

May 28, 2024

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

To Whom It May Concern,

**Re: Solidarity with public service media in Argentina**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Unifor, Canada's largest private sector union, with more than 315,000 members across Canada, working in 20 economic sectors. Unifor is Canada's largest union in the media sector, representing more than 10,000 media workers, including 5,000 members in the broadcast and film industries.

I am writing to express Unifor's alarm and concern that the government of the Argentine Republic has intervened in the management of the public media companies (Canal 7 and the educational channels Encuentro, Paka Paka and Depor TV), with the aim of privatising, emptying and/or destroying them.

Delegating public communication to the market will result in the emptying of spaces that guarantee the diversity of cultural expression and, fundamentally, the right to reliable information. Public media are fundamental to guarantee information pluralism, cultural diversity and the strengthening of democracy. Moreover, they represent a fundamental and indispensable tool in democratic societies. No developed country in the world lacks a public media system.

In Canada, our public broadcaster is an essential institution that provides programming and local news for our diverse communities all across our country. The strength of the public broadcaster is providing a diversity of voices and to ensure that programming that wouldn't otherwise be made if left to market forces. This programming is essential to ensure our communities are informed, entertained, all the while ensuring a vibrant democracy.

The world is watching closely the evolution of this attack on public communication and the important role that the Congress of the Republic of Argentina is playing at this juncture. We stand in solidarity with, support, and accompany SATSAID, all sister unions, and the workers of the Public Media of Argentina, and ask you to do everything in your power to prevent the government from moving forward with these policies that are so harmful to the Argentinean people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lana Payne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lana" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Payne".

**Lana Payne**  
**National President**

/klcpe343