

CUPE WIRE

Official Publication of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 38
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VOLUME 29 ISSUE 2



MARCH 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 March.

The March 23rd, 2021 Regular General 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 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.



Protect Calgary's Future

It's no secret that Calgary is in an economic crisis. But for some reason, our current city council thinks the answer is putting even more of us out of work. We know that's not the solution.

So far, city hall has:

- Authorized mass layoffs
- Frozen city services
- Crippled emergency services

It's obvious that this council thinks workers are disposable.

That's why it's essential that we band together and protect the people that keep this city running – workers like us.

To do that, we're supporting *Calgary's Future*; a worker-funded campaign made up of a diverse range of community leaders and regular Calgarians who want to build a city council that works for all of us.

They understand that the backbone of any great city is a strong public sector workforce, and they want to elect leaders who will fight to defend that.

We can elect community leaders with a plan for a resilient economy, quality city services, and strong vibrant neighbourhoods – but only if we work together.

Calgary needs councillors with a vision for our future, who understand the issues affecting us, and who we can trust to get the job done – without lining their friends' pockets with our tax dollars.

We need to elect a city council that works for all Calgarians, not just a privileged few.

Join the fight at calgarysfuture.ca/cupe38



Work From Home Tax Deduction

The Federal government introduced a simplified claim to offset work-at-home expenses. If you worked more than 50% of the time from home for a period of at least four consecutive weeks in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you can claim \$2 for each day you worked from home during that period. The maximum amount that can be claimed is \$400 per individual. This method can only be used for the 2020 tax year.

You must meet the following criteria to qualify for the benefit:

- You worked from home in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you were not required to work from home, but you were provided with the choice to work at home because of the pandemic, then Revenue Canada considers you to have worked from home due to COVID-19
- You must have worked more than 50% of the time from home for a period of at least four consecutive weeks in 2020;
- You were not reimbursed for all of your home office expenses

The \$2 per day is a substitute for actual home office expenses paid by an individual, such as rent, electricity, home internet access fees, office supplies (e.g., pens, paper) and unreimbursed cell phone costs. It is important to note that individuals who want to claim other employment expenses, such as employment-related auto expenses, must use the detailed method rather than the simplified claim.

Although the simplified claim is limited, an advantage is an individual does not need to have their employer complete and sign a Form T2200 or T2200S, although they should do their best to document how many days they worked at home. Another advantage is they do not need to determine and summarize eligible costs, or keep receipts.

Many members will be eligible for this deduction. If you require more detailed information, visit the Canada Revenue Agency website for Home office expenses for employees.

Advance Notice of CUPE Local 38 Elections

At the Regular General Meeting on April 27, 2021 the following positions will be open for a two (2) year term:

1. **Business Agent (Full Time)**
2. **Vice President**
3. **Recording Secretary**
4. **Five (5) Executive Members-At-Large**
5. **One (1) Trustees (Term to 2024)**

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.



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



“Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful”

~ Joshua J. Marine

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*All CUPE 38 Card Carrying Members
Invited to Attend*



**When: Tuesday, February 23, 2021
at 7:00 p.m.**

Where: Via ZOOM

(SEE FRONT PAGE FOR DETAILS)

Business: Regular & Elections

1. Three (3) Eligible Delegates to CLC Virtual Convention, June 16-18, 2021

**Declaration of Intention to run for Officer Elections:
Please see Page 2 for "Advance Notice of Elections" information**