

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 25, 2020

Good Day,

While I am taking a few days off I first wanted to touch base with you, our members, in regard to a number of issues of concern. Firstly, I want to mention the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 virus. As you are probably aware the infection numbers in Edmonton and the immediate area continues to trend up. It is incumbent upon all of us to do whatever we can to protect ourselves and others. I know we are all becoming weary with the ongoing battle and restrictions that have been placed upon us, however, in order to win this battle, we need to remain vigilant and follow the recommended medical advice. Please use your face mask while interacting in public, sanitize your hands with regular usage of soap and water (or hand sanitizer) as needed. These measures are recommended for your protection and for the protection of others - particularly those with underlying health issues. Thank you in advance.

I would like to make some comments in regard to our City of Edmonton bargaining unit and their Reimagine Project. The other Coalition of Edmonton Civic Unions' Presidents and myself have all communicated our concerns around how the City is approaching this project and the impacts it may have on our collective bargaining agreements. We are concerned by the fact that the City continues to reach out to our membership by way of surveys that haven't been cleared or approved by the affected unions. This type of behavior certainly informs us as to the City's view of what the Working Relationship Agreement is and, more importantly, is not. CSU 52 is advising our City Membership to avoid surveys that do not have prior Union approval. I find it very interesting that during a time of supposed financial difficulty for the City, a new branch has been created in the Employee Services area and we continue to see reorgs in other City Departments and Branches, which all carry added costs and increases in management staff at a time that the City has laid off significant numbers of unionized staff. Normally, when you reduce staffing at the ground level, most responsible businesses would not be creating more management positions. CSU 52 will once again be releasing an updated business plan for the City of Edmonton towards the end of September. I am committing to weekly updates from your Union as we move into the fall. Stay tuned.

I believe we will see significant changes to EI benefits and generally to the social safety net in this country that will be pronounced by our Prime Minister once Parliament resumes in late September. As we have seen with the CERB program, the continual ongoing changes certainly affect our memberships and their circumstances. We at CSU 52 are committed to communicating with you around these issues as some of our bargaining units do a better job than others in keeping employees, our members, informed. I recognize the worry that members are under in this time of uncertainty and am committed to keeping you as informed as possible.

We continue to prepare for bargaining at EPCOR and the City later this fall, and expect to resume bargaining at our EPL unit shortly. My advice to our memberships, particularly in our EPCOR and City units, is to **begin preparing yourself financially** as these rounds of bargaining will be extremely difficult. Your Union, while making every effort to bring something acceptable back to you, may well require support from you, the membership, in order to get a satisfactory and fair agreement.

I wanted to end this message on a positive note – the ability to hold virtual meetings with our members has proven to be very positive and effective engagement opportunity. While we will continue to need to hold some in-person meetings to conduct some of our business, we are also committed to continuing the online virtual style of communication with you.

This allows us to reach out to members who, for any number of reasons, were not able to attend the in-person meetings. We have upgraded our audio/visual components in our office to allow for more high-quality online capabilities.

Thank you. STAY SAFE. Remember your Union is working for you. If you have problems or concerns please reach out.

***In Solidarity,  
Lanny Chudyk***

