



**Canadian Union
Of
Public Employees
Local 30**

Edmonton Civic Employees

EPCOR

Edmonton Economic Dev.
Corporation

City of Fort Saskatchewan

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May 7, 2020

Dear CUPE Local 30 Member,

What's happening with the Local?

We had an Executive Board meeting on May 5th and there were some decisions around our upcoming elections.

Elections

According to our Bylaws, we must have an Election for the following positions this year:

- one General Vice President Civic - two (2) year term
- one General Vice President EPCOR - two (2) year term
- one Trustee - three (3) year term

and any vacancy created by an Executive that wants to run for another position

We have received word from National that Locals can delay elections for up to a month due to COVID and we can take nominations ahead of time electronically (email), but elections must still proceed.

To that end we will be selecting the Balloting Committee (5 members plus the National Rep.) at the May meeting. Then taking nominations for positions at the June meeting and balloting to happen early July.

If you want to be nominated for the Balloting Committee and you may not be at the May meeting, please send the nomination to the office at admin@local30.ca and CC me at president@local30.ca.

We recognize that there may be challenges but we are working with National and in contact with other Locals as they progress through the same situation.

We will be doing electronic balloting for this election (Motion was made and Carried)

Provincial COVID relaunch Strategy

On Thursday April 30th, the Provincial Government released its relaunch plan.

Here is the link.

<https://www.alberta.ca/external/covid19-alberta-relaunch-strategy.pdf>

It sets out a 3-Stage Plan.

Stage 1 starts May 15th

This will allow some businesses and services to reopen. Such as:

- clothing, furniture and bookstores
- hairstyling
- physio and chiropractor
- daycares (limits on occupancy)
- restaurants at 50% capacity

Golf courses and off leash parks will be reopening soon as well, with a few restrictions.

Addiction services that were suspended are being changed to allow for group therapy with some extra rules and orders to keep things safe.

Stage 1 still recommends remote working wherever possible. Stage 2 lifts that recommendation. Once the province launches Stage 2 then all office staff will return to the hall. Until then we will continue to follow the recommendations as other Locals, businesses and National staff are doing.

There have been questions like "if I'm at work, why isn't the CUPE staff?" The social distancing reduces the chances of catching COVID-19 but doesn't eliminate it. The restrictions on gathering size are for those that can't do work remotely. Meeting in person, even at 2 meters, is an added risk to our members. When Alberta Health Services removes that recommendation, staff will return to working out of the hall.

Note: not all work is being done remotely. AI is working out of the office. There are also some things that do require officers and staff to come into the office. Steps are taken to minimize the number of people in the office at one time and the associated risk.

The reopening of our recreation centres won't happen until Stage 3. We don't have timelines for stages 2 or 3.

Please read for full descriptions.

Local 30 is following the Provincial health recommendations with regards to our business.

Stage 1 says "Remote working is still advised where possible." So where the work can be done remotely, it will be.

Stage 2 lifts that limitation and we will be returning to 'on site work' when Stage 2 is in place.

Some questions that have been asked.

Do we need 3 Business Agents right now as members are being laid off?

Yes. The work load has actually increased. With the temporary layoffs there are many members that need help navigating their situation. Combine that with work areas trying to lay off senior staff and keep less senior staff, working with redeployed staff, and the general uncertainty of our membership. The workload has increased at this time. As an example, the number of incoming calls for April is 20% higher than the same time last year and the previous months.

What is being done about our finances now that people are being laid off?

The Board is reviewing our budget, as approved earlier this year, and will be presenting some recommended changes to ensure we can still function as a Local. There are some areas that we have already seen some savings. Many educational trainings, conventions and conferences have been cancelled or postponed until next year. Some of the Committees can't do their work and won't need the allocated budget (Promotions Committee: it doesn't make sense to spend money on cups, hats, etc... at a time like this).

Also, our Per Capita (money we send to National) is reduced with less members.

What do I do if I see a supervisor doing Local 30 work?

There have been a few instances where some supervisors have been seen doing Local 30 work. If you witness this then please reach out to me or your Business Agent.

We will need to know:

- Who was doing the work?
- What work were they doing?
- Where was it being done?
- When was it being done?

We need to be able to provide evidence of these situations, Without it, it is very, very difficult to get it to stop.

Thank you all for the hard work you are doing and please stay safe.



John Mervyn
President, CUPE Local 30