

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 23, 2020

With events moving so quickly, I haven't had a chance to update you on where we are with a number of issues and I'm sure concerns. I am sure we are all aware that late Friday afternoon, City of Edmonton Council invoked a local state of emergency due to a health pandemic. This would normally allow the City to operate totally outside of any collective bargaining agreements during the period of the emergency.

In order to mitigate the emergency powers, the Coalition of Civic Unions (CECU) and CUPE Local 30 have negotiated a [Letter of Understanding \(COVID-19: Redeployment of Employees\)](#) with the City that allows them to redeploy staff as needed. This redeployment allows for staff to be moved within their own bargaining unit jobs and also to be moved into other union jurisdictions for the period of the emergency. This was done for two main reasons, one – to allow for essential services to be maintained if staff in areas become overwhelmed and also if the virus were to devastate a particular area. Two – it will allow the City to keep as many people employed as possible. The LOU also calls for compliance with the rest of our agreements, particularly the lay-off procedures at least for the immediate future.

All bargaining units have been in constant touch regarding staffing issues and what is and will be transpiring in the immediate future. I believe as of this morning, TELUS World of Science - Edmonton has laid off all temporary staff and are meeting to discuss how to go forward with permanent staff. Capital Power and EPCOR have committed to keeping as many staff employed as possible, while the Edmonton Public Library is evaluating their ability to keep staff employed as long as possible. As circumstances change, I will be calling Contractual Unit Directors and updating them as soon as I can. Most bargaining units have proposed revisiting vacation sign-up and approvals, and moving them back to allow for revised choices as they recognize that many vacation choices have been adversely affected by the pandemic.

In our office, we have arranged for as many staff as possible to work from home. IT Support has set up online processes that allow access to almost all of our programs. I am asking IT to set up remote meeting access for the Board of Directors and for the Members & Community Support Committee, as some meetings need to go forward.

As events and circumstances continue to evolve, please stay patient. I will reach out to Board Members and all CSU 52 Members with regular updates to emails and the website.

***Thank you and stay safe,
Lanny Chudyk***

