

# CUPE WIRE

Official Publication of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 38  
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MAY 2021

## Zoom Into the General Meeting

With the continuing restrictions on indoor gatherings by Alberta Health Services, the Executive of Local 38 has made the decision to cancel in-person meetings for May.

The May 25, 2021 Regular Membership meeting will be held through a on-line Zoom meeting. We encourage every card-carrying member to contact the office for the specific details to attend the meeting.

In an attempt to balance the confidentiality of the meeting with access for our members, we are asking the following:

1. Contact the Union Office at 403-233-2700 or [office@cupe38.org](mailto:office@cupe38.org) to obtain the access code for the meeting.
2. When entering the Zoom meeting, please ensure your camera is on and that you identify yourself. We will need to confirm and record the name of all attendees. If a participant cannot be identified, they will be removed from the meeting.
3. Once the meeting starts, attendees will be given the instruction to turn off their camera if they desire to improve bandwidth.
4. If speaking, please activate your camera so other delegates can see who is speaking.

I want to thank everyone for their understanding during these times. While we prefer in-person meetings, to ensure the health and safety of our members, on-line meetings are needed to continue the democratic operations of our Local.



## Municipal Election 2021 – Calgary’s Future

In the lead up to the October Municipal election, the race is picking up steam. Mayor Naheed Nenshi announced his intention to step down as Mayor, and this has sparked a number of candidates to jump into the race.

As we expected, the number of candidates for Mayor and Council are increasing, almost on a daily basis. It is important that we all review the candidates in light of their express commitment to public service and their commitment to building the type of City we all want to live in. It is too easy for candidates who have no experience or knowledge of what the City does as an organization to throw around catchphrases like “find efficiencies” or “cut red tape”. We all know these are just code words for cutting staff, undermining our working conditions and cutting wages.

In the last few weeks we have seen far right extremists announce for the Mayor’s race. Kevin Johnston is reported to have made threats against Health Care workers. These threats resulted in a restraining order against Mr. Johnston. Mr. Johnston is further quoted as stating that, as Mayor, he would order Calgary Police Services to arrest provincial health staff.

In any other time, we might just shrug off Mr. Johnston as a fringe element, a candidate that no one would take seriously. But in these times, with anti-mask demonstrators handing out “freedom bullets”, and aggressive behavior toward law enforcement, including Bylaw and Protective Services Officers, we must be vigilant in this election.

This election is critical. Calgarians will elect a Council that will shape the City in which we live, a City in which we raise our families. For City employees, it is vital that we engage and support those candidates who will support the work that we do every day.

For more information, sign up to Calgary’s Future at [www.calgarysfuture.ca](http://www.calgarysfuture.ca) and encourage family, friends and neighbors to engage in the October municipal election.

## Local 38 Committees

This month, at the May Regular meeting, Local 38 membership will be electing people to participate in our committees. Local 38 supports a Public Relations and Education committee, an Occupational Health and Safety committee, a Social committee and an Equal Opportunities committee. Each of these committees will be holding their meetings via the Zoom virtual platform for the next several months. If you are interested in being elected to one of these committees, we encourage to participate in the May Regular meeting for more details and to get nominated. Call our office for the link to any of our Regular meetings. Hope to see you there!

## Time Off for Vaccinations

In an effort to promote vaccinations, ENMAX made the decision to provide all employees with up to 3 hours paid time off to receive a vaccination. ENMAX did not wait for the official provincial announcement; rather, they implemented their own policy to help encourage vaccinations. This put ENMAX ahead of the provincial government and many other workplaces.

Vaccinations are one of many strategies to provide a safe work and healthy workplace. Working at home, masking and social distancing are still important tools to combat COVID-19. By combining widespread vaccinations with these measures, we are all hoping to see a dramatic decrease in the spread of the virus.

We recognize that the decision to get vaccinated is a very personal one. However, we would encourage everyone to give this serious consideration.

## Scholarships Available

CUPE Local 38 offers two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each, to be awarded in October of each year. These scholarships are open to card carrying members, or their eligible dependents. Each applicant must be enrolled in full-time, post-secondary studies, and they must submit a one thousand (1,000) word essay on one of the following topics:

1. How can Calgary-based unions work together to create positive change?
2. What can unions do to engage their members more effectively in a virtual environment?
3. Municipal unions, such as CUPE 38, operate in a political environment. Describe challenges and opportunities that these unions face because of the political environment, and strategies or tactics that could be used to address them.

The essays will be assessed on the following criteria: quality of research, degree of analysis, and adherence to the chosen topic. Submissions will be evaluated by CUPE Local 38's Public Relations and Education Committee. Please note that all submissions must clearly indicate the chosen topic.

Entries can be submitted by email or fax (403-290-1757). Email attachments should be in Microsoft Word format. Proof of enrollment must also be provided at the time of submission. The deadline for submission is August 27, 2021. Successful applicants will be advised by letter and CUPE Local 38 reserves the right to publish the names and essays of the winners.

For further information, please contact Local 38 at 403-233-2700 or by email at [office@cupe38.org](mailto:office@cupe38.org)

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



*Even if you stumble, you're still moving forward.*

~Victor Kiam

## 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)

# REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*All CUPE 38 Card Carrying Members  
Invited to Attend*



**When: Tuesday, May 25, 2021  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Where: Via ZOOM  
(SEE FRONT PAGE FOR DETAILS)**

**Business: Regular & Elections**

1. Six (6) Members to the Occupational Health & Safety Committee (4 must be City employees).
2. Five (5) Members to Public Relations & Education Committee.
3. Five (5) Members to Equal Opportunities Committee.
4. Five (5) Members to Social Committee.
5. Seven (7) Delegates to CUPE Calgary District Council.
6. Delegates to Calgary & District Labour Council.