

Public and Proud Campaign launched in Calgary



Joining forces with CUPE local 37 we are currently running the Public and Proud campaign promoting our members and educating the public on the facts around privatization. We know that times are tough and we're all about being part of the solution. Privatization is not the solution. More specifically, the City Council is talking about replacing some of the positions we represent with private contractors to save money.

Instead, we want an opportunity to discuss other options that represent cost savings but not at the expense of public services, jobs and the people that perform them to such a high level of quality. So, we're running a campaign to bring attention to this matter.

For the next little while, you will see our ads on television, radio, online and social media. And we hope you will click and share when you do. We also invite you to check out the website at publicandproud.ca and learn more about why privatization is not the answer, how it's failed in other cities and what other solutions are available to us.

Calgary currently maintains the #1 spot on the list of North America's most livable cities. That's all thanks to the hard work you do to provide public service to our great city and home.

Our goal is to stay active and vocal right through the City Council vote on privatization and to push the council towards a "no" vote.

In its first week, the campaign has more than 376,000 impressions, 99,214 video views and 4,150 people have clicked through to comment, share and take action. We're off to a really great start. Please check out the website publicandproud.ca and ask your friends and family to click on the Take Action button to tell City Council that privatization isn't for you!

Breach of Trust

We have been inundated with calls from members commenting on the recent media stories regarding Councilor Magliocca's expenses. The over-riding theme of the calls can be reduced to a simple sentiment: how is it that City employees are held to a strict standard while Councilor's can inappropriately use taxpayer's money for personal purposes? Is this not the real reason why voters no longer trust the City?

The standard for City employees is clearly outlined in the Code of Conduct policy. The front page of the City's Code of Conduct webpage states "Our Code of Conduct applies to us all". The Code goes on to state "As municipal employees serving the citizens of Calgary, we are held to a high standard of behavior." This sentiment is embodied at all levels of the organization.

The media is reporting that Councilor Magliocca paid for hospitality (meals and alcoholic drinks) while meeting with other Alberta municipal Councilors while at a City-sanctioned event. What has emerged is that there was no other municipal councilors in attendance, and that expense sheets may have been falsified. Councilor Magliocca's defense appears to rest upon a 'clerical error'. In fact, it appears that there was intent to mislead.

Use of City funds is a serious responsibility. Many of our members are entrusted with Corporate Procurement Cards, and are held to a strict reporting standard. Whenever a circumstance arises where any of the procurement policies are breached, our member not only is required to pay back money, but is severely disciplined --- in most cases, terminated.

If a City employee falsifies documents to gain a benefit --- such as submitting false claims for eye-wear or chiropractic appointments --- they are required to pay back the money and then employment is terminated.

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#EachforEqual

Each year on March 8, International Women's Day (IWD) celebrates the contributions and achievements of women in building a better world – economically, politically, culturally and socially. The first International women's Day occurred in 1911, supported by over one million people. This year's theme, Each for Equal is drawn from the notion of "Collective Individualism" encourages collective action and shared responsibility for driving a gender equal world.

The race is on for the gender equal boardroom, a gender equal government, gender equal media coverage, gender equal workplaces, gender equal sports coverage, more gender equality in health and wealth ... so let's make it happen. Let's be **#EachforEqual**.

Throughout CUPE's history, women have embodied this ideal, making significant contributions to the pursuit of equality for all through activism, education and social responsibility. Locally within CUPE 38, we are proud to have a membership comprised of over 2/3 women, who are committed to serving our communities and working to create a better city every day.

This year, take a moment to acknowledge the contributions of women and consider how we can work collectively to achieve #EachforEqual, or better yet, put your arms out front and STRIKE THE **#Each for Equal** POSE and share on social media.



To learn how you can participate in IWD 2020, visit www.internationalwomensday.com



What's in your cup?

During December's budget deliberations, certain members of Council pushed for City staff to give up their negotiated 1.5% wage increase, remarking that these cuts would work out to roughly "the price of a cup of coffee" for most employees on each paycheck.

For Calgarians, the value provided by that "cup of coffee" – less than \$5 per household per month – far exceeds the cost.

That cup of coffee clears the streets of snow; it ensures citizens can access information and request services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; it provides safe drinking water; and, it ensures that Calgarians can safely get to work and school by public transit.

That same cup of coffee ensures your garbage, recycling and composting is picked up; it provides recreational activities for adults, seniors and children; and, ensures citizens are engaged on major City initiatives and projects.

This March, CUPE 38, along with the Calgary Coalition of Civic Unions will be distributing reusable coffee cups to City employees, featuring the message "This is the price of Public Service – Is it worth a cup to you?" We encourage you to use your cup proudly at the office to remind Council of the value of public services.

Locations to pick up a cup will be announced in the coming weeks. Please visit cupe38.org for updates.

Is public service worth the price of a cup of coffee to you?



Breach of Trust

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Yet, we are witnessing these same actions occurring at the highest levels in this organization. Councilor Magliocca's response that he has paid back the money and this is the end of it completely undermines the City's own Code of Conduct, as well as undermines the trust that Calgarians have in the public service. This action would not be tolerated in any public or private organization. To date, the Councilor has acknowledged illegitimate expenses totaling \$2,100.

Council as a whole has an obligation to move swiftly to restore credibility. One immediate step is to have the Audit Committee review all Council expenses. Recent reports indicate that the Integrity Commissioner is no longer in a position to investigate these allegations.

More than a simple apology is required. Treat Council the same as any employee in this organization.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



The only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable.

~John Kenneth Galbraith

Connect with CUPE 38

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Calgary, AB T2G 0T4

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REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All CUPE 38 Members Invited to Attend



**When: Tuesday, February 25, 2020
at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Business: Regular & Elections

Elections:

- 1. Six (6) Eligible Delegates to AFL Mid Term Forum, April 17 & 18, 2020 in Edmonton, Alberta.**
- 2. Two (2) Eligible Delegates to CLC Convention, May 4-8, 2020 in Vancouver, BC.**
- 3. Six (6) Eligible Delegates to CUPE Weeklong School, May 24-29, 2020 in Red Deer, Alberta.**