



**LIUNA!**  
**LOCAL 183**  
*Feel the Power*

## **Brief on behalf of LIUNA Local 183**

### **Response to Merit Proposal to use non-union contractors**

LIUNA Local 183 urges the TTC not to rely on Merit's claims of hypothetical savings on costs outside the competitive bidding process. There is a danger in using estimated numbers.

There is simply no data to support Merit's claim that their members' wages are on average 10 per cent lower. Making a major policy shift with no solid numbers to back claims of savings would be irresponsible.

Furthermore, the cost of labour on a project depends on productivity, which in turn depends on use of overtime, the availability of required skills and expertise and likelihood of stoppages for Health and Safety problems.

LIUNA Local 183 has over 40,000 members in the GTA who are highly skilled and experienced working on major infrastructure for the City, the TTC and others. We are the only union that can provide these skills in numbers that allow round-the-clock tunneling for example. Our members were recently contracted for the Eglinton LRT project for just this reason, even though Metrolinx is not bound by the Province to use union labour.

The variety of skills our members have and our members' reputation for hard work and excellence has helped the contractors for whom they work to grow and become the premier companies in the construction sector in the GTA and Ontario.

These large companies are the ones the TTC needs to bid on its projects. They are large enough to take on the work, they are competitive and they have a track record of excellence. They are also union shops by choice and depend on our members to get the job done.

Thank you for considering our views on this important issue.

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