

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



Minister Hugo Monroy
Minister of Public Health and Social Assistance
6 Av. 3-45, Zona 11 Guatemala City, Guatemala

June 20, 2020

COVID-19 hospital workers unlawfully fired and unpaid

Dear Minister Monroy,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to protect all staff at the Industrial Park Hospital, and to make fair and legal amends with the 46 cleaning and facilities staff fired on June 5. Of these 46 staff members, none have been paid employment wages or termination compensation since the beginning of their employment on March 23. Moreover, we call on you to carry out an independent investigation into the circumstances of their terminations and ensure that the investigation allows for effective remedies.

We are deeply concerned by reports from Amnesty International about the termination of employment for these hospital staff and the lack of payment received for time spent working at the Industrial Park Temporary Hospital. The only reason they were given for their dismissal is that they were required to have a high school diploma or university degree to be qualified for their positions.

We believe that you have an obligation to investigate the circumstances of these peoples' termination and to allow for effective remedies. According to the International Labour Convention, employers are required to pay their employees fair wages and provide reasonable grounds for dismissal. Many healthcare workers denounced this lack of protection, which puts the health of the Guatemalan population at risk.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N Lane".

Nathan Lane
Executive Director
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mackenzie Francoeur".

Mackenzie Francoeur
Vice President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc. Chargé d'Affaires Alejandro Fajardo Estrada, Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Philippe Champagne