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Outsider - The Voice of the Tutor

In This Issue

- Protest
- Membership
- Rethink Childcare
- Admin changes
- Budget

CUPE Links

Local 3911
Webpage

CUPE Alberta

CUPE National

Protest for Post-Secondary

With members spread out across the province or working day jobs, not many of us had an opportunity to attend the rally on Friday. I, however, did have the good fortune to attend, even if my toes regretted that decision once the sun went behind the legislature. The rally was organized primarily by people at the U of A and, not surprisingly, they provided the largest contingent. However, there was a goodly gathering awaiting the arrival of the marchers, with members of CUPE 3911 and some members of the faculty at Athabasca University among them. The speeches were no surprise—each emphasizing in some way that education is an investment into our future and into economic diversity. There were representatives speaking from a wide range of concerns: labour, undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, members of the opposition, and high school students. Members of the opposition present included Rachel Notley (provincial New Democrat), Linda Duncan (federal New Democrat whose riding includes the U of A), and Raj Sherman (provincial Liberals). Noticeably absent were any representatives from the government or from the opposition Wild Rose.

Of course, such a rally is simply a photo op of discontent if not followed up with some concrete action. As a first step, I encourage you to contact your MLAs, the premier, and the ministers of finance (Doug Horner) and of advanced education (Thomas Lukaszuk—did I mention that he was on a junket to Vietnam while we froze our toes in front of the legislature?). If you are unsure of the identity of your MLA or need the addresses of the above ministers, please access

http://www.assembly.ab.ca/lao/mla/mla_help.htm

Links

Alberta
Federation of
Labour

Edmonton
and District
Labour
Council

Calgary and
District
Labour
Council



Here is a start to a letter if you want a template. Make it your own.

I believe that post-secondary education is an invaluable public good which significantly contributes to Alberta's social, cultural and economic wellbeing. Post-secondary education creates both innovation and economic diversity; moreover, it creates a populace able to respond to a changing world. The cuts proposed in the recent budget threaten the quality and accessibility of university education and shift the burden of financing that education onto families and our youth. As our representatives, I expect you to lead the province and realize that a publicly-funded post-secondary system, funded by our tax dollars, is a foundation for any Alberta advantage and is an investment in our future.

SIGN YOUR CARDS!!!



Many of you have received a letter from us in the mail asking you to sign your membership forms and return them to us in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided. We do need to solidify our membership list, so please take the time to complete this process.

CUPE's "Let's Rethink Childcare" initiative



However cliché it sounds, children are the future. The ramifications of their care will resonate for generations through society. CUPE National has an important initiative in this regard. Check out the link and support a parent you know.

<http://rethinkchildcare.ca/>

FLUX IN THE FORCE



As you most certainly are aware of by now, the university has been going through a rather sudden "alteration" in administration. These changes are most certainly going to affect us, even if we do not know yet the form that that will take. The changes might manifest themselves at the bargaining table, in arbitration, in another attempt to extend the call-centre model, in further reductions in marking times, in attacks on block pay, in increased grievances, and so on. If we ever needed solidarity in our membership, that time is now. We will try to keep you posted on any and all developments, but remember that all our meetings are general membership meetings and that you are always welcome to participate.



ALTERNATIVE BUDGET

In anticipation of the coming federal slash and dash (also known as the budget), the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) has come out with an alternative budget. Check out the link below to see a different take on the country and our possibilities.

www.policyalternatives.ca/afb2013

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