



279 Bulletin

AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 279

**Wishing you a
Happy Holiday Season
and a Happy New Year**

December 2025



President's Message

Noah Vineberg , President/Business Agent



Dear Brothers, Sisters, Siblings,

As we close out the 2025 year, I want to offer my sincere thanks. Your trust, your honesty, and your belief in what we are building together mean more than I can express. Representing this Membership — the people who keep this city moving — is the honour of my life.

This year brought real progress. We strengthened communication across the Local, built momentum coming out of our collective agreement negotiations, and renewed the sense of connection and belonging that makes ATU Local 279 special. *Nous avons retrouvé un esprit de famille et de solidarité.*

We are a diverse and a dedicated Local, and I am proud of every group that makes up our Membership — bus operators, electric rail operators, diesel rail operators and Para Transpo; fare inspectors; mechanics; storekeepers; dispatchers; garage attendants; building service attendants; the Alstom maintenance teams on the trains and on the lines; and the guards at the Royal Canadian Mint. Each of you contributes to keeping Ottawa moving safely, and our strength as a union comes from recognizing that diversity and standing together as one.

As we head into 2026, the work continues. We are deep into negotiations for Para Transpo and Alstom Transport, with the Royal Canadian Mint to follow early in the new year. Our focus remains clear: improving wages, benefits, and working conditions for all ATU Local 279 members. In January, we will launch new committees to increase participation and involvement, and I look forward to more property visits and workplace conversations throughout the year. Your voice will guide our next steps, and I encourage everyone to reach out when needed — suggestions@atu279.ca is always open.

Votre voix compte.

As the holiday season approaches, I am also reminded of the importance of family — our families at home and our union family here. In recent years, we have lost members who meant a great deal to so many of us. We carry their memory forward, and we honour their contributions, including the influence some had on the work that shaped our contract. *On ne les oublie pas.*

Family teaches us to care for one another, to show empathy, and to support each other through the difficult moments. When we stay united, we strengthen not only our workplaces but our home lives, our balance, and our future.

To everyone working through the holidays — in operations, maintenance, Para, rail, the garages, the control room, Alstom Transport, and the Royal Canadian Mint — thank you. Your dedication does not go unnoticed. You are seen, respected, and appreciated.

I am proud to represent you. I am grateful to walk this road with you, and I am humbled every day by your strength, your dignity, and your resolve.

Merry Christmas. Joyeux Noël. ਮੇਰੀ ਕਰਿਸਮਸ





Vice-President's Message

Mark Blondin, Vice-President



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you and your family a safe and happy Holiday Season. It has been my honour to serve as your Vice-President for the last year and a half.

As a board, we have achieved a lot in 2025. This year's Cheo Golf Tournament raised over \$16,000 for The Cheo Foundation, with over 130 golfers signing up for the event.

The Annual Family Picnic and Retirement Dinner Dance had impressive turnouts, and I look forward to 2026. I am proud of the executive board's hard work, each and every one of them putting in every day to make sure your voices and concerns are brought forward to management. As we continue to fight together for improved schedules, better working conditions and better work-life balance. This board brought you a collective agreement that addressed many areas that needed improvement: a shorter contract term, better benefits, higher wages, and the elimination of non-platform hours. There is still more to do!

We will be back at the negotiating table with Para Transpo, Alstom Transport, and the Royal Canadian Mint in a few months.

I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that it's essential to always follow the speed limit and to check your bus at the end of each trip to ensure no sleepers are left on it. Management is monitoring these issues; we should strive to do better and not give a chance for discipline.

Frères et sœurs !

J'aimerais vous souhaiter un joyeux temps des fetes as vous et la famille. je suis heureux d'etre votre Vice-President et de travailler avec se conseil Administration, et de voir toute le travail exceptionnel que chacun de eux fons a toute les jours, pour vous.

Sizana di'ām śubhakāmanāvām atē navēm sāla di'ām mubārakām.

tahiaat almawsim wasanat jadidat saeida



Secretary-Treasurer

Hassan Osman, Secretary-Treasurer



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the year comes to an end, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your hard work, solidarity, and unwavering dedication. Together we have faced many challenges, celebrated victories, and continue to strengthen our union family.

2025 has been a remarkable year for ATU Local 279 members. With the achievement of the new contract, one of the strongest ones we've secured, and your

resilience has once again shone through. Despite the economic realities facing our city and our country, you have continued to adapt and prove that ATU Local 279 members provide a level of expertise, knowledge and hard work that cannot be matched.

May this Holiday Season bring you peace and joy, and time to rest with your loved ones.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Transportation Division

Nitin Datta, Assistant Business Agent



Season's Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,

I am honoured to serve you as your Assistant Business Agent (Transportation), and I sincerely thank the membership for your continued trust and support. Over the years, I can confidently say that I have never seen a stronger Executive Board than the one we have today under President Noah Vineberg's leadership, who also represents us with a strong voice on the ATU Canada Executive Board. He is a true leader, and together, we are stronger when we stand united and work collectively on your behalf.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to our dedicated members and our shop stewards, who continue to go above and beyond in supporting the membership. Your commitment, your outreach, and your willingness to assist members with their questions have been exceptional. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. I have heard from many members who are interested in becoming shop stewards, and I truly welcome and encourage that engagement.

One of the most rewarding parts of this role is visiting the properties, meeting you face-to-face, and hearing your concerns directly. These conversations guide the work we do every day. Listening to your experiences related to scheduling, safety, or working conditions keeps me grounded and ensures your voice remains at the centre of every decision we make as a union.

Staying informed, engaged, and united is essential, and your elected officials are always available should you have any questions or concerns. Please note that our General Membership meetings are held every month. I strongly encourage all members to rely on official communication rather than rumours spread for political gain, which only serve to divide the membership.

I also send out updates through WhatsApp. If you would like to be added to my WhatsApp broadcast list, please send me a message, and I will add you.

This year marks a major milestone for ATU Local 279: we secured one of the strongest contracts in our Local's history, including the most significant wage increases we have achieved to date. With this new agreement, ATU Local 279 will be returning to the bargaining table much sooner than before to continue fighting for what everyone rightfully deserves. Thanks to your unity and determination, this contract reflects the value of everyone's hard work and the respect everyone deserves. It is clear proof that when we stand together, we win together with our voice and our power.

While we celebrate our recent contract success, our work does not end here. Inflation, workload pressures, and scheduling challenges remain key priorities, and we are already preparing to address them. With the rail line extending to Trim Station next year, there will be significant changes to bus routes in the east end. These adjustments will affect day-to-day operations, including how you will book for the upcoming Spring booking.

I encourage everyone to stay informed and adaptable as these changes unfold. Please continue to share any operational concerns or issues you encounter. Your feedback allows us to identify challenges early so we can advocate for improvements.

Behind the scenes, we are actively advocating on your behalf to ensure your rights and concerns are protected. The Union will continue to apply pressure to ensure that every concern raised by members is taken seriously and addressed without delay.

As we close out another year, I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all our hardworking members and your families. Your solidarity, dedication, and commitment are the backbone of our union. Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with peace, joy, and well-deserved time to celebrate with those who matter the most.



Transportation Division

Robin Dunbar, Executive Board Member



A Season's greetings to all ATU Local 279 members!

I hope everyone is off to a great start to the Holiday Season, which is quickly approaching.

As I ponder my message to you all and reflect, it's dawned on me that we are at the halfway point of this current term. This amazes me because I feel so much has transpired in such a short time.

As we took on our new roles, we set out to bring unity to our local. While there is always work to do in that regard, we feel like we've made great progress towards this goal.

It is an integral step in our plan to demonstrate to management that ATU Local 279 is unified in our goal of achieving better working conditions.

With so little time from the election to contract negotiations, we needed to act quickly.

I feel like we achieved a tremendous turnaround in how members see their union at work. From collecting signatures for our petition to the council, and getting members to attend transit commission meetings, council meetings, or just wearing the WE RIDE TOGETHER t-shirts to show unity, we have certainly gotten management's attention and caught them off guard. The more visible we became, the more concerned they grew.

This was evident in the run-up to the contract negotiations, where they saw we were organizing.

In our efforts to organize, we took on new approaches with the help of our International Union and ATU Canada. For the first time as a 279 member, I got to witness the formation of a true negotiation committee, where members from each division participated in collecting data to bolster the Bargaining Team with indisputable facts that demonstrated how far behind we have fallen after the unprecedented 5-year contract.



It was truly impressive to see how that information was collected and assembled. It was clear that it was too overwhelming for management to digest it all.

While we understand some feel it fell short of their personal needs, the fact remains that, compared to any contract I have voted on since my start date here, we achieved the most significant gains to date and made up for the shortfalls of the last 5 years.

Of course, we'd like to see more language changes, yet these are still achievable through the grievance process, and we intend to do just that. In 2 years, we will be right back at the table to claim those shortfalls.

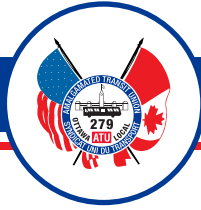
Other changes we have been taking on include bringing our Union Hall back to life. From pooling together to purchase a pool table for the hall, to some executive board members donating TVs and a stereo, and most recently, the addition of a vintage Ms. Pac-Man game, we've been updating our Club 279 to make it more appealing for members to visit and/or rent. This is part of a plan to give the hall back to the members to use, rather than have it sit empty and unused. For members who spend their split shifts with nowhere to go because they live too far, another aim is to create a place where you can come spend time between shifts that isn't at the garages.

The possibilities are endless. From hosting events to supporting groups, the hall can be used for so much. One thing I hope to help build would be an Open Mic night where people can come and share talents, spoken word, or blow off steam about issues our jobs bring with the support of others who wish to have these discussions with people other than families, who may be tired of hearing about OC Transpo day in and day out.

If you have ideas for possible uses of the hall, feel free to email suggestions@atu279.ca, me, or the V.P. Marc Blondin, who handles reservations for the hall.

I would like to wish you all the best for the holidays, and hope you, your families, and friends have a wonderful Happy New Year.

Peace to all!



Transportation Division

Shanty Singh (Kiranpal), Executive Board Member



Season's Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the end of the year, I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all ATU 279 members and their families. I hope this season brings rest, joy, and meaningful time with the people who matter most to you.

I am truly honoured and happy to serve on the ATU Local 279 Executive Board. Thank you to everyone who placed their trust in me. Being part of the board is a responsibility I take to heart, and I remain committed to supporting our members and strengthening the unity that defines our union.

This year has been especially important with the successful completion of our new collective agreement. I want to recognize the incredible work of our bargaining team, who secured the strongest possible deal in an impressive timeframe. In my 21 years of experience, I have never seen a contract deliver a 7 percent wage increase in a single year. For many years, our agreements were tied to four- and five-year terms, but this time we returned to a three-year contract, giving our members more flexibility and more frequent opportunities to renegotiate under better conditions. The agreement also reflects major improvements our members identified as priorities, including meaningful market adjustments, annual wage increases, expanded benefits, faster vacation accrual, improvements to classifications, and the complete removal of non-platform pay. Throughout this process, the support and confidence shown by our members meant a great deal and strengthened the Executive Board's commitment to securing the best possible agreement.

I would also like to recognize our shop stewards, who volunteer their time and stand as the backbone of this union. Their commitment, support, and daily work in the garages and workplaces make an enormous difference. The Executive Board relies on their insight and leadership, and I want to thank each of them for the vital role they play in strengthening our union family.

As winter settles in, I encourage everyone to remain vigilant at the end of your runs and before returning to the garage. A quick check of your bus ensures no one seeking shelter is left behind and helps protect both our passengers and our members during the coldest months of the year.

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the hard work each of you demonstrates daily. You keep our city moving through challenging conditions, and I am proud to represent such a dedicated and resilient group of individuals. To our newer members, please remember that support is always available, and never hesitate to reach out if you need guidance. We are strongest when we work together.

As we enter the new year and prepare to move forward with this agreement, let us continue to carry the unity, pride, and determination that make ATU 279 who we are.





Transportation Division

Michael Lewis, Executive Board Member



Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Siblings,

As we close out another year on the front lines, I want to acknowledge the dedication, strength, and solidarity each of you has shown. This is the time when we finally get a moment to breathe, recharge, and spend time with the people who matter most. We've earned it.

We have achieved a great deal together this year, and it's because we continue to stand united. But our work isn't finished. Please keep completing the SIR forms for every booking. We know the process can be slow, but your reports give us the hard evidence we need to push back and demand the additional run time our routes require.

Remember: take your time behind the wheel. Management's schedules may be unrealistic, but your safety—and the safety of those you serve—comes first. We will not allow unreasonable expectations to put our members at risk. Our speed is monitored daily, and rushing only benefits those who refuse to acknowledge the realities we face on the road.

I look forward to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with all of you in 2026—around the garages, at union gatherings, and in every space where we continue to build our collective power.

Stay strong, stay safe, and enjoy a well-deserved holiday season.



Alstom

Richard Clarke, Executive Board Member



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the year comes to an end, I want to say thank you to everyone who showed up, worked hard, and had each other's backs.

With negotiations underway, I'm cautiously optimistic and will continue to push hard for the best possible contract for everyone. Our unity is our strength, and staying united is what gives us the power to secure the agreement we deserve.

With the holidays coming up, I hope you all get some time to rest, enjoy your families, and recharge. You've earned it.

Wishing you a happy, safe Holiday Season and a great New Year ahead.

Thanks again for everything you do. Stay safe, stay strong!



Transportation Division

Stephane Blondin, Executive Board Member



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we approach the end of another year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished together and to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families this holiday season.

À l'approche de la fin d'une nouvelle année, je souhaite prendre un moment pour réfléchir à ce que nous avons accompli ensemble et pour vous adresser, ainsi qu'à vos familles, mes vœux les plus chaleureux en cette saison des fêtes.

This year has brought challenges, changes, and moments that have demanded resilience from each of us. Through it all, the strength of our union has shone through. We stood together, supported one another, and continued to advocate for fairness, respect, and dignity in our workplace. Every improvement we make, every voice we raise, and every issue we resolve is a reminder of what solidarity truly means.

Cette année a apporté son lot de défis, de changements et de moments qui ont exigé de chacun et chacune d'entre nous une grande résilience. À travers tout cela, la force de notre syndicat a brillé. Nous sommes restés unis, nous nous sommes soutenus les uns les autres, et nous avons continué à défendre l'équité, le respect et la dignité dans notre milieu de travail. Chaque amélioration, chaque voix qui s'élève, chaque enjeu que nous réglons rappelle ce que signifie réellement la solidarité.

I want to thank each of you, our members, our shop stewards, our volunteers, and everyone who took the time to speak up, attend meetings, share concerns, or support a colleague. Your involvement is what keeps our union strong.

Je tiens à remercier chacun d'entre vous, nos membres, nos délégués, nos bénévoles, et toutes celles et ceux qui ont pris le temps de s'exprimer, d'assister aux réunions, de partager leurs préoccupations ou simplement de soutenir un collègue. Votre engagement est ce qui fait la force de notre syndicat.

As we head into the holiday season, I hope you find time to rest, recharge, and enjoy moments of peace and happiness. Whether you celebrate Christmas, another tradition, or simply the end of the year, please know how much you are appreciated.

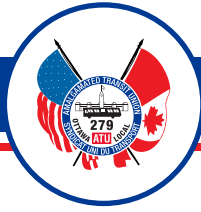
Looking ahead, we will continue our work to protect your rights, push for improved conditions, and ensure every member is treated with the fairness and respect they deserve. With unity and determination, we can make the coming year one of progress and positive changes.

En regardant vers l'avenir, nous poursuivrons notre travail pour protéger vos droits, améliorer vos conditions et veiller à ce que chaque membre soit traité avec l'équité et le respect qu'il mérite. Avec unité et détermination, nous pouvons faire de l'année à venir une année de progrès et de changements positifs.

This holiday season, remember to cherish the precious moments with your family. Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year filled with happiness and prosperity!

En cette saison des fêtes, n'oubliez pas de chérir les moments précieux passés avec votre famille. Je vous souhaite, ainsi qu'à vos proches, un joyeux Noël et une nouvelle année pleine de bonheur et de prospérité





Royal Canadian Mint

Daniel Dorion, Executive Board Member

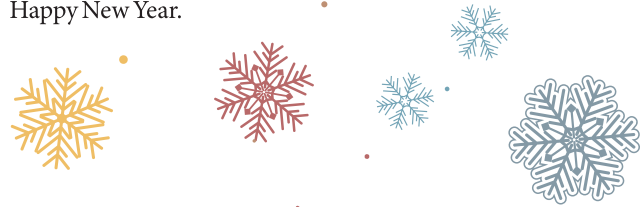


Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to start by thanking everyone for the hard work that you have put in throughout the year. I couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with.

We will enter contract negotiations soon, and I am confident we will reach a settlement sooner rather than later.

I want to wish you and your families all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Equipment Division

Srikanth Kanaglingam, Executive Board Member

As we enter the Holiday Season, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to all our hardworking ATU Local 279 members and their families: Merry Christmas, and I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Thank you for your continued support, enthusiasm, and guidance throughout the year. I am proud to represent our union with credibility, accountability, compassion, and teamwork.

A special thank-you goes out to all our dedicated maintenance staff. Your hard work keeps our city operating smoothly every day. You are truly the backbone of our community.

I also want to acknowledge the importance of mental health during this time of year. The holidays can be joyful but also challenging. Please remember to take care of yourselves and reach out if you need support—we are stronger when we look out for one another.

Thank you for all that you do. Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, peaceful, and joyful holiday season.

Our Voice, our Power



Equipment Division

Martin Lavigne, Executive Board Member

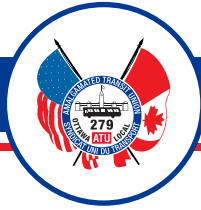
Dear Brothers and Sisters

I want to thank each and every one of you for all the hard work and dedication that you all put in this year. For all the accomplishments you have made in 2025. I am proud to work

with such a great group of people. I feel 2026 will be a great year for us all.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your Family a very Merry Christmas, Happy holidays and Happy New Year.





Equipment Division

Steven Faubert, Executive Board Member



As we approach the holiday season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to every member of ATU Local 279. May this Christmas bring peace, comfort, and joy to you and your families, and may the New Year bring strength, healing, and brighter days ahead.

The holidays give us a moment to pause, reflect, and appreciate the people who walk beside us each day. This season reminds us of how vital our Union family truly is, to know how much it matters to know that someone is in your corner, fighting for you, supporting you, and standing with you through every challenge.

I want to thank you for your trust and support over the past few years. It has been an honour to serve as your Grievance Officer for OC Maintenance, and now to continue representing you as Assistant Business Agent for the Equipment Division supporting OC Maintenance, Alstom Transport, and the Royal Canadian Mint. Standing up for you, fighting for fairness, and defending your rights are responsibilities I carry with great pride.

This year has brought moments of happiness, but also deep sorrow. We lost Brothers and Sisters, far too soon, friends and coworkers we shared laughter, conversations, and long days with. Their absence is felt deeply, especially during the holidays. As we gather with loved ones, let us take a moment to honour their memory. They will always be part of our ATU 279 family, and we carry them with us wherever we go.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our Grievance Officers:

Dan Dorion (Royal Canadian Mint)

Richard Clark (Alstom Transport)

Sri Kanagalingam and Martin Lavigne (OC Maintenance)

Your commitment, resilience, and leadership make a real difference. You are the voice our members rely on in their most challenging moments, and because of your work, they are better protected, better heard, and better represented. When we stand together, we win together.

To our dedicated Office Support Staff, Nancy Randall and Annie Qi, thank you. You are the steady foundation of this Local. Your care, professionalism, and constant support strengthen everything we do. We could not carry out our responsibilities without you.

As we move into the Holiday Season, I hope you find time to rest, reflect, and share meaningful moments with the people you love. Whether this year brought joy, challenges, or a bit of both, know that you are part of a strong, caring Union family that will always stand with you, no matter what lies ahead.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families. May 2026 bring renewed hope, good health, and true solidarity.





Para Transpo Division

Barry Low, Executive Board Member



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the end of another year, I want to take a moment to extend my warmest holiday wishes to you and your families. This season reminds us of the importance of community, solidarity, and supporting one another — values that are at the heart of our union.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE:

We want to inform all members that negotiations for our new collective agreement will begin this month. As always, our priority is to advocate for fair wages, improved working conditions, and the protections our members deserve. We will keep you updated as discussions progress and will share information as soon as it becomes available.

Your support and solidarity are essential during this process. Please stay tuned for further updates.

REFLECTING ON THE YEAR:

2025 has been a year of hard work, perseverance, and meaningful progress. Together, we navigated challenges, advocated for fair treatment, and continued to strengthen our collective voice. Whether on the job, in meetings, or supporting each other day to day, every member played a role in moving our union forward.

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION:

Your dedication has helped us make strides on issues that matter — workplace safety, fair scheduling, respect on the job, and ensuring that everyone's rights under the labour code are upheld. Our strength continues to come from standing united and supporting one another.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEW YEAR:

As we move into 2026, we remain committed to working with you to improve working conditions, resolve ongoing concerns, and ensure that every member feels

heard and represented. We look forward to productive conversations, continued collaboration, and building an even stronger union together.

THANK YOU:

Thank you for your hard work, your resilience, and your solidarity throughout the year. Unions thrive because of members like you — people who show up, speak up, and support their coworkers.

WARM HOLIDAY WISHES:

On behalf of the entire union leadership team, we wish you a joyful holiday season filled with peace, rest, and time spent with the people who matter most to you. May the new year bring health, happiness, and continued strength in unity.

Please remember to check on your neighbours and family, and make sure no one goes without clothing and a warm meal.





2212 Gladwin Crescent, Unit C9
Ottawa, ON, K1B 5N1
613-738-3177 Ext. 221
www.atu279.com