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## President's Report

Good Morning All Relations:

I would like to start with welcoming everyone that made it to this meeting in Edmonton. I would like to share how grateful that you have taken time to travel to this meeting and participate in the Local General Meeting.

This past two months has been busy, the Pincher Creek Co-Op has met with the committee twice and there is a tentative agreement being voted on next week. Prairie Council has taken place in Saskatoon on May 8, 9, 10, 2018 with lots of great discussions taken place; this included political action, member mobilization and the Truth and Reconciliation report.

On May 8, 2018 I attended the Unifor's **People's Trade Town Hall (Saskatoon)**

Unifor has undertaken an ambitious campaign to re-imagine global trade in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Trade is an age-old economic activity. Trade between people, communities, and nations has bolstered our collective development. Workers benefit from trade, so long as it improves our standard of living.

Over the past generation, "trade" has become inextricably linked with so-called "free trade agreements" – a set of specific rules and guidelines governing trade between nations. Unfortunately, "free trade" rules not only aim to move goods and services across borders more cheaply – they have been designed to restrict the ability of governments and citizens to set local policy and manage their own economic affairs even when these are in the best interest of citizens and the planet.

"Free trade agreements" have become so entrenched in our economic policy that seeking to negotiate more of them has become second-nature to politicians. Successful trade policy is often measured by how many "free trade agreements" we have signed. Yet few governments, including Canada's, reflect on whether or not these agreements have achieved the desired outcomes of trade: higher living and work standards, greater equality, and ensuring the health and well-being of all people. That's because it's often not clear what, in fact, are the desired outcomes of trade, beyond market access for exporters and expanded protections for investors. There are countless examples of how one-sided, pro-business rules of trade have undermined workers' rights, environmental standards, indigenous peoples, and local democracy. This has fueled a public outcry over trade and globalization throughout the world.