



21 NEWS/VIEWS

Membership Meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each Month
7:30 pm – Italian Club – 2148 Connaught Street

2009 NEWSLETTER - EDITION #6

E-mail: cupe.local21@sasktel.net

Fax: (306) 352-5848

Phone: (306) 352-8282

Table Officers

Tim Anderson
President

Greg Moyer
Vice President

Wade Zalopski
Recording Secretary
Newsletter Editor

John Gangl
Secretary-Treasurer

Alexandra Dobbs
A/2nd Vice President
Grievance Chair
Public Works
(539-1466)

Danny Lainey
2nd Vice President
Grievance Chair
Community &
Corporate Services
(537-1815)

Executive
Hugh Bigler
Cal Pfeifer
Mauro Milessa
Alvin Huber
Darren Fox
Clint Drieger
Cindy Jessop
Temp. Vacant

Sergeant-at-Arms
Chris Szakacs

Trustees
Ken Kabatoff
Steve Frankiewitz
Darren Grychowski

**CUPE National
Representative**
Guy Marsden



Congratulations on a GREAT 2009 Season

Serving Regina Citizens For 75 Years!



Commitment to our Community

Union Work! Union Proud!

In The City

NDP Special Tribute to Local 21 - 75th Anniversary



Your local 21 executive were invited to the 3rd Session of the 26th Legislature on 4 November 2009. During that session NDP MLA Trent Wotherspoon recognized this local's 75th Anniversary of providing the high quality services to the citizens of Regina.

On behalf of the Local 21 executive and its members past and present, we wish to thank Mr. Wotherspoon for this honourable mention and recognition of this union's commitment to the City of Regina. It was very much appreciated. We also wish to thank the leader of the NDP Dwain Lingenfelter, MLA's Sandra Morin and Andy Iwanchuk for their support and respect for the working men and women of this union local.

President's Message

75th Anniversary / Essential Services / Collective Bargaining Update

Sisters and Brothers,

Let me begin this edition of the Local 21 newsletter by thanking Brother Wade Zalopski for his contributions to this union's seventy fifth (75th) anniversary celebrations. In so many different ways, he exemplifies what we mean by the word "Brother". And we the membership of Local 21 should be very grateful to him and the entire executive for all the work they have done; not only for this unions anniversary but what they do for you the member on a daily basis. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank the many sisters and brothers who paid tribute to our union in the two Leader Post articles.

Perrie Elliot Trudeau once said, "The past is to be respected and acknowledged, but not to be worshipped. It is our future in which we will find our greatness".

It's a shame that our current Mayor and City Council chose not to acknowledge our 75th anniversary, unlike the reigning Mayor and City Council during our 60th anniversary commemorative, who paid tribute to the men and women who were fundamental in building our fair city. At a time when the parties should be thinking of looking forward in regard to the collective bargaining process, their lack of involvement or acknowledgement of our milestone causes our executive and members concern.

Special thanks to Trent Wotherspoon MLA, NDP who "topped off" the Anniversary celebrations in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly which recently recognized our members contributions during the past 75 years to this great community we call home.

On to the task at hand. As you the member should know our collective bargaining agreement will expire at the end of 2009 and we have served the employer with our request to enter into the bargaining process.

With the Saskatchewan Party legislating new "essential services" law and other legislation designed to cripple your union's ability to negotiate a fair collective agreement - this round of bargaining will certainly take on a different flavor. The parties have almost completed the first part of the "new" bargaining process.

Essential Services. We hope to have this completed shortly which would then allow your executive to begin tailgate talks to inform our members just how this will impact them as individuals and as our union as a whole. After our tailgates are complete your executive will have a number of meetings where we will unveil this round's bargaining proposals. It is our desire meet with the employer early in the New Year to begin bargaining a new collective agreement.

The union representing outside workers for the City of Regina claims the city is becoming top-heavy with managers CBC News – 14 October 2009

The union representing outside workers for the city of Regina claims the city is becoming top-heavy with managers. The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) released a study showing the number of management positions at city hall nearly doubled over the last seven years, from 60 positions in 2001 to 112 in 2008.

- At the same time, it claims the unionized workforce is shrinking. "We're seeing our membership's ability to do the work for the taxpayer decline," Tim Anderson, president of CUPE local 21. The study claimed that the additional managers cost taxpayers an extra **\$5.0+** million per year.

- City Manager Glen Davies took issue with some of the findings of the CUPE report, saying that front-line staff numbers have not been reduced, but some middle management supervisors have been cut.

- Mayor Pat Fiacco told CBC News he was not sure how many managers Regina should have. "I don't the exact answer. Whether 100 [or] 112 managers is the right answer. Is it 200 managers? Is it 50 managers?" "I do know that the work is being done. We continue to have surpluses year after year with more work being done."

- **The Top Heavy report is available on the Local 21 and CUPE Saskatchewan websites**

City Manager Pay Increase – Approved

23 November 2009 - Regina's city council voted to approve amendments to the contract of city manager Glen Davies that will bring his base salary up from \$200,834 to \$250,000. The changes also increase Davies' vehicle allowance from \$600 to \$1,000 per month and give him a one-time signing bonus of \$10,000.

- Six weeks annual vacation and 12 additional days of leave in lieu of overtime.
- He gets some benefits like other out-of-scope employees.
- His contract notes extended health care coverage will be provided and that an independent study on pension plans will be commissioned to see if his current pension is up to standard.
- **Canadian Taxpayers Federation** - asked council not to approve the increases - questioning if the increase was justified - to be paid \$50,000 more a year, that in and of itself is more than most people of Regina would make on an annual basis.
- Councilors Wade Murray (Ward 6) and Terry Hincks (Ward 9) left Henry Baker Hall during the Canadian Taxpayers Federation presentation.
- Councillor Hincks said, "I have no respect for that organization whatsoever; they're against everything."

Mayor Fiacco: "It's not about the money, or else he would have left - he didn't, because his loyalty is here." "It's what's in the best interests of the citizens of this city. Once we're able to explain it to them, they do understand - not everyone - but that's expected."

Tim Anderson, city outside workers CUPE Local 21 president, said he "believes everyone is entitled to a fair and decent wage increase. I'm looking forward to sharing in the city's prosperity in regard to what my members will be offered during (upcoming contract) negotiations, which begin in the New Year."

Mayor Fiacco said - it'd inappropriate to discuss if negotiations would be affected.

General Information & Updates



**Thank you from
John Conway,
Ward 3
candidate...**

Congratulations to Fred Clipsham on his re-election as Councillor for Ward 3. Thank you to those voters who almost elected me (close, but no cigar). Maybe Fred will get the message. A special thanks to those who donated funds to my campaign and worked hard to win support for my platform.

The low turnout reminds us of the crisis of disengagement in, and cynicism about, our democratic system. This is most serious at the local level. But this election perhaps began a process of re-engagement.

Three of the candidates for Council raised tough questions about the business lobby's domination of Council. One of these won (Findura), while the other two came close (McIntyre and myself).

This was no cheer-leading endorsement of Pat Fiacco's vision of Regina's present and future, despite claims by the media and business leaders. Fiacco got 84 per cent, but only 25 per cent voted. Thus only one in five eligible voters actually voted for Fiacco's vision. The other four in five either opposed it, or didn't care a fig. The three in four who didn't vote are a slumbering giant.

During the campaign Fiacco actually stated that when there is positive economic development "everything else takes care of itself." We have a self-declared "do nothing" Mayor, and a Council self-declared as members of the "Fiacco team." It's business as usual. The real power resides with the economic movers and shakers in the city - the developers, the construction industry, the real estate interest, and the big business interests which now control local business organizations. Welcome back to the 19th century.

Don't get me wrong. Pat Fiacco is an engaging guy with the gift of the gab. If you were opening a used car lot, he would be the first salesman you would want. But then, a city is not a used car lot.

Let's work to awaken the slumbering giant in 2012.