crook. Aside from being absurdly untrue, this tactic seems to me to be a rather cross-threaded way to promote our Union.

As for your claim to have an excellent relationship with the other Unions, I beg to differ. In my opinion, the entire UTU membership in Canada would have joined our organization ages ago if it had not been for the poisoned atmosphere perpetuated by yourself.

I am totally confident that our membership is far too intelligent to buy into your nonsense. I am equally confident that they will reject the notion that Canadian political campaigns should mirror those in the U.S. We saw how management reacted when many Canadian railroads became Americanized. Until then, many of us had not even heard of the term “corporate bullying”. We certainly know now what it means, and for our organization to emulate any of their tactics is disgusting.

In your recent mail-out to the membership, you question my motivation to hold office. I can tell you very quickly what my motivation is. It is to do the very best job that I am capable of in representing the people who elected me. In the meantime, I will not be intimidated by any of your attacks on my credibility. It is a well-known theory that desperate politicians practice “negative politics”. If they can’t find enough good to say about themselves, they attempt to slander the opposition. The campaign that your “slate” has mounted certainly fits the description.

Fraternally yours,

Randy Caldwell  
Vice-General Chairman – TCRC

c.c. Paul Vickers  
General Chairman – Central Region

All Local Chairmen  
Central Region