

## **Regina District Labour Council President's Report to the 2018 AGM**

On April 29, 2017, we held our Annual General Meeting at the Eagle's Club. Elections resulted in a massive turnover in our Executive. Two of our officers were not to return as well as over half of our Vice Presidents along with a number of positions not being filled. This would lead to a year of trying to maintain the events that we hold annually and little in the way of expansion.

In May, Carol Mullaney and myself were able to attend the Labour Council Forum and CLC Convention in Toronto. Highlights included the news that the CLC would be providing websites and paying all the costs for any council that wanted which is good news for smaller councils who don't have their own site. Another highlight was a rally in the financial district with hundreds of union activists marching through the streets of the city.

In May I also was able to attend the CUPE Health Care Convention and bring greetings on behalf of the RDLC.

In June, the Council took on a 2-year sponsorship of the "Out in the Park" event during Regina Pride Week. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't on our side and the event had to be downscaled and moved indoors. There is however, the potential to grow with this event and we can only hope for better things in June 2018.

The summer focused on preparations for our two fall projects. Brenda Hutton, CUPE 3766 member took over as the chair of the Education Committee and did an outstanding job with the School Supply Program. The program provides all the students of the Cornwall Alternative School with all the supplies they need for the year ahead. See the Education Committee report for more details.

The second project is the Labour Day Picnic which we co-host with the Saskatchewan Building Trades. While the Trades do the bulk of the lifting, I was able to attend the planning meetings which brought together many of the unions providing an assortment of free food and activities for the picnic. The council's contribution is \$5000.00 and providing the buns for the hot dogs as well as running one of the 2 hot dog booths. Numbers weren't what we had hoped for but the event continues to strengthen the association of the unions while sharing our bounty with the citizens of the city.

In October, we were able to send delegates to the SFL Convention in Saskatoon, including myself. In this month, I was also able to attend the SGEU led rally at the Saskatchewan Legislative Building. A good turnout by many from many unions.

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and a vigil was held at St Paul's auditorium. The event was well attended but considering the importance of this observance, should be overwhelmed with support.

Over the course of the fall, plans were being hammered out for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Unions of Regina Christmas Dinner. This event is due to a partnership of the unions in the city, represented by the RDLC with the United Way Regina and the Delta Hotels Regina. The details of this are covered in the report from the Labour and Community Services Committee.

The first union event of the year in Regina is the RDLC Equity and Human Rights Conference in February. While the event went off well, the conference attendance was down by more than 50% of what it was the last couple of years and this is a concern. This is the only equity conference put on through the unions in the province and it would be a shame to see it end at a time when so many people are immigrating to the province from around the world.

A great deal of time over the fall and winter was spent working on the partnership with the United Way Regina. I have developed a good working relationship with CEO Robyn Edwards-Bentz. Many issues need to be sorted. The Labour Rep position remains vacant and the United Way Board wants to have a clear picture of the what the partnership is about before the position will be filled. One of the 2 board positions designated by the RDLC is also vacant and we want to make sure that we have a person appointed that is able to make a contribution to the work of the United Way Regina. Both Robyn and I feel that it is important to ensure that our roles are clear on how we are working together before a new partnership agreement is signed.

The Council encountered some very low points this past year. A newly elected treasurer proved to be a major issue. The experience she claimed to have was more talk than actual qualifications. This person proved to be quite hostile to any assistance and finally walked away in December. It cannot be exaggerated the mess that was left and much time and thousands of dollars were needed to bring the records back to a functional level though not all issues were cleared. Kevin Fischer, our USW VP stepped forward and with the help of former treasurer, Carol Mullaney, the two were able to get us moving forward again.

In January of this year, we learned of the decision by Unifor to disaffiliate from the Canadian Labour Congress. This greatly affected the functioning of many Federations and Councils across the country, most especially in southern Ontario because affiliates must belong to a national union that is affiliated to the CLC. Here in Regina, we lost our 2 Vice-Presidents, 3 members of the building committee, and one of our trustees. This also meant the loss of approximately 3000 members. As well as the loss of these members, the Council also saw the loss of about \$600.00/month in revenues. This will certainly be noticed in our finances but will not be crippling. We will continue to work with the Unifor locals as non-affiliates until these issues will be solved at a national level.

Finally, attempts to revive May Works has fizzled. It has not only been a problem getting our affiliates to take part, our own executive didn't seem interested in moving forward with this set of events.

Overall, the year has been quite disappointing. Unfortunately, the executive is not working as a team. Some are serving their own purposes rather than representing their affiliate and others are simply apathetic. Fortunately, we have some that are still doing their best to maintain the work of the Council. The concerning part is that we have lost almost all of our long serving members making it difficult to maintain the things that we have been developed over the last couple of decades.

The struggle continues.

**Respectfully submitted in Solidarity,  
Kenneth Kubian, President**

We are:

**Officers**

**President**

Kenneth Kubian, RWDSU 539

**Treasurer**

Kevin Fisher, USW 5917

**Secretary**

Shobna Radons, CUPW 820

**1st Vice-President**

Michelle Lang, PSAC 40005

**Vice-Presidents:**

Nathaniel Cole COPE 397

Carmon Perin, CUPE 5791

Brenda Hutton, CUPE 3766

Nancy Mayer, CUPW 820

Michelle Lang, PSAC 40005

Susan Butson, RWDSU 454

Collette Martin, RWDSU 454

Tanya Buchinski, SGEU 2180

Muna DeCiman, SGEU 1101

Laurelle Pachal, SUN

Maureen Eckstein, SURF

Mike Mitchell, UFCW 1400

Juliet Bushi, URFA

**Vacant:**

2 Vice-President positions

1 Trustee

1 United Way Board member

3 Building Committee positions

**Alternates:**

Darin Milo, COPE 397

Kathy Szarkowicz, CUPE 3766

Daniela Aubichon, PSAC 40005

Jasmine Cyr, RWDSU 539C

Fran Passmore, SURF

Tamara Bailey, SGEU 1101

Crystal Bublely, SGEU 1101

Shirley Dixon, SURF

**Reps:**

Wendy Daku, Canadian Labour Congress

Saskatchewan Regional Representative,

member of UNIFOR-CULR1

**Trustees:**

Brenda Hutton, CUPE 3766 (3rd year)

Kim Wilson, COPE 397 (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

**United Way Regina Board Representatives:**

Donna Ottenson, CUPE 3761

**Building Committee:**

Colin Byas, CUPE 3761

Carol Mullaney, CUPE 3761