

WEEKLY ROUNDUP FOR FEBRUARY 17-21, 2020

POLITICAL ROUNDUP

Government confirms new Session will begin on February 25. This new session will begin with a Speech from the Throne, and a provincial budget will be released on February 27.

The government cancelled planned changes to Family Court with no notice or consultation. No official rationale has been given, but there are rumors that government claims it's because support staff would be too [expensive](#).

The government terminated its master agreement with the [Alberta Medical Association](#) via Order in Council with no notice or consultation, and will be unilaterally implementing new rules April 1. Both AUPE and ATA Presidents have issued statements of solidarity with Alberta physicians who will have contract terms dictated without negotiation.

Premier Kenney and Health Minister Tyler Shandro [announced the Peter Lougheed Centre will get an expanded emergency department](#) and mental health unit. This is a signature pre-budget announcement from the government. It seems they will be adding more beds without actually committing to increase staffing as necessary.

The government announced a Request for Proposals for a review of post secondary education will be posted in March to find a vendor to conduct a system review and develop 'Alberta 2030: Transforming Post-Secondary Education' with a final strategy presented to government at the end of 2020 and implementation beginning in 2021.

AHS Review Delivered

The government contracted Ernst and Young review the organization, services and programs of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and make recommendations for plans the party already has up their sleeve. On Feb. 3, the company's \$2-million report was delivered.

[It recommends](#) up to \$1.9-billion in cuts to health care and massive privatization of services, including surgeries, non-clinical support services that our GSS members deliver and all long-term care (LTC) services provided by Capital Care and Carewest where just over 3,000 AUPE members work, among a number of recommendations to rollback the working conditions and staffing levels of of frontline health-care employees.

UCP to review continuing care legislation

Health Minister Shandro has asked [has asked](#) the Calgary Fish-Creek MLA to take the lead on a review of the province's continuing-care legislation.

Potential Laundry Privatization

On Monday Feb. 3, AHS [sent out a letter](#) stating they were considering selling off the remainder of Alberta's in-house laundry services for health facilities. The move would affect 75 workers in 54 communities. An "anticipated timeframe" included sending out a Request for Proposals (RFP) in May and the awarding of a contract for November 2020. AUPE is looking into this issue further.

NEGOTIATIONS ROUNDUP

The arbitrator assigned to the GoA and AHS tables makes a decision

On Jan. 31 the following wage increases were issued for AHS and GoA members:

- [A one-per-cent pay raise](#) for GoA members for 2019.
- [A one-per-cent pay raise](#) for AHS GSS members retroactive to April 1, 2019.
- [A wage freeze](#) for AHS nursing care members for 2019.

UNA, ATA and HSAA issued Zeros from Arbitrator

ON Jan. 10, the United Nurses of Alberta and the Alberta Teachers Association were issued no wage increases in arbitration. While the UCP and AHS were pushing for wage rollbacks (as they are at our tables), the decision came down to the independent arbitrator.

On Feb. 5 HSAA members were issued zeros in their wage reopener.

GoA Bargaining

[GoA bargaining begins with the employer seeking rollbacks including pay cuts](#)

AHS GSS Bargaining Begins

[AHS GSS bargaining begins with the employer tabling rollbacks.](#)

JOB LOSSES

As of February 21, 2020, we have been notified of the following job losses. Since February 14, 2020, we have been notified of six new potential job losses for members.*

University of Lethbridge

Four vacant AUPE positions eliminated: maintenance worker III, systems support specialist II, technical specialist I, fine arts technician III.

***This week:** six members affected.

Alberta Innovates

Last year, 48 members at Alberta Innovates received layoff notices. AUPE agreed at the employer's request to extend the notice period so that the members wouldn't be getting layoff notices just prior to Christmas; their final day worked will be Jan. 23.

University of Calgary

In early November, the Board announced they were cutting 250 positions (150 FTEs, of which 100 are expected to be AUPE members).

One temporary term position in Finance/Research Accounting.

Week of February 7 -14: Forty-four Permanent FTE reductions.

Government of Alberta

Employer informed AUPE that 2,500 bargaining unit positions will be eliminated between April, 2020 and April, 2023.

Week of Jan. 31 – Feb. 7: Termination of two temporary term positions in Cochrane Environment & Parks.

Last week:

- Termination of nine temporary term positions in Children's Services (two positions confirmed).
- 223 other positions in Comms & Social Services (107 positions confirmed).

Alberta Health Services

Employer informed AUPE that they intend to cut 2,000 to 3,000 GSS FTEs between April, 2020 and April, 2023 and up to 400 Nursing Care FTEs beginning April 1, 2020.

Reduction of 4 Permanent FTEs in the Food Production Centre (054/009)

Bow Valley College

Reduction of three permanent FTEs in Learner Success Services.

Alberta Treasury Board

Week of Jan. 31 – Feb. 7: Reduction of five permanent FTEs in Calgary.

Legal Aid Alberta

Reduction of two permanent FTEs.

Alberta Pension Services

Last week: Termination of six temporary term positions.

WAGE ROLLBACKS - THIRD YEAR OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS

Bargaining tables where the employer is or will consider tabling wage rollbacks of -2%:

University of Lethbridge
Athabasca University
Alberta University of the Arts
Lethbridge College
Carewest Nursing Care
Carewest General Support Staff
Alberta Pension Services Corporation (APS)
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)
Medicine Hat College
Covenant Health – St. Therese Villa
Canterbury Foundation
SAIT
AGLC
Bow Valley College
Fairview College

EVENT ROUNDUP

Rallies and events you don't want to miss! (February 21 – February 28)

Ally Events

March for What Matters
Thursday, February 27
3:31 PM – 4:00 PM

March From Edmonton Convention Centre 3:31pm

Rally At Legislature Steps 4:00pm

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/alberta-legislature-building/march-for-what-matters-yeg/534141660533969/>

CHECK OUT

Fill out AUPE's [working short survey](#).

[Report rumours or signs of privatization on your worksite.](#)

Nominations for the Rolyn Sumlak award open until March 1