



March 2021

USW and IAM Screeners Are Stronger Together

The United Steelworkers (USW) and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) represent the vast majority of airport screeners across Canada – employees of Garda, Securitas and G4S, the country's three screening contractors. Together, our unions represent close to 3000 screeners at over 50 airports across Canada – including Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver.

The restructuring of airport security a decade ago has led to a sector that is inherently precarious. Since 2012, USW and IAM have been working together to improve working conditions for screeners across the country:

- Joint Screeners' Conferences bringing together our members to develop strategies related to building bargaining power, workplace issues, health and safety, and more.
- Ongoing co-operation and exchange of ideas on collective bargaining, resulting in concrete results for members of our two unions.
- Working together to ensure an effective National Health and Safety Policy Committee for Garda.
- USW-IAM collaboration in dealing with Transport Canada during the pandemic has achieved better personal protective equipment for workers in airports across the country.
- Jointly developing screeners' priorities to present to the government in anticipation of CATSA's post-pandemic restructuring.

CATSA's accountability and governance issues, combined with the competitive bidding system, present tremendous challenges to workers. The only effective way to defend and make real gains for screeners is through continued co-operation and solidarity between the USW and IAM. Our structured approach has been to set forth goals and priorities to take workers issues not only through employers, but also with Canadian legislators. We have held joint lobbying with government over recent years to bring forward common goals at the level of CATSA and the Ministry of Transportation.

Other unions and groups such as CLAC are only bit players in the sector and have proven entirely ineffective at representing screeners' voices. Their attacks and attempts at division serve no purpose and will lead to real set-backs for screeners.

The USW supports IAM members and the IAM supports USW members. We are stronger together.

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