

Aug. 19, 2015

Mike Hertz

Group Publisher

Alberta News Group

3257 Dunmore Road S.E.

Medicine Hat, AB

T1A 7E6

Dear Mr. Hertz,

I am writing as president of the national union that represents many staff at the Medicine Hat News to express my deep concern about the recent outsourcing of jobs to India, and to urge you to reconsider.

After the revelation of the job cuts in the creative department, the Media and Communications Workers of Alberta (Local 30400 of CWA Canada) offered viable alternatives to keep the jobs in Medicine Hat. Unfortunately, the company refused to seriously consider those alternatives and now the jobs are gone.

In a May editorial, your paper lamented how difficult it was to cut the jobs: “one of the toughest moves managers at Alberta News Group ever had to make.”

The editorial defended the decision, citing the economy and the state of the news industry.

We all understand that times are tough for some newspaper companies and that economic layoffs are sometimes necessary, but that is not the issue here. The issue is that a company that makes its money in Medicine Hat, in Alberta, in Canada, should keep its jobs in Medicine Hat, in Alberta, in Canada.

A company that claims to be a good corporate citizen, that runs wonderful flag-waving Canada Day ads, should not be shipping Canadian jobs to India.

These are your workers, your customers, and your neighbours. They buy your paper, they support the community, and they shop in local stores. Shipping their jobs overseas is a grave betrayal of the community, of the province, and of our great country.

On behalf of your employees, the people of Medicine Hat, and all Canadians, I implore you to do the right thing and keep these jobs where you make your profits – in Medicine Hat.

Sincerely,

Martin O’Hanlon

President, CWA Canada