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March 23, 2026

File Number 3780-220003

**VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION (A-108)**

Catherine Gilbert  
Director/Registrar  
Ontario Labour Relations Board  
505 University Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 2P1

Dear Ms. Gilbert:

**Re: Personnel & Material Hoist Employers' Association ("Applicant") v International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793 ("Responding Party")**  
**OLRB File No.: 1563-25-R**

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As you know, we are counsel for the Applicant in connection with this application for accreditation.

Please be advised that in accordance with the Board's February 23, 2026 decision in this proceeding, the Notice to Employers (as amended) the Board directed the Applicant to publish in the Globe and Mail once during the week ending February 27, 2026 appeared on page 3 of the Globe & Mail Report on Business on Friday, February 27, 2026 (attached).

Now that the Employer Filing date has passed (March 17, 2026), we respectfully request the Board proceed with the disposition of the application.

We thank the Board for its attention to this matter.

Yours truly,  
**SHERRARD KUZZ LLP**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "mgs", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael G. Sherrard, K.C. (he/him)\*  
Partner  
MGS/jj

\*Michael G. Sherrard, President, Michael Sherrard Professional Corporation

c. IUOE, Local 793 (Kathryn Bell, Farnaz Talebpour and Melissa Atkins-Mahaney)  
PMHEA (Mackenzie Csaszar)

## Congolese troops assault coltan-rich town after site is offered to U.S. investors

GEOFFREY YORK  
AFRICA BUREAU CHIEF  
JOHANNESBURG

Congolese forces have launched a major assault on a key rebel-held mining hub that has reportedly been offered to U.S. investors in negotiations led by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration.

The town of Rubaya in eastern Congo, which produces an estimated 15 to 30 per cent of the world's coltan, has become the target of a drone-led offensive by forces allied to the army of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Rubaya was captured in 2024 by the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel militia, which has been collecting US\$800,000 in monthly taxes from the town's coltan trade since then, according to United Nations investigators. Coltan is processed into tantalum, an essential element in the manufacturing of cellphones and computers.

In a side deal during U.S.-brokered peace negotiations between Congo and Rwanda, the Congo government signed an agreement allowing U.S. investors to have preferred access to a list of strategic assets in the critical-minerals sector – a growing preoccupation for the Trump administration in recent months. Rubaya was reportedly added to the list in early February, and Congo launched its offensive just a few days later.

In the assault this week, the Congolese army and its militia allies captured a series of villages as close as 10 kilometres from Rubaya and continued attacking other sites near the mining hub, causing panic and an exodus of civilians from the town. Telecommunications services were temporarily cut off as the troops moved close to the town.

The biggest blow was a deadly Congolese drone strike on a hill-top building near Rubaya where M23 leaders were meeting. The strike killed a reported nine people, including a senior M23 leader, Willy Ngoma, who has served as the rebel militia's main spokesperson and its most visible face.

Congo's drone strikes have become noticeably more effective

in recent months after the arrival of a private security force led by Erik Prince, a supporter of Mr. Trump and founder of the now-defunct Blackwater security company. Israeli specialists are also reported to be assisting Congo's drone force.

On Thursday, local media reported that M23 had fought back and recaptured several of the villages near Rubaya as the clashes continued.

Congo's government has accused M23 of looting the country's mineral resources and sending them illegally across the border to Rwanda. It says the amount of coltan that M23 obtains from Rubaya has been rising fast, reaching as much as 125 tonnes a month and allowing Rwanda to boost its coltan exports by more than 200 per cent last year. The coltan trade "directly fuels a war economy," the government said last month.

Rubaya is a sprawling site of informal pits and shafts, where thousands of impoverished Congolese dig minerals by hand, earning a few dollars a day.

The Congolese government says the site's safety standards are unregulated. At least 200 people were killed in massive landslides at Rubaya in late January after heavy rains at the site.

Mr. Trump has claimed credit for ending the war in eastern Congo, part of his bid for a Nobel Peace Prize. But the war has continued to rage without a pause. A series of ceasefires have been announced and swiftly violated by both sides.

The M23 insurgents, benefiting from troops and sophisticated weaponry supplied by the Rwandan military, have captured a huge swath of eastern Congo over the past three years, including the two biggest cities, Goma and Bukavu. Their offensive has forced millions of civilians to flee their homes, triggering a humanitarian catastrophe in the region.

M23 has complained bitterly about Congo's increasing use of drone strikes. In an escalation of the fighting in late January and early February, M23 deployed its own drones to attack a Congolese drone base at an airport near Kisangani, a major city located hundreds of kilometres from the war's front lines.

analyst Jerome Dubreuil called it a "dominant" quarter in wireless for the company, and said he expects a "clear positive reaction" to Quebecor's share price.

But that growth was tempered by the headwinds faced by the industry as a whole: slower population growth, competition on phone plan prices and lower advertising revenue.

"We believe financials should slowly improve going forward, but the rate of growth will likely remain muted until we see general pricing sustainably trend higher," Bank of Nova Scotia analyst Maher Yaghi said in a note to investors Thursday.

Quebecor's share price on the Toronto Stock Exchange was down slightly on Thursday in afternoon trading, but up 68 per cent over the same period last year.

The company added 74,000 net new wireless subscribers in the quarter, slightly beating analyst expectations of 72,000. This was ahead of 52,000 for BCE Inc.'s Bell Canada; 50,000 for Telus; and 39,000 for Rogers Communications Inc.

Quebecor's average revenue per user – an important industry metric used to measure the value of a customer – for wireless subscribers

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vice for 2026.

However, Quebecor's wireless and internet growth was offset by the contraction of its legacy division, though these losses were more modest than analysts' expectations. The company lost 8,000 television subscribers and 14,000 home-phone subscribers during the quarter.

The company's media revenue was up \$44.1-million in the quarter year-over-year, but this was mainly owing to the one-time royalty adjustment. Advertising and sports revenue fell during the quarter.

The company repeated its calls for Ottawa to eliminate the tax deduction for Canadian companies to advertise on foreign platforms, and to provide an additional tax incentive for advertising in Canadian media.

On Wednesday, Quebecor increased its quarterly dividend by 14.3 per cent to 40 cents a share, representing a current yield of close to 3 per cent. This represents a dividend payout ratio of about 35 per cent, according to the company, which is significantly lower than those of Bell and Telus.

"Healthy capital allocation and structure remain among QBR's most appreciated aspects for investors," Mr. Dubreuil said.

### NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS OF EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS, LOCAL 793 ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION DESCRIBED BELOW OF APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION BY THE PERSONNEL & MATERIAL HOIST EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

The Personnel & Material Hoist Employers' Association ("PMHEA") is an employers' organization that has filed an application on August 26, 2025 at the Ontario Labour Relations Board pursuant to section 134 of the *Labour Relations Act, 1995* to be an accredited employers' organization.

The PMHEA and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793 ("Local 793") are currently parties to the Personnel and Material Hoist/Erectors/Dismantlers/Service & Repair Collective Agreement effective May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2028 (the "Collective Agreement").

Local 793 is the Responding Party to this application. Local 793 agreed with the bargaining unit description contained in the application. The application may affect employers of employees for whom Local 793 holds bargaining rights for in all sectors of the construction industry, save and except the ICI sector, in the Province of Ontario. The precise description of the bargaining unit for which the PMHEA seeks accreditation can be found at the Ontario Labour Relations Board website at <https://www.olrb.gov.on.ca/Construction-EN.asp>. If you are an employer that is or may be affected by this application, you must file an "Employer Filing, Application for Accreditation, Construction Industry" (Form A-94) by the Employer Filing Date. The Employer Filing Date fixed by the Registrar in this proceeding is Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

The Board may determine this matter without a hearing after the Employer Filing Date. If a hearing is scheduled, only those employers that have filed an "Employer Filing, Application for Accreditation, Construction Industry" (Form A-94) will receive notice of that hearing.

You can determine whether you are affected by this application by inspecting the material filed in the application (OLRB File No. 1563-25-R) at the Ontario Labour Relations Board's website at <https://www.olrb.gov.on.ca/Construction-EN.asp>. There, you will find a complete copy of the pleadings in this matter, copies of response forms, lists of employers who the PMHEA and Local 793 believe may be affected by this application, and the precise description of the proposed bargaining unit.

Even if you are not an employer named on the lists of employers filed by the parties, you may be entitled to notice of, and participate in, the proceeding if you are an employer with employees doing work in the proposed bargaining unit, and you have been active in any sector of the construction industry in the Province of Ontario, except the ICI sector, within one year prior to the date of application (August 26, 2024).

Questions may be directed to Carrie Clynick, Mediator / Labour Relations Specialist, Ontario Labour Relations Board, at 647.280.5419 or [carrie.clynick@ontario.ca](mailto:carrie.clynick@ontario.ca).

You may also attend the Ontario Labour Relations Board during its operating hours for more information. The contact information for the Ontario Labour Relations Board is as follows:

Ontario Labour Relations Board  
505 University Avenue - 2nd Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 2P1  
Hours of Operation: 9:30 am – 5:00pm

All employers are urged to confirm whether they are affected by this Application for Accreditation as, no further notice of this matter will be given unless employers notify the Board by filing an "Employer Filing" not later than March 17, 2026.