

From the President's Desk

November 2021

UPDATE

Member Communication

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership of Local 649 for the confidence that you have shown in supporting me this past September in our local elections. As mentioned during my campaign the one thing I wanted to act on soonest was improving the communications from the President's Office to our rank-and-file members. I am hoping that this will be one of the aids in helping to keep our members informed by providing a quarterly update on what is happening within the local to our members.

You will also see over the next few months some noticeable changes in our communications with members. First of course is this "newsletter update" that will go out quarterly to everyone, and you will hopefully see an updated webpage rolled out in the new year. We have heard over the last while the difficulties members have had, and we are hoping that the new site will be a more fluid system that will make finding out what is happening easier as well as aid in supporting items our membership may be looking for.

We are also revamping our email communication system, so over the next while you may be reminded to sign up to receive communication from the Local office directly to your personal email that will keep you up to date with important information as it comes in.

Eight hours daily labour is enough for any human being, and under proper arrangements sufficient to afford an ample supply of food, raiment and shelter, or the necessaries and comforts of life, and for the remainder of his time, every person is entitled to education, recreation, and sleep.

- Robert Owen



COVID-19

Where are we at?

As we are all aware, on September 16th, 2021, the Premier of our province announced that all government agencies and Crown Corporations were to bring in COVID-19 vaccination policies.

On October 1st, 2021, SaskPower and SaskEnergy brought in their policies to bring them into compliance with the Government mandate.

Local 649 has submitted Policy Grievances on both company policies as we (the Local) feel that the timelines provided were not realistic in for our membership to comply without undo financial and mental hardship.

To date, we have argued the grievances at the Step 2 (SPC) and Step 3 (SEI) levels and are now awaiting the responses from the Companies.

Your Local

At a glance

VP Brother Rick Jensen with the strong support of your Assistants to the President, Sisters Monica Radwanski and Jodi Kieper conducted our first shop steward training in over 2 years.

Close to 50 stewards from across the province attended this 3-day training in beautiful Saskatoon in the early fall. Your stewards were brought up to speed on the grievance process, our local structure as well as an in-depth review of each of the CBA's.

Thanks to the mentors who provided expertise and experience without their assistance and participation we would not have been able to have such a successful training experience; James White, Teresa Thompson, Tara Stark, Tracey Dobson, Cary Dereniwsky, Tyler Thauberger, Shelly Horvath and Shannon Bilo.

Going forward we are hoping to create more training opportunities including serving as a shop steward and on a variety of other topics as well. Your VP Rick Jensen has a passion for all our members to be educated on what your union does and as your President he has my full support on this.

This November marks the election cycle for all our branches across the province. Your election committee posted out calls for nomination in October and at this time I am happy to congratulate the following Sisters and Brothers who have stepped up to the plate to by your voice on executive council:

Branch 1 – Brother James White
Branch 2 – Sister Stephanie McKenzie
Branch 3 – Brother Don Anderson
Branch 4 – Sister Nicole Hudec
Branch 6 – Brother Cary Dereniwsky
Branch 7 – Sister Yvonne Lafond
Branch 9 – Sister Shelly Horvath
Branch 10 – Brother Bob Taylor
Branch 11 – Brother Jody Goodfellow

At this time there will be elections held for the chair of Branch 5 and at this time Branch 8 is still looking for a member to step up to work with this branch.



Assistant to the President (SPC) update:

As you are all aware we had a vacancy in the role of Assistant to the President (SPC) and Sister Jodi Kieper has been gracious enough to step into this role on a temporary basis. An expression of interest has been sent out and over the next few weeks we will be conducting interviews for a new Assistant to step into this role on a full-time basis. I would like to thank all who have applied and look forward to the interview process.