

## From worst to first: Alberta reclaims lead in Canadian growth survey

*Alberta's economy is more than just back on its feet, it's about to run faster than any other region in Canada.*

*By Greg Quinn and Catarina Saraiva (Calgary Herald, July 28, 2017)*

Alberta's economy is more than just back on its feet, it's about to run faster than any other region in Canada.

Gross domestic product in the western province will rise by 2.9 percent this year, according to a Bloomberg survey of economists, up from an April estimate of 2.5 percent. That matches forecasts for neighbouring British Columbia, and in 2018 Alberta comes out on top with a 2.4 percent expansion that would be tops among Canada's 10 provinces.

It's a huge comeback from Alberta's last place finish in each of the last two years when oil prices plummeted below \$50 a barrel, triggering layoffs and an investment freeze that shrank GDP by about 4 percent. The rebound is another sign Canada may retain its top spot among Group of Seven nations as economic growth diversifies away from consumer spending.

"Everyone should feel good about it, not just Alberta," Bank of Nova Scotia deputy chief economist Brett House said by phone Wednesday from Toronto. "The Canadian economy is firing on all cylinders."

Growth forecasts for this year were lifted in every province in the latest Bloomberg survey that was taken July 7-14. The 2018 survey shows growth is forecast for every province, which would be the first time that's happened since 2011.

Alberta still stands out as the biggest surprise contributor.

Factory sales in Alberta have climbed 18 percent in May from a year earlier. Retail sales are up 9 percent as unemployment fell to 7.4 percent in June from a peak of 9 percent in November, and as government deficit spending gives household budgets a boost. Average weekly wages rose on a 12-month basis by the most in more than two years with a gain of 1.7 percent, Statistics Canada reported Thursday.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Local 38 Supports Labour Day Weekend Events

Labour Day weekend is the last long weekend of the summer and the final chance for families to take in the sunshine together. For many labour activists, Labour Day weekend was the busiest weekend with many events happening around the City.

On Sunday, September 3, our city hosted the Annual Pride Parade. This event has seen participation increase every year since its inception in the late 90's, and this year was the biggest yet. With approximately 60,000 spectators, Calgary was alive with rainbows. Members from CUPE 38 and other CUPE locals walked with the Calgary District Labour Council float, carrying flags and handing out Skittles™. CUPE has a long history of fighting for equality and we will need more volunteers next year to decorate and escort the float, so come help show the world how CUPE members support diversity, inclusion and equality!

On Monday, September 4, the Calgary and District Labour Council (CDLC) hosted the Annual Labour Day BBQ at Olympic Plaza. This is an event that involves many different Unions and Labour Councils coming together to show support for Calgarians of all walks of life. There was free food, drinks, music and ice cream, as well as a free book table hosted by CUPE Locals represented by Librarians and the Public School Board. The Premier of Alberta, Rachel Notley, stopped by to talk to some of CUPE's volunteers and help serve burgers to the masses. We encourage all members to participate in these events and showcase CUPE in the Community.



## Save the Date!

The 2017 Local 38's Children's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

This year the party will be held at the **Genesis Centre**, 7555 Falconridge BV NE. *Please make note of the new location for this event.*

Registration forms will be available in the October 2017 CUPE Connection.



# MUNICIPAL ELECTION

As City Employees, we are given a unique opportunity to elect our bosses to a certain extent, so don't miss your opportunity this election year, get out and vote for your bosses on October 16, 2017. For any voter, it is important to educate yourself on the candidates and find out where they stand on issues that are important to you. For City Employees, it is even more vital for you to find out where the candidates stand on public services, future priorities for the City and sustainability. These issues effect all City of Calgary employees and their families. While a candidate may not support all issues important to you, they should support the critical factors such as, supporting a strong workforce to provide quality public service and maintaining the workforce to provide stability and consistency in the public service. A candidate that recognizes the benefits of keeping our services in-house as opposed to contracting out, is a good boss to have on council.

CUPE 38 is affiliated with the Calgary & District Labour Council (CDLC), and this council works with many workers in various sectors to support strong and sustainable communities. This council provides information on municipal and school board elections, as well as being the hub of all things labour related. They help to educate advocates and to fight for workers' rights. The CDLC has worked hard at providing information to members and the public on the candidates in this upcoming election. CUPE along with the CDLC want you to support the candidates who support working families by encouraging investment in our communities, fighting for fair taxation, providing better wages and good jobs.

There are many new faces in the list of candidates this year and the CDLC has provided a breakdown of the candidates that support our issues and will come to council with a progressive mindset. They have included friendly candidates in the school board elections, as these positions are often the launching pad for some individuals wanting to get into municipal politics.

## **City Council**

Ward 1 - Christopher Blatch	Ward 3 - Ian McAnerin	Ward 4 - Greg Miller
Ward 6 - Esmahan Razavi	Ward 7 - Druh Farrell	Ward 8 - Evan Woolley
Ward 9 - Gian-Carlo Carra	Ward 10 - Salimah Kassam	Ward 11 - Janet Eremenko

## **Public School Board**

Ward 3 & 4 - Laura Hack	Ward 6 & 7 - Patricia Bolger
Ward 8 & 9 - Richard Hehr	Ward 12 & 14 - Tory Tomblin
Ward 11 & 13 - Julie Hrdlicka	

## **Catholic School Board**

Ward 3, 5, & Airdrie - Linda Wellman	Ward 11 & 12 - Cathie Williams
Ward 9, 10, & Chestermere - Cheryl Low	Ward 13 & 14 - Mary Martin

# Tips for Managing Stress

(Source: *Enough Workplace Stress: Organizing for Change*)

Coming back to work after the summer months can be a challenging time. The changing season often comes hand in hand with new responsibilities and tighter schedules at both work and home. Coping with increasing demands – and stress – on the job, while also managing extra-curricular commitments, can often leave you feeling burned out and overwhelmed. Although a certain amount of stress at work is normal, experiencing constant or elevated stress can become toxic to your overall health and wellbeing and can be a workplace hazard.

Here are some steps you can take to reduce your workplace stress:

## Do:

- Start work on time and leave work on time.
- Take your breaks and full meal break allotment to give yourself time to recover
- Report stress hazards

## Don't:

- Work beyond your means, or at an unreasonable pace
- Work unpaid overtime
- Ignore the health and safety effects of stress, or suffer in silence

It is important to note that many of our members are feeling overwhelmed by their workload. We are seeing positions that are not being filled after people retire or move on, and the workload for those remaining continues to increase. It is for this reason, that the above points are crucial to a healthy work place. It is the Employers responsibility to manage staffing levels and workloads. If you are working through breaks and staying late and not getting paid overtime for it, your employer is not getting a clear picture of the staffing needs. Maintaining this pace becomes detrimental to your health and can increase the errors made in your work, which may lead to performance based discipline.

For tools and resources, or to learn more about work-place stress, visit [cupe.ca/stress](http://cupe.ca/stress)

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



A person often meets his destiny on the road he took to avoid it.

~Jean de La Fontaine

## From worst to first:

### Alberta reclaims lead in Canadian growth survey

*Continued from Page 1*

Those gains come on top of an energy industry where oil and gas drilling is rising again as companies lowered their break-even costs. To date, the average number of active Canadian oil rigs is nearly double what it was a year ago, and Alberta construction is also being aided by rebuilding after wildfires last year.

### 'Consistent' Growth

Newfoundland and Labrador, another province tied to oil through offshore drilling, is now expected to grow 0.8 percent next year instead of the 0.1 percent contraction economists projected in April.

"You really are seeing more consistent growth which I think is better from a national perspective," said Michael Dolega at Toronto-Dominion Bank. "It makes things easier as far as policy makers are concerned, especially for the Bank of Canada."

Governor Stephen Poloz raised interest rates for the first time in seven years on July 12 citing a broad recovery and investors predict another move in October. One complication that could arise would be if a rising Canadian dollar and borrowing costs took a big hold on weaker regions of the economy.

The full recovery in Alberta still has some ways to go. Even if output grows as economists expect in 2017, the province's gross domestic product would remain about 5 percent lower than its peak in 2014, before oil prices collapsed. And the jobless rate was regularly less than 5 percent before the oil crash.

### More Stable

"It's been a stronger bounce back than people were expecting but it's still not a full recovery yet," Nathan Janzen, senior economist at Royal Bank of Canada, said by phone from Toronto. Royal Bank boosted the Alberta growth call for this year to 2.9 percent from 2.1 percent, the most among the 11 responses in the Bloomberg survey. Alberta's growth prospects are more stable now that companies have made some progress in competing with lower oil prices brought on by the emergence of shale oil production in the U.S., economists said. That tougher competition also means that the boom times that drew tens of thousands of workers from across Canada probably won't return soon, says Brendan LaCerde at Moody's Analytics.

"They tumbled so hard and they are bouncing back now," LaCerde said. "They can throw a small party, the worst is over."

# Get involved!

## REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*All CUPE 38 Members Invited to Attend*



**When: Tuesday, September 26, 2017  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Where: CUPE 38 Office,  
1439–9 Avenue SE**

**Business: Regular & Elections**

### **Elections:**

1. Two (2) Members to Occupational Health & Safety Committee
2. One (1) Member to Equal Opportunities Committee
3. One (1) Member to Social Committee
4. One (1) Eligible Member to Executive Board—2 year term

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**Contract Proposals for the upcoming negotiations with the  
City of Calgary will be ratified at this meeting.**