

THE ADVOCATE

NEWSLETTER

Your Union newsletter curated by the Publications Committee and designed by CSU 52 Office Staff.

*Deb Ketler · Anna-Marie Klassen · Tuyet Kulynych · Greg Novak · Darlene Woodham
Lan Diep-Young*

President's Message

It is a pleasure to see another issue of The Advocate being published again after a hiatus due to the Covid pandemic.

As we move into the spring months of 2022, we look forward to seeing the relaxation of some of the Covid protocols. At this point, we will need to continue to follow some precautions to protect ourselves, families, friends and others to keep all as safe as possible. I have asked the CSU 52 Office Staff to be prepared to resume work in the office effective April 4, 2022. Once social gathering restrictions are relaxed, we will resume social functions, including the Annual Retirement Spring Banquet and the Children's Christmas Party. Future union meetings will have a personal component as well as a virtual component for your convenience. Dates to be announced.

We have had some changes in our office, Labour Relations Officer, Audrey Tosh, has retired — we all wish her the very best in her retirement.

CSU 52 has been implementing a new office data management system in order to meet the complexities required by legal responsibilities related to Labour Relations. It is extremely important to be able to reach out to as many members as possible. As a member, you have the ability to update your own web account in this system. If you haven't already done so, please activate your web account as soon as possible (see the last page of this newsletter).

Bargaining in four of our five units are either in full swing or will be very shortly. Currently, we are in mediation with our EPCOR unit, and in the process of setting dates in our City of Edmonton and Edmonton Public Library units. Our agreement at Capital Power has only recently expired and we are in the process of forming a bargaining team end of 2022.

I would like to end my comments to you by thanking the CSU 52 Publications Committee for the work they did to put this together.

In Solidarity,
Lanny Chudyk



Contact Us



(780) 448-8900



info@csu52.org



<https://csu52.org>



10212 112 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 1M4

We're open Monday-Friday
except Stat Holidays
8:00 am to 4:30 pm



Did you know that as a CSU 52 member, you are entitled to course reimbursements to a maximum lifetime benefit of \$1,000 for any labour/union or career related courses?

Additionally, CSU 52 members' dependants attending an accredited post-secondary institution for the current academic year are eligible to apply for two bursaries (one per semester) for a maximum lifetime of \$2,000 per dependant per member.

Visit the CSU 52 website for more details (Menu > Membership > Member Supports > Bursaries & Scholarships).

Union 52 Benvolent Society established the Len Douziech Memorial Scholarship in memory of Len, who passed away in December 2019 while a member of CSU 52. Len was a Shop Steward and served on the Executive as a Trustee. For nine years, he served on the Members & Community Support Committee, including as chairperson. As music was a great love of Len and his family, the purpose of the scholarship is to provide support to students entering or enrolled in a music related program at a post-secondary institution.

The first annual scholarship was awarded and presented to Curtis Ward, a student at MacEwan University, by Len's wife and the M&CSC (below photo).

Len Douziech Memorial Music Scholarship

Members & Community Support Committee (M&CSC)

The M&CSC is responsible for the disbursement of benevolent funds for Member Education Course Reimbursements, Student Bursaries, Member Emergency Financial Assistance and donations in support of local Edmonton charitable organizations.

In 2021, your M&CSC reimbursed 88 members for Education Courses and awarded 79 Student Bursaries. The committee also aided 20 members who required Emergency Financial Assistance and donated to 32 local Edmonton charities. Overall, the Members & Community Support Committee has so far donated over \$2 million to support local Edmonton charities.

From left to right: Esther Anderson (M&CSC), Pierre Blanchette (M&CSC), Dessislava Gavrilova presenting the award to music student Curtis Ward, Darlene Woodham (M&CSC), Jolene Hutsell (M&CSC), and Rose Tinka (CSU 52, M&CSC Rec. Sec.)



ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan

CSU 52 has partnered with the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) to help you prepare for this exciting new chapter in your life. ARTA is a not-for-profit organization with the goal of supporting an engaged lifestyle after retirement through member-centered services, advocacy, communication, wellness, and leadership.

There are so many things to consider before you retire. Are your finances in order? Are you mentally prepared to start your retirement journey? Does your insurance plan cover the amount of travel you have planned? What is the best health benefits plan for you? With all those questions buzzing around in your head, retirement can seem like a daunting prospect. But if you take the time to prepare and make the right decisions for you and your family, retirement becomes a stress-free adventure where you can finally start doing all the things you never had time for while you were working.

There are several additional benefits of being an ARTA member that will help you transition to retirement. ARTA provides regular communications through our popular **news&views** magazine, which is distributed quarterly to all members. **news&views** supports ARTA's strategic goals, engages members, and promotes a healthy, active, and enhanced quality of life through relevant and informative articles. Members can keep up to date on all ARTA news through ARTAFacts, a monthly email newsletter. ARTA also offers a scholarship program for students who are related to ARTA members. These scholarships recognize academic achievement, community involvement, volunteer work, future goals, and personal accomplishments.

As an ARTA member you may participate in the Boom discount program. The Boom discount program allows you to save money by utilizing the many discounts on services like entertainment and recreation, travel and tour groups, hotels, car rentals, and many more. ARTA members can also receive special discounted rates from ARTA's home and auto insurance partner.

As an eligible retiree of CSU 52, you are part of a select group of organizations who are approved to become ARTA members. Becoming an ARTA member is more than a Retiree Benefit Plan. When you become an ARTA member you become part of an association that supports you in every aspect of retirement.

Welcome to the elite state of retirement!

If you qualify and want to learn more about how to become an ARTA member, please call 1-855-212-2400 or visit www.artabenefits.net/partners/csu-52

Are you thinking of retiring soon, but find yourself overwhelmed by all the decisions you are faced with? CSU

If you are 55 years of age or older and have been a CSU 52 member in good standing for two years, you are eligible to join ARTA as an Affiliate Member. Affiliate membership allows you to participate in ARTA's Retiree Benefit Plans, providing you with a few different options to suit your family's health and travel coverage needs.

If you apply for the ARTA Retiree Benefit Plan coverage within 60 days of losing employer-sponsored group health benefits, you can join the plan without needing to provide medical evidence of insurability. And the plan does not have a termination age - you may continue coverage for as long as you want to participate. Detailed plan information is available online at www.artabenefits.net/partners/csu-52

Eligibility

The ARTA Extended Health Care Plan has four options for

members under the age of 65. The comprehensive under-65 health plans include Emergency Travel insurance for trips lasting up to 92 days, with no pre-existing conditions clause and no stability clause. Each of the health plans provide comprehensive coverage which include prescription drugs, dental coverage, medical supplies, paramedical services, vision care, hearing aids, private duty nursing, private or semi-private hospital rooms, and home care.

ARTA also offers four plans for our members of any age, two of which offer our 92-day travel coverage. These plans offer the same coverage as the comprehensive plans, except for dental, as ARTA also offers three Dental Care options featuring preventative, minor, and major restorative services coverage.

In addition to the above plans, ARTA has recently opened Canada's first plan-owned pharmacy, ARTARx. Members living in Alberta can use ARTARx to access a host of pharmacy services. Members who commit to using ARTARx as their primary pharmacy can take advantage of further discounts through two unique extended health care plans.

When choosing a Retiree Benefit Plan, you need to look at what is right for you and your dependants. Each ARTA Extended Health Care and Dental Care Plan offers three levels of dependant coverage: single, couple, or family coverage. A spouse is an eligible dependant and can continue coverage if something were to happen to you as primary ARTA member. Dependant children may be covered up to age 21, or up to age 25 if attending a recognized post-secondary institution. A child who is physically or mentally infirm who is dependent on you may be covered without any age limitations.

ARTA BENEFIT PLANS

MAR

24

ARTA Webinar

Learn about retirement benefits.

APR

5

General Membership Meeting

MAY

17

Shop Steward Training Session (Assembly)

MAY

11

Basic Shop Steward Training

JUN

7

General Membership Meeting

Register Online for Upcoming Events

<https://csu52.org/Web/Calendar>

Seeking Volunteers

The Public Events Committee (Community Relations Committee) is looking for volunteers to work The Great Canadian Trade Show in Sherwood Park: April 8, 9 & 10, 2022

Contact Brandi at brandi.thorne@csu52.org

Stay tuned for
a Summer Photo
Contest!



Have you activated your CSU 52 web account?



The brave people of Ukraine are fighting to defend their democracy. Civic Service Union 52 stands in solidarity during this difficult time. We abhor and unequivocally denounce the illegal invasion of an independent country.

The Canadian Red Cross has launched the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal to respond to those affected by ongoing conflict in the country. The Canadian Government has pledged to match all donations under \$100,000 made between February 24 and March 18 to a maximum of \$10 million dollars. CSU 52 has pledged to donate \$10,000 and urges our members and friends to help support the citizens of Ukraine.

<https://donate.redcross.ca/page/100227>

Since transitioning to a new website and membership database mid last year, the Union has provided members with access to documents and resources behind a secure unique-to-you web account. Accessing information such as meeting minutes (General and Board of Directors meetings), event registrations, and negotiations updates requires members to log in. The distribution of last year's limited number of West Edmonton Mall gift cards (in lieu of the Children's Christmas Party) also required members to have a web account — this was important in maintaining fairness during the "first come, first serve" process.

For instructions on activating your web account, go to <https://csu52.org> and select "Sign in" located in the top-right corner. A non-work (personal) email address is required. Work email addresses, which are owned by your employer, should not be used to activate your account.