

CUPE PARKING LOT

Official Publication of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 38
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Elections Results and Updates

At the CPA General Meeting held on November 13, 2019, elections were held for the positions of Sub-Local Chair Person and Recording Secretary. We had multiple nominations for both positions, and I'm happy to announce the successful candidates are as follows;

Chair Person – Faizan Khan

Recording Secretary – Sikander Masood

Congratulations to both gentlemen and we look forward to working with you both on issues facing the members at Calgary Parking Authority.

In regards to some of those issues, we have updates! It has been determined that the application of the increase to the safety boot allowance will be applied to those that were already receiving it on a biweekly basis. The members that were having their safety boots provided to them as part of their uniform kit, will continue to have their boots supplied and no allowance will be provided.

Finally, the new collective agreement documents have been proof read, cross checked and in the process of being formally signed off this week. The document will be sent for print early next week and we hope to have them available prior to the new year.

What Does The Provincial Budget Mean for You?

While we have our own struggles underway with the budget talks occurring in our municipal government, the recently released provincial budget only compounds the problems. The UCP government has reneged on their campaign promise to maintain the city charter funding arrangements with Calgary and Edmonton, this means these cities can no longer count on the funding that they have built their budgets around. Along with this, they have decided they will no longer pay property tax on government owned buildings. Difficult to understand why they would do this after chastising the two large municipalities for not "having their houses in order." In the midst of discussion to do just that, the provincial government pulls \$81 million out from under both cities.

What Does The Provincial Budget Mean for You?

Continued from previous column

Promised funding for major projects that are vital to Calgary, such as the Green Line, are being slashed from \$555 million to a meager \$75 million. Flood mitigation in Calgary will see a loss of \$30 - \$50 million. While the amount currently collected for fines and penalties by the municipal government will not change, the amount the cities get to keep has been vastly reduced and the difference pocketed by the province.

More personal and closer to home, the provincial budget has deeply cut healthcare budgets and as above, we will see the negative impact on service levels provided by our healthcare professionals. \$90 million reduction in drug coverage, \$11 million to ambulance services and \$100 million in funding for nurses. On top of that, we will see a heavy reduction in acute care services in hospitals, as a result we are likely to see these services pushed entirely out to the private sector. Do we want our loved ones, requiring this kind of care, to be at the mercy of for-profit healthcare corporations?

Post-Secondary education is being pushed further out of reach for lower and middle class Albertans with the provincial government cancelling the tuition freeze. Experts are forecasting a 21% increase in tuition over the next 3 years. Along with this, they have raised the interest rate on student loans. While making it more costly for our children to access post-secondary education, the provincial government reduced funding to most Alberta institutions, which means you will pay more for less.

We will all see the immediate impact of this budget with increased fees for vehicle registration, removal of the caps on insurance rates and on electricity pricing. While this government will tell you they did not raise taxes, they have! Provincial taxes will increase year over year for each of us because of they have not indexed tax brackets, this is a \$600 million tax increase. Is this what Alberta voted for? Is their mandate to keep the masses poor, sick and uneducated?

Reminder of Children's Christmas Party

The 2019 Children's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at the **Genesis Centre, 7555 Falconridge Blvd NE** from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

If you have sent in your registration form and are registered for the party, we look forward to seeing you on Dec. 14th.

For those who registered but are unable to attend the event, gift pick up will be at the Local 38 Office located at 1439-9th Ave SE from Monday, December 16th to Wednesday, December 18th between the hours of 8:00 am to Noon & 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. If you would like to come over the lunch hour (between 12:00-1:00 pm), please call the Union office at 403-233-2700 to ensure someone will be able to assist you.

Gifts not picked up by 3:30 pm on December 18th will be donated to charity.

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All CUPE 38 Members Invited to Attend

**When: Tuesday, November 26, 2019
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Where: CUPE 38 Office
1439-9 Avenue SE**

Business: Regular & Elections

ELECTIONS:

1. Six (6) Delegates to AFL/CLC Winter School, January 12-17, 2020 in Jasper, AB.