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# CUPE WIRE

Official Publication of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 38  
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March 2018

## Why P3's Don't Work

In February of this year, the roof the Fairview Arena collapsed, one day after the building was deemed unsafe and a full evacuation was ordered. While it is too early to determine the actual cause of the failure, this latest incident highlights the problems with Public Private Partnerships.

The Calgary Soccer Centre had the inflatable portion of the roof collapse in 2008 and again in 2010. Subsequently, the City took back control of the facility and invested significant resources to bring the building back up to standards.

A commonality in both of these situations was that these facilities are City owned, but had been operated by private organizations. In the case of the Fairview Arena, the Fairview Women's Hockey Arena Society operated the facility. In the case of the Soccer Centre, the Calgary Soccer Federation operated the facility.

While these non-profit groups operate exceptional programs and have significant expertise in organizing and scheduling leagues and games, they do not have the expertise or capacity to properly oversee the operations of facilities. The City does possess this expertise. Safely operating facilities of the size and scope of the Arena and Soccer Centre requires dedicated professionals in the field of building maintenance.

The underlying flaw to Public Private Partnerships such as these is that when there is a critical failure, it falls back upon the City --- and the taxpayers --- to step back in, take control of the facility and invest resources to fix it.

In other words, the public sector always retains the risk and liability in these cases. It took millions to get the Soccer Centre back in shape, and this will likely be the case with the Arena.

With the Soccer Centre, City Council understood this dilemma and made a strategic decision to keep operational control of the Soccer Centre. Hopefully the same strategic thinking will be applied to the Fairview Arena.

## Committees— Volunteers Beware

Periodically, our members are asked to participate on employer initiated committees in their work areas. While the union fully supports interactive discussions on work related issues, we often see our members put in conflicting situations.

When members are asked to sit on committees and give their opinion and input it is as an employee. At no time should our members or stewards be expected to approve ideas or processes on behalf of the union.

Recently we have encountered some instances where our members and stewards are brought into discussions regarding policy implementation and due to their participation the employer deems the policy "approved" by the Union; and presents it as such.

CUPE Local 38 has an elected Executive Board that is tasked with making decisions on behalf of the Union. This body is the authority of our Union.

A second concern of these committees, that our members need to consider, is that of providing their opinion. If a Committee is established to discuss a topic of some contention, the employer may establish some rules and expectations intended to provide a safe space for members to give their honest opinion and suggestions for a resolution to the issue. The concern with this is the employer may, and recently has, turn this into an opportunity to penalize the employee if they disagree with that employee's statements.

The Union encourages our members to use caution and be cognisant of how the opinions they provide could be used against them, if someone complains that they are offended by your opinion.



Honours our 2017 Retirees  
on  
Saturday, April 14, 2018  
6:00 pm onwards  
at the  
Calgary Winter Club  
4611-14 Street NW

Tickets \$25.00 each  
Contact the Union Office  
403-233-2700  
To reserve your ticket

Are you on an Occupational Health and  
Safety Committee in your work place?

**Local 38's OH&S Committee  
WOULD LIKE TO HEAR  
FROM YOU!**

Please send an e-mail to the Union office at  
[office@cupe38.org](mailto:office@cupe38.org) and indicate which  
department you work in and the name of the  
OH&S Committee that you sit on.

### Connect with CUPE 38

Email: [office@cupe38.org](mailto:office@cupe38.org)

Phone: 403-233-2700

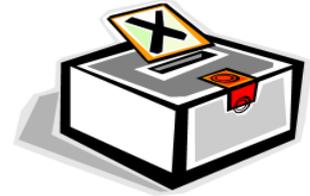
In-person: 1439 - 9th AVE SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0T4

Online: [cupe38.org](http://cupe38.org)

## Advance Notice of CUPE Local 38 Elections

At the Regular General Meeting on April 24, the following positions will be open for a two (2) year term:

1. **President (Full Time)**
2. **Treasurer**
3. **Chief Steward**
4. **Warden**
5. **Five (5) Executive Members-At-Large (2 Year Term)**  
**One (1) Executive Member-At-Large (1 Year Term)**
6. **Two (2) Trustees (1-Term to 2019) (1-Term to 2021)**



To be eligible for nominations for any of the offices, members must have attended at least 50% of the Regular General Meetings in the twelve (12) months immediately prior to the election. The member must be present at the April meeting, or indicate in writing to the Recording Secretary a willingness to stand for nomination.

In accordance with the CUPE Local 38 bylaws, in order to be eligible for the office of President, Treasurer and Chief Steward, a member shall declare their intention to run at the March Regular Meeting. This declaration can be made verbally at the March meeting or by submitting a written declaration witnessed by another member which is to be read at the March meeting.

### ***THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH***



The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.

~George Bernard Shaw

# Get involved!

## REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*All CUPE 38 Members Invited to Attend*



**When: Tuesday, March 27, 2018  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Where: CUPE 38 Office,  
1439-9 Avenue SE  
Business: Regular**

**Declaration of Intention to run for Officer Elections:  
Please see Page 2 for "Advance Notice of Elections" information**