



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS
AND AEROSPACE WORKERS
LOCAL LODGE 99**

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The Hot Button Issue: TFW

Everywhere you look these days it seems that there is another mention of TFW this or TFW that. Some people are calling for boycotts and others are looking for an explanation. Hopefully this newsletter will address any concerns and help to clarify some of the underlying issues present in Alberta and why it's a concern to you the member.

TFW's or Temporary Foreign Workers are people essentially working for a company, that have been "sponsored" or brought in on a working visa to work at an establishment that has been approved by the provincial government. In fact the www.albertacanada.com [website](#) has the terms, conditions and even a handy "how-to" guide on how your business can take advantage of this program.

May 14th 2014

General Membership Mtg

Peace River, AB.

Location: TBD.

May 13th—15th 2014

Lawson Arbitration

Edmonton, AB.

In order to qualify for permission to bring in TFW's a Labour Market Opinion must be completed and as stated on the albertacanada.com website are 3 major conditions that must be satisfied before you will be a successful applicant:

- there is no Canadian worker available to do the job
- there is a need for the foreign worker to fill the job you offer
- hiring a TFW will not negatively affect the Canadian labour market

It's the satisfying of these conditions that has people in an uproar. It would seem that different corporations are being caught daily where not only are the conditions not being met but on top of the LMO application being fraudulent, those corporations are using third party recruiters to obtain these TFW's that are then being charged for their "applications" and "resume preparation". Tim Hortons (yes the beloved Canadian icon) has been caught with their hand in the proverbial Timbit jar, even mega fast food corp McDonalds has come under fire for its use of the TFW program. ([CBC Website Link](#), [Tim Hortons Article Link](#)).

Tim Hortons has essentially fired one of their franchisee owners already ([Link 3](#)), McDonalds has changed their policies but what of other companies? Even the Federal Govt. is stepping in to change the rules of the program itself due to political pressure. On the flip side these same companies are complaining they will now have to close stores down in the wake of program reform!

Waitaminnit? Why would they have to close them down? Is operating them no longer profitable? Are we as Union members comfortable supporting companies that keep employees at minimum wage or less just so we can have a morning coffee on the way to work? How about the companies cut their CEO wages, pay their Employees more, make the working conditions tolerable, provide job growth, provide opportunities to Albertans to work, oh wait, isn't that what Unions are all about???

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