

Contract flip nets IAM new contract and new members!

Wednesday May 23, 2018

For Immediate Release

Toronto, ON – The IAM has turned the tables on the latest contract flip at Toronto’s Pearson International Airport by securing voluntary certification, a new collective agreement, and new members.

Contract flipping is common practice at Pearson allowed by the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) which normally means job loss for some of the affected workers, reduced wages and benefits for others. This contract flip involved Smarte Carte, the firm responsible for passenger baggage carts at the airport, who lost in a contract flip to Clarrion. However, instead of possibly losing their jobs or having reduced wages and benefits with the new employer, the Smarte Carte workers, members of the IAM, not only retained their jobs but their wages, benefits, seniority as well as their union, thanks to the IAM.

“It took six weeks of extremely hard negotiating with the employer, the GTAA and several face to face meetings with our members, “ explained IAM Transportation District Lodge 140 Organizer Sam Jabbar. “IAM Transportation District General Chairperson Tal Rayat and I made it very clear to the employer and the GTAA that we were not going anywhere and they would not be able to start their operations without our members. We also made it known our members would not start their jobs without the IAM as their union representatives.”

“We have raised the bar with this agreement,” explained Rayat. “To achieve voluntary certification is a tremendous victory for us. We have provided a smooth transition for our members to their new employer while increasing our density at the airport with 35 new additional members.”

The new three-year collective agreement provides wage increases of 3 per cent in each year, this is in addition to the wages they had with Smarte Carte. All seniority and benefits remain unchanged. In addition they will receive an annual boot allowance of \$120.00 and the employer has agreed to pay for 24 hours a month for union activists to attend monthly membership meetings.

“We have shown once again why we are the largest union at Pearson and we continue to grow,” said a satisfied Jabbar. “We have turned another lemon into lemonade once again!”

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