



COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CHAPTER 002, LOCAL 002 AGM

EMILLE CURRIE

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Bargaining

As a Local 002 Council Representative and Executive Board member of Chapter 002, it has been my honour to represent the interests of over 5,000 members in Chapter 002 over the past year. As Chair of the Local 002 Bargaining Committee, my primary focus this past year has been on Negotiations and we have met with the Employer on more than forty days. I have personally responded to over a hundred emails and phone calls from members regarding Bargaining since we exchanged proposals with the Employer in April 2017. I am very pleased that so many members have shared worksite concerns that GSBC (Government Services Bargaining Committee) needed to be aware of, and others have requested additional information regarding Bargaining.

Without identifying details of Bargaining in this report, I will note that it has been and continues to be a long and somewhat frustrating process. As your representative on GSBC, I have to thank all the members of the Local Bargaining Committee for assisting in phone banks, sharing worksite information and for the Alternates stepping up to the plate when regular members were unable to. Alternates on the Bargaining Committee have always contributed equally to the Bargaining work of the Local and I believe the entire Committee deserves our thanks and acknowledgement.

As Bargaining Chair, I can report that we are holding our second coordinated phone bank on April 14, 2018, to update the contact information of component members and to establish worksite contacts at every worksite where a Local 002 member may work. AUPE has been very helpful in assisting us with this work, which becomes so critical, should we end up facing any type of strike or job action in the future. We need to have an updated list of worksite contacts and Union Stewards that will become the cornerstones of any type of job action. I have contacted the Local Chair to request that an updated Local Union Steward list be posted on our Local website, keeping in mind that all Stewards were asked to commit to publicly (within AUPE) sharing their contact information as a requirement of Union Stewardship. I remain optimistic that this will be accomplished soon. I want to extend a special thank you to all the members who have attended on their own time to participate in the phone banks. This is an important initiative, which could not be accomplished without your commitment.

I can also report that an Essential Services Agreement was reviewed by members of GSBC and it was forwarded to the Public Service Commissioner for approval and filing with the Labour Relations Board.

Member Benefits Committee

As a member also of the Member Benefits Committee covered under Article 49 of the Collective Agreement, I can share that GSBC proposed improvements that minimally should include regularly scheduled meetings.

Alternate PE and Member of AUPE's Legislative Committee

As Alternate Provincial Executive member, I am cognizant of the concerns raised by some members about the fiscal responsibility of having the PE Alternate attend all PE meetings. I am very happy to note also that there are more Local 002 Observers at PE lately. As a Council Representative and member of AUPE's Legislative Committee, I fulfilled a commitment I made at a previous Local meeting to raise the issue to the Legislative Committee as to why

PE minutes are not made accessible to all members. The President and Chair of the Legislative Committee noted that he was unaware that the minutes were not made available to members, especially in view of the fact that the AUPE Executive Board meeting minutes are made available. A motion to make the minutes of regular PE meetings available to members was moved, seconded and carried by the Legislative Committee. It was subsequently raised at PE by the President and Chair of the Legislative Committee. The motion recommended that regular PE minutes be posted on the AUPE website. Discussion ensued at the April PE meeting, with Local 002's PE Representative raising concerns about posting the minutes. The motion was referred back to the Legislative Committee to examine concerns relating to public access.

My obligation as an elected Council Representative is to share as much information relating to the operations and execution of the union with those members I represent, with the exception of information that is personal or of a highly sensitive nature or that contravenes legislation. It is also my duty as an elected representative, to represent the will of the Chapter and Local members I represent, so I leave it up to you, the members, to let me know what your will is regarding your thoughts on how we may proceed on this particular issue that overlaps my roles both as a PE Alternate and a Legislative Committee member.

As Alternate PE Representative for Local 002, I was initially surprised at the April PE meeting to hear our PE member announce that they had been unable to obtain time off for their Alternates to attend, as my employer has never refused my time off for any union business. However, in speaking with our PE Rep, she clarified that she was referring to an Alternate who could take my place when I was acting to replace her as the regular PE Rep in her absence; sort of an Alternate to the Alternate, as far as I understood it. I applaud the PE Rep's initiative to involve more Local and Chapter members in attending and learning more about PE and I join her in encouraging more members to obtain permission from the President to attend future PE meetings as an Observer. Currently, Council policy and motions support time off and expenses for both the PE Rep and a PE Alternate to attend all meetings. However, a motion can be made and passed by Council to compensate more than these two members. Observers are encouraged to attend on their own time and at their own expense, but must first obtain permission from the President.

Union Steward and Worksite Contact

As a Union Steward and worksite contact, I continue to provide advice and assistance to members regarding worksite disputes and grievances, human rights complaints and requests for union and component information from members, some of whom had attended a previous Chapter meeting but noted they did not wish to commit to further attendance at component meetings.

I look forward to continuing to represent the members of this Chapter but I am only as effective as the members who are willing to share their time, information, expertise and hours and hours of advice and assistance, and for that, I sincerely extend my thanks to all of you!

In Solidarity,

Emille Currie

Chapter 002 Executive Board member and Local Council Representative