

Greetings Sisters and Brothers:

The 2017-18 year has been a challenging one for both new and returning Local 002 Council members. We have gone some way toward addressing the decorum and interpersonal conflict problems many, if not all of us, have experienced in our union work – but we still have a long way to go. Hopefully we'll make more progress in the upcoming year in developing solidarity rather than acrimony. It would also be very helpful if we paired "seasoned" council delegates with new delegates in order to develop two-way communication and education within the council.

As we all know, there have also been major challenges on the bargaining front, with the employer digging in its heels on monetary issues. It doesn't help that the teachers, nurses and health service workers have all agreed to multi-year contracts with no raise in the first two years and a wage reopener (which doesn't guarantee an increase) in the third. Many kudos to the General Services Bargaining Committee for working so diligently to represent the members. However, we also need to concretely support bargaining and should be prepared to show the solidarity needed to conclude bargaining satisfactorily.

We continue to deal with an entrenched Conservative government bureaucracy. The upper management continues relatively intact, playing musical chairs while they wait for government change which hopefully will never come. As an update for my work area, Alberta Aids to Daily Living, despite the efforts of AUPE, including intervention by President Smith, the government has gone ahead to privatize the Claims section of our branch to Alberta Blue Cross. This affects approximately 30 positions, mostly Local 001, but also some Local 002.

Again, Local 002, Chapter 002 was a leader in AUPE. We played a very active role in the 2017 AUPE Convention. This was an election year. The leadership remained relatively intact, but there were a few new faces in the vice-presidential ranks. The vice-presidents are now all paid the same with a yearly salary.

In Solidarity

Andrea Waywanko

Local 002, Chapter 002 Council Representative