

THE CUPE CONNECTION

Official Publication of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 38
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Government indicates that they are backtracking on Lapp

Last month we reported in the Cupe Connection that the provincial government was committed to transferring governance of Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP) to the stakeholders. This position appeared to be supported by the December 2014 LAPP newsletter. Unfortunately, we have since learned that the Minister of Finance, Robin Campbell, appears to be backing away from the Commitment to transfer governance of LAPP. In a meeting with the Labour Coalition on Pensions, Mr. Campbell indicated that he wanted the LAPP Board to provide him with recommendations regarding plan changes. He also raised reductions to the plan and continued government control of LAPP.

This request by the Minister of Finance reverts the government to the position it held under Alison Redford when then Finance of Minister, Doug Horner, requested these recommendations in order to justify changes to LAPP.

The current legislation governing LAPP has the Minister of Finance as the sole Trustee of the plan. As the Trustee for the plan, he is responsible for ensuring that the members of the plan receive the pension they are promised. He is also responsible for management of all funds including the investment strategy and appointment of members to the LAPP Board. To make changes to the level of benefits in the LAPP plan, the legislation requires that the LAPP Board first provide recommendations for changes to the Minister. These recommendation do not have to be implemented by the Minister. However, once the Minister receives recommendations for change, he is free to make any changes he believes necessary. Without these recommendations, the Minister cannot make changes to the pension plan.

After becoming Premier of Alberta, Jim Prentice issued a press release clearly stating that Bills 9 and 10 (the proposed reductions to LAPP and other defined benefit pension plans tabled under Redford and Horner) would not be introduced under his leadership.

How can we reconcile this statement by the Premier with what the Minister of Finance told the Labour Coalition on Pensions?

There are a couple of things that are crystal clear at the moment: the first is that the government will call an election after the budget; the second is that the election will likely be fought on the contents of the budget. If this government can't tell us what they are doing with respect to LAPP prior to an election, it is safe to say they cannot be trusted after the election.

We need you and every other member of the plan, as well as all of their family members, to **raise this issue with each and every candidate during the upcoming election.** We cannot sit by and wait until after the election; it is imperative that, as a plan member, you contact the LAPP Board and remind them that they must not submit any proposed changes that would allow the Minister of Finance to implement changes to the plan that are not in your best interests. Remember, nothing has changed with the viability of our plan since 2013... our plan is strong; let's keep it that way.

Local 38 Member Survey

Over the past month, Local 38 engaged a communication firm to poll our members regarding how well we have been doing at representing you. It was our preference that we receive honest feedback without any influence, so we chose not to write about this survey in previous newsletters. Unfortunately, this caused some confusion among you, the members, and we have received a number of phone calls inquiring as to whether this survey was legitimate.

The underlying goal of the survey is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of Local 38. As a Local, we have been trying to identify how to communicate better with our members in an increasingly busy and information overloaded world. We have taken some initial steps by re-designing our website, and engaging in some newer methods of outreach, such as the recorded telephone messages on key issues. This survey is an attempt to gauge our success and seek areas to improve.

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Advance Notice of CUPE Local 38 Elections



At the Regular General Meeting April 28th, 2015 the following positions will be open for a two (2) year term:

- 1) Business Agent
- 2) Vice-President
- 3) Recording Secretary
- 4) Five (5) Executive Members-At-Large

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 **Business Agent**, **Vice-President** and **Recording Secretary**, 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.

City program could help you buy your first home

Attainable Homes Calgary Corporation (AHCC) is a nonprofit and wholly owned subsidiary of The City of Calgary that was created because community leaders saw the need to bridge a serious gap in the housing market, to help moderate-income Calgarians who are being locked out of home ownership.

The organization's Attainable Home Ownership Program connects builders, developers, lenders, lawyers and others to bring down the upfront costs of buying a home, so qualifying families can buy a home with only \$2,000 down.

How the program works:

- AHCC offers below market prices on well-appointed apartment condos and townhomes.
- You contribute a \$2,000 deposit and receive an equity loan to go towards the purchase price of your attainable home.
- When you decide to sell your home, you share a portion of the appreciation with AHCC, which is reinvested in the program to help more Calgarians.
- The longer you live in your attainable home, the more of its appreciation you keep to a maximum of 75%.

Over 500 families have already bought beautiful attainable homes in great locations all around the city. Visit www.AttainYourHome.com to see if you qualify and start the program with three simple steps online.

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Local 38 currently represents 4,800 members at the City of Calgary, Enmax and the Calgary Parking Authority. It is impossible to reach out to each and every member face to face on every issue. As such, the Local needs to understand how best to communicate with all members.

The last few years have been difficult years, with the economic crisis, hiring freezes, the attack on our pension and the latest drop in oil prices. The Prentice government appears set to re-visit the pension concessions and possibly renege on their pension promise. With such an uncertain future, we feel it is important that we are able to best represent you. It is our hope that this survey will guide us in doing so.



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Invites you and your family to dress in your best Red Neck wear and join us on

Saturday March 28th @ 7:00pm

at the Scotiabank Saddledome for

Redneck Nite

Hosted by Duck Dynasty Cast Members

John Godwin & Mountain Man

**Tickets on sale starting February 23, 2015
for \$10.00 per ticket
(limit 4 tickets per member)**

**Purchase your tickets by calling the Union Office
@ 403-233-2700**

Pre-Retirement Course

Local 38 is offering a pre-retirement course for members on March 14 & 15, 2015 from 9 am to 4 pm daily. These days will be on the member's own time as we will not book anyone off work to attend.



This course deals with the financial and emotional aspects of retirement. It prepares participants for what to expect in retirement. It deals with your relationship with your spouse and how you fill your days. It also allows you to review your financial situation to ensure that it is line with your vision of retirement. Do you have the ability to travel? Are you required to work part time?

This course is open to all card carrying members and their spouses. Having your spouse there is not a requirement but it does allow participants to ensure your plans for retirement are aligned.

If you are interested in attending this course, please contact our office at 403-233-2700 to register. Space is limited and will be offered on a first-come-first-serve basis. These sessions will be held at the Local 38 Offices at 1439-9th Ave SE.



**THOUGHT
FOR
THE
MONTH**

**"No act of kindness, no
matter how small, is
wasted"**

~ Aesop~

GENERAL MEETING



Tuesday, February 24, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Union Office

1439—9th Avenue SE

BUSINESS: **Regular**

1. Election of Treasurer - Term to April 2016
2. Election of eighteen (18) delegates to CUPE Alberta Convention - March 18-20, 2015 in Calgary
3. Election of up to eighteen (18) delegates to Alberta Federation of Labour Convention - April 16-19, 2015 in Calgary