

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 1, 2020

Hello fellow CSU 52 Members and City of Edmonton staff.

As you are aware, the City temporarily laid off approximately 1,600 employees. These employees, who ordinarily work in our Community and Recreation Facilities branch, include full-time and part-time cashiers, fitness instructors, arena attendants, city hall tour guides, art and education instructors, booking clerks, labourers and lifeguards, plus others. These were difficult decisions of the employer. 489 Edmonton Public Library (EPL) staff members also received notice of temporary layoff, effective April 14 2020. Our members at TELUS World of Science - Edmonton (TWOSE) were also affected with a significant number of layoffs.

Many staff will qualify for Employment Insurance or federal emergency assistance. It was important for everyone to act promptly in order to be able to leverage this assistance from other orders of government. The City will supplement that income for eight or 16 weeks, depending on the employee's status. Those eligible will receive up to 75 per cent of their current pay. Employees will also continue to receive some benefits for the duration of their temporary layoff. There will be access to mental health supports and we will ensure that these colleagues still receive communications from us.

Your President, Lanny Chudyk, and the presidents of the Coalition of Edmonton Civic Unions (CECU) have been working with the City to work through this very unpredictable and serious pandemic with our members' best interests in mind. We have entered into a temporary Letter of Understanding which both parties have agreed to in regard to the temporary layoffs. The City and the Union are in regular communications during this time and we will be providing you updates as they become available.

We are encouraging our Members to remain diligent by following the guidelines set out for social distancing, self quarantine and personal health during this time.

We are also in the process of having an online information session for our Members via Zoom (or other platform), where we can provide additional information and answer some of your questions and hopefully address some of your concerns.

Contract negotiations with the City of Edmonton have been placed on hold during this time, as it is difficult to get a number of people into one room. Once we are able to return to the table and have updates, we will share those details with you.

If you have not already provided the Union with your home/personal email address, please do so ASAP so we can provide you with the details of this online information session. Our office is open to receive your phone calls and emails during this time.

Please take care of yourself, and look out for one another during this difficult time.

***Your in Solidarity,
Tracy Foran***

