

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 31, 2020

I know we all are concerned and anxious about what is happening and what the future holds for us. I believe that in the near future, we may be in for a difficult trying couple of months as we navigate through this new normal that has been imposed upon us. Make no mistake, this is an extremely serious and dangerous pandemic. Coupled with the collapse of oil and natural gas prices and the current medical emergency, all levels of government are facing significant financial impacts which, as we are now seeing and experiencing, are affecting all of us personally. I can assure you that your union, CSU 52, is working very hard to protect your interests and to help in any way that we possibly can to get through this difficult time.

If you are a member of the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Public Library (EPL) or TELUS World of Science - Edmonton (TWOSE) bargaining units, you will be aware of or have already suffered from layoff notices. In both our City and EPL bargaining units, CSU 52 has worked with the Employer to try and mitigate the financial impact of the layoffs as much as possible. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the business model at our TWOSE bargaining unit, we have not been able to create the same opportunity there that has been done at the City and EPL bargaining units. We are here to help our TWOSE Members and continue to work with your management group to see what might be possible moving forward.

We have created temporary Letters of Understanding (LOUs) with the City and EPL that supersede current collective agreement language. These temporary LOUs are for a period of no more than 120 days, at which time they expire unless the emergency continues to exist and both parties agree to extend. These LOUs allow for temporary layoff, during which EI premiums would be topped up by a newly created sub plan to a max of 75% of normal salary. They also allow for the continuation of most benefit plans and accrual of seniority during the layoff period. These LOUs can be found at <https://csu52.org/covid-19> under the heading '**COVID-19 Information from Your Employer**'.

At this time, we continue to converse with our EPCOR and Capital Power bargaining units.

I know there will be many questions in the days to come and hardships to overcome. We, your Union, are here to help and assist as best we can under the constantly changing circumstances. We will attempt to answer your questions and provide help as best as we can. We will be posting updates on this webpage with a message from my office as events dictate. Please do not, and I say again, *please* do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need help.

Remember through all of this, the health and safety of you and your families is the most important thing. Please take care and stay safe.

Yours in Solidarity,
Lanny Chudyk