

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 22, 2020

Good Day,

I am reaching out today to assure you that we are working with our Employer groups, COE and EPL, to review/renew our temporary Letters of Understanding that apply to our laid off members. It has become apparent that the COVID-19 pandemic issues are going to be with us for the foreseeable future and will impact our membership. Getting back to normal full operation will not be possible until the virus is defeated - and beyond.

Our main concern is for our members who face job loss due to the pandemic. While some of our work is complicated by inconsistent messaging on CERB/EI from the Federal Government, along with the Reimagine exercise implemented by the City of Edmonton, we are and will continue to do whatever we can to soften the economic blow to affected members and their families. This has forced us to be reactive rather than proactive in this time of uncertainty.

I also wanted to make comment on the COE Audit committee meeting from last Friday and on some of the actions and comments from Council and Mayor Iveson. It is quite obvious that the Mayor and Senior Leadership are attempting to change the messaging regarding excess levels of management and a bloated management structure. Instead, they are using the term "Supervisor" to turn the conversation into blaming unionized staff. We all know the approximate 10% of an in-scope supervisor's time spent on leadership is not where the problem lies.

In the report, the auditor correctly outlined that the City is middle heavy. This is a fact that the union has been stating for years. Unfortunately, Administration's response to this fact has been to claim that there are many in-scope supervisory positions and thus, it is union positions that need to be shed. Ask yourself, how does laying off union supervisors address the City's pear-shaped management structure? This does nothing to eliminate the 5/6 layers of management between one of your DCMs and your first in-scope supervisor. We find this narrative perplexing and disingenuous.

In the coming days, your Union and the Coalition of Edmonton Civic Unions will respond to this unfortunate attack on front line supervisors and staff. We will also outline a glaring weakness in the auditor's report in which the terms supervisor and manager are ill-defined and used interchangeably. We, your Union executive and staff will continue to represent your rights and interests.

***In Solidarity,
Lanny Chudyk***