Karen Caig
1st Vice President

Jay Thompson
Local President

Jim Connelly
Financial Secretary

Brothers and Sisters

Dec 10th 2017

A lot has been happening in Alberta and across the country in the last couple months.

Economically Alberta is coming out of the recession the projected GDP growth is expected to be 6.7% the highest in Canada, We have had a 1.17% population growth which is promising as our population has stalled the last couple of years, The best increase are in the retail sector which is up 8. % YTD and is up over pre recession peaks. Housing construction sectors which is up 36% from last year The oil and gas sector has been slowly increasing with more oilrigs coming online almost doubling over last year. Unfortunately due to automation, lower oil prices, and companies streamlining there businesses the job growth in the oil and gas sector is slowly coming back but no where near prerecession times

Jason Kenny was elected the new UCP leader and has been on a campaign of trying to discredit the NDP Government, He has openly apposed the gay /straight alliances that have been set up in the schools advocating for "outing students to their parents" which is exact opposite of the purpose of the GSA, s which is to help students get support who are confused or even sure about there sexuality and need guidance and support.

There is going to be a by-election in Calgary/Lougheed on Dec 14thso Mr. Kenney can actually have a seat in the legislature, The UCP and political pundits think it's a slam dunk as it is a historically very conservative riding, However almost every other party has put forward some fairly strong candidates who are hoping to take the riding away from the UCP, The NDP announced that Dr.Phillip van der Merwe an openly gay and happily married physician will be running for the seat, Alberta Liberal leader David Khan a Calgary human rights lawyer has also thrown his hat in to the ring, and rounding it out is the green parties recently chosen leader Ditto Romy Tittel who will also be running, The Alberta party has decided not to run a candidate in this by-election.

The Alberta government has introduced Bill 30 "The act to protect the health and well being of working Albertans "Some of the legislature Allows

- Workers to refuse unsafe work without fear of reprisals or termination
- Making worksite safety inspections transparent so workers know what problems were found
- Ensuring workers still get paid if a stop work order is issued for safety violations
- Defining workplace violence and harassment in law and mandating employers to protect there employees from it
- Mandating joint worker/employer health and safety committees

A lot of these laws are in the labour code already and in numerous collective agreements across Alberta but if this legislation passes it will give workers a little more power and make it easier to make companies more accountable.

Some of the Workers compensation changes are:

- Removing the cap on workers expected wages before injury so compensation reflects there earnings
- Recognizing the impact workplace injuries have on retirement security
- Recognizing that Psychological injuries are workplace injuries
- Increasing benefits for young workers and those who's loved ones were killed on the job
- Best of all creating independent fair practices offices to help people navigate the system that has shown to be unfair to injured workers and sometimes even criminalizing them.

Overall it's a very positive step forward for the workers of Alberta from a system that has been extremely employer friendly to an employee friendly system. Lets hope it passes.

In federal news Prime Minister Trudeu offered an apology to the LGBT for what past governments have done including being drummed out of the military, being fired from there jobs being arrested as with the case of George Klippert who was the last person imprisoned and declared a dangerous offender simply because he was gay!

It is very disappointing that several Conservative memebers of parliament either did not show up for the apology or did not stand with the rest of the house while the apology was being read.

Going forward the labour movement in Alberta will be having a number of challenges ahead of them and I strongly recommend everyone gets involved so we as workers can be safe, go to work, do our jobs, and most of all come home every night to our loved ones

I move my report