

Jail Time for Assault is Insufficient Says Local 1189 President

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GUELPH -- Steve MacNeil, president ATU Local 1189 expressed disappointment in the 6 month sentence given to Derek McPhee for assaulting a Guelph Transit driver last year.

"I'm surprised the sentence wasn't longer than it was," Stephen MacNeil said. "I understand the judge had to do what he thought was right . but we have to send a strong message." McPhee, 25, plead guilty in July to assault causing bodily harm.

The court heard that McPhee repeatedly punched Guelph Transit driver Mike Jones, 55, in the head and face about 3 a.m. last Oct. 30 because Jones refused to deviate from his route to drop McPhee off closer to home.

Jones was treated in hospital for injuries to his face and neck. A victim-impact statement filed with the court said he is still undergoing physiotherapy.

MacNeil, said he would have liked to have seen a jail term in excess of one year. "A person who operates a public vehicle needs to be protected," he said.

The judge, who said there had to be "a deterrent and denunciatory sentence" to send a message to others in the community imposed a 60-day sentence, but agreed to allow McPhee to serve his sentence on weekends so he can keep his job.