



Parthi Kandavel
City Councillor
Ward 20 – Scarborough
Southwest

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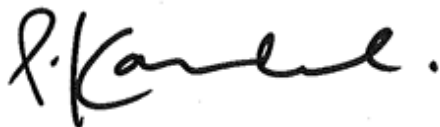
I condemn in the strongest possible terms the closure of the Telus call centre in Scarborough. The closure, which abruptly ends Telus' long-standing and successful At-Home Agent program, forces Scarborough-based employees to either relocate to an office in Montreal or agree to be laid off come October. This ultimatum burdens 80 hard-working Scarborough employees, as well as 70 in Barrie, with the impossible decision of either uprooting their lives in Ontario or losing their jobs altogether. Telus could have easily found office space or other infrastructure to keep jobs in Scarborough, but simply chose not to - considering the lack of indication that the work-from-home model was being reviewed, this amounts to an unfair firing of hundreds of employees.

Telus' decision signifies the loss of good, well-paying jobs not just in Scarborough, but across Canada. It is the final act in a years-long process which has seen the loss of thousands of jobs nationwide - including 700 in Scarborough alone over the past 15 years - and the gradual offshoring of Canadian jobs. Over the past 15 years, Telus has enjoyed over \$2.5 billion in federal government contracts alone as well as \$38.6 million as part of the pandemic-era Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program. Considering this high level of support, which does not include provincial and municipal contracts, these jobs should remain in Canada.

The recent British Columbia Supreme Court injunction against Telus' return-to-office mandate is a major victory for employees, and I applaud USW's efforts in fighting to keep these jobs in the Ward. I urge City and Provincial officials to work with both the union and Telus management to reconsider their decision to close the Scarborough call centre. Going forward, I also urge government agencies to have greater diligence during contract procurement processes to ensure the money they spend stays local - this is more than a decision about money, it's a decision about people.

I stand in solidarity with USW Local 1944 and fully support their efforts to keep jobs in the Ward.

Sincerely,



Parthi Kandavel
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