

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 21, 2020

Good Evening,

I wanted to touch base to update you on a number of items. As we are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic is alive and well – we are now seeing an uptick in virus infections. It is more important now than ever that we continue to practise all recommendations from our public health experts: frequent hand washing, the use of hand sanitizer, wearing face masks and practising social distancing. As we see in the United States, it is very easy to have all of the gains become undone very quickly. We are currently slowly recovering from the severe economic damage that the pandemic has caused and it would be a shame to have it all undone. The need for continued vigilance is paramount.

For our City Members, I am sure by now that most of you are aware of the recently signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between CSU 52 and the City of Edmonton. After the rejection of a MOA last September, your Negotiations Committee returned to the table to attempt to bring a proposal back to our membership. This has been an extremely difficult round of bargaining. We had indicated during our efforts to have the previous MOA approved, that the provincial budget along with the economic situation in Alberta would greatly impact further negotiations. Since then, not only have the forecasts around the provincial economic situation come to pass but we are now having to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic. In light of all these factors, I must congratulate our Negotiations Committee for what they have achieved. There are no give-backs and they have achieved some small gains as outlined in the MOA. It is unfortunate that we were unable to achieve the third year that had been included in the previous MOA. The Coalition of Edmonton Civic Unions and the City are currently discussing the pandemic related Letters of Understanding (LOUs) and the possible extension of both Letters: “*COVID-19: Redeployment of Employees*” and “*COVID-19: Temporary Layoff Provisions*”.

CSU 52 has agreed to extend “*Letter of Understanding #11: Temporary Layoff and Recall: COVID-19 Pandemic*” at our EPL Unit. EPL has begun the process of reopening many of its branches – we are working with Management in regard to this process. The main concern as we move forward is the health and safety of both our membership and the public. It is extremely important that we get this right from the start.

Over at our TELUS World of Science - Edmonton Unit, it has become apparent that there will not be a complete opening of the facility until sometime next year. There will be an opening of *The Science of Ripley's Believe It or Not!* show but on a very limited basis. Many of the permanent full-time staff are back and working on a number of ways to interact with the public.

We have not to this point seen any layoffs at our EPCOR or Capital Power units and have no expectations of any in the very near future. In our EPCOR Unit, as with our City of Edmonton Unit, we continue to see a large number of members working from home and expect that to continue for a good period of time.

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