

LOCAL IN MOTION

News of Local 569's Activities



AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 569



Runciman Bill in Action: Time To Go The Next Step

Proof-Of-Payment the Way to Go

Steve Bradshaw
President

A phone call from ATU 569 member Doug Harman recently got us thinking about the effect of the Runciman Bill. You'll recall that Senator Runciman took up the challenge of amending the Criminal Code to allow stiffer penalties for people convicted of assaulting transit operators.

Opportunity

Brother Harman attended the sentencing hearing of a man convicted of assaulting not one, but two ETS operators in a span of 20 minutes! Despite the opportunity for the judge to issue a real penalty in response to these vicious assaults, the criminal was sentenced to one year of probation and ordered to undergo addiction treatment. Such a **penalty** doesn't send much of a message to other would-be assaulters.

It's not that we don't appreciate all the work so many people put into the

effort to amend the Criminal Code – that's not an easy task and happens only very rarely and we are deeply grateful to all those who worked so hard to get it done. The problem is two-fold. First, it doesn't matter how stiff a penalty the judges **can** assess, if they don't use the law to its maximum effect, nothing changes. Second, it's re-active. It doesn't even come into play until someone is already assaulted. It's time for some pro-active measures. **We need to stop the assaults from happening in the first place.**

Fare Disputes

It's well known that the vast majority of assaults on transit workers is related to fare disputes. So, why are operators still tasked with fare collection? It just doesn't make sense. Back in the 1950s, even into the 60s, operators were issued a cash float at the start of their shift so that they could make

change for passengers. After an increase of assaults and robberies on operators, transit unions, properties and agencies got together and started the "Exact Fare" campaign. It was, as we now experience, immensely successful. Around the world, operators are not expected to carry cash or make change. It was the right idea and it worked.

Proof-of-Payment

Now it's time to go the next step: leave the fare enforcement for the security professionals and let operators get on with their real job – the safe operation of their buses. Making the bus a "Proof-of-Payment" zone and having our Transit Peace Officers step on the bus once in a while to check fares is the right idea and it will work. Such a change will instantly eliminate fare disputes with operators and, by extension, the vast majority of assaults on operators.

Congratulations to the Following Retired Members

Irene Cameron - Dec. 18, 2015	Susan Lemaistre - Sept. 27, 2016	Bernine Prasad - July 11, 2016
Peter Chan - July 29, 2016	Bernard Maguire - Oct 1, 2016	Virgil Simmonds - Sept. 3, 2016
Mark Chorney - July 16, 2016	James Mah - August 2, 2016	Carlyle Skaalid - July 15, 2016
Darryl Desjarlais - June 7, 2016	Rolf Mueller - June 17, 2016	Dwayne Steil - Sept 10, 2016
Howard Green - July 2, 2015	Kenneth Olson - Sept. 2, 2016	Randy Tally - Sept. 3, 2016
Art Jones - May 21, 2016	David Parker - Sept. 4, 2016	Russell Williams - July 10, 2016
Geoff Lambert - August 12, 2016	Kevin Peterman - Sept 30, 2016	Graydon Woods - June 1, 2015



Saskatoon Rally

My Pride and Belief

Denise Meyer
Recording Secretary

Thinking about the meaning of being in a "Union" many thoughts crossed my mind. With 22 other unionists from our Local, we went to Saskatoon to support our brothers and sisters September 10th. This to me is being in a union, supporting one another when we are in need is the key. Saskatoon is in need!

Without a Contract

They have been without a contract for 4 years. They are fighting to keep their pension plan that they fought for and paid into so they could retire and enjoy their golden years as everyone who is not retired refers to. They also are looking at a wage adjustment as a full time bus operator doesn't even make enough to qualify for a mortgage. Hard to imagine raising a

family on that.

Here at Local 569 we should consider ourselves so lucky with all that we have. This is thanks to those who fought hard for all the things we take for granted (pension plan, sick leave, dental/prescription plans, Health Care Spending Account, very good wages, LTD plan and on and on).

All Alone

Upon reaching Saskatoon we were greeted with open arms and a few tears as they often feel they are all alone. My pride and belief in the trade union values were restored and a few tears fell when the 23 of us from 569, 19 from 583, representatives from: Winnipeg, Regina and ATU Canada were there, CUPE locals from

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, Saskatoon District Labour Council, Saskatchewan Teachers and Nurses. Close to a thousand of us joined their rally at City Hall. We brought a clear message to City Council and the administration that ATU stands together across the country and an injury to ONE is an injury to ALL. We will be back as often as it takes and in greater numbers until these members are treated with the dignity and respect that all workers deserve and demand.

So although I was disheartened, I am once again ready to stand up and be counted and fight the fight needed to help our brothers and sisters across Canada and here at home.



Local 569 & Local 583 Members in Saskatoon Supporting Local 615

"I BELIEVE YOU" PROJECT

By Denise Meyer

The City has partnered with the Sexual Assault Centre to help promote the Centre's "I Believe You" campaign. The object of the campaign is to train people in public service positions the "first aid" principles of helping someone who has been sexually assaulted or harassed. Some operators have already had their chat with a supervisor about it; others will be invited in for it. Sexual assaults or harassment incidents are reported to ETS operators on average, 5 times a month and the frequency curve is

rising.

Following is a condensed version of the "chat" and tip sheet:

- **LISTEN** - pull over so you can give your full attention to the passenger
- **BELIEVE** - use the statement "I believe you". Many of the victims are afraid of not being believed
- **AVOID JUDGEMENT** - do not express any judgement while communicating with the passenger. Compassion is the best option.

- **AVOID ASKING WHY?** - why questions communicate blame. Avoid probing for details. Before you ask a question ask yourself if the information is needed if no then don't ask
- **OFFER OPTIONS** - when possible and appropriate offer options and give the passenger time to consider. Offer to call control or offer to take them to the next transit centre where they can make a decision there.

Always let Control know about the situation as soon as possible and with the passenger's permission.



Pension report shows resilience of well-managed defined-benefit plans

LAPP's 97 per cent funding level repudiates Tory fearmongering about impending financial collapse

Edmonton – Alberta's Local Authorities Pension Plan has hit 97 per cent funding just two years after Conservatives tried to gut it over fears that the plan was unsustainable.

Earlier today, Alberta's largest pension plan – the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP), which provides pension coverage to almost 250,000 working and retired Albertans – released figures showing that it is now close to being fully funded.

According to the LAPP's latest 2015 Audited Financial Statements, the plan now has 97 per cent of the funds necessary to cover its long-term obligations – up dramatically from 85 per cent three years ago.

"Just two years ago, the Conservative government of Alberta tried to convince Albertans that this plan – among others – was doomed. They

argued that defined-benefit pension plans were unsustainable," Alberta Federation of Labour president Gil McGowan said. "They even brought forward legislation that would have slashed benefits and would have undermined the retirement security of thousands of Albertans. We said at the time the legislation was unnecessary. And this report has proved us right."

Former Premier Jim Prentice eventually backed away from his predecessor's attack on public-sector pensions in the face of unprecedented public protest and after being presented with evidence from a coalition of unions that the plans were, in fact, well on the way to recovery without cuts to benefits.

"The next time right-wing fear mongers try to panic Albertans into making unjustified concessions and

swallowing unnecessary cuts, I hope we all remember how wrong they were when they claimed our pensions were insolvent," McGowan – who led a union coalition that opposed cuts to pension plans – said. "This also makes it abundantly clear that Alberta's public-sector pensions need to have independent joint governance – like the pension plans in every other province in Canada – so that governments can't make unilateral decisions that affect workers' retirement savings."

The LAPP is the second pension plan in recent weeks to show that Conservative attempts to undermine pensions in Alberta were ill-founded. The Public Sector Pension Plan (PSPP) – which had also been targeted by the Redford government – released an audited annual report in June showing that it was 99 per cent funded.



Announcement

*Steve Bradshaw
President*

ATU Local 569 will hold its triennial election this fall. All executive positions are open as well as (for the first time ever) 12 Steward positions.

Nominations will be taken at the November membership meeting Tuesday, November 22. Election Day will take place on Thursday, December 1, 2016.

Conventional balloting will take place in all workplaces on December 1, 2016.

In compliance with the Local's Bylaws, formal notice with the details of balloting will be mailed to each member at their last known address.



**PLEASE CONTACT THE
UNION OFFICE IF YOU
HAVE A CHANGE OF
CONTACT INFORMATION
INCLUDING YOUR
EMAIL ADDRESS
BY CALLING
780-426-6136 OR
EMAIL: OFFICE@ATU569.CA**

**Regular Membership Meeting
October 25, 2016
10:00 am & 7:00 pm
Union Hall 10540 - 108 Street**

In Remembrance of Deceased Members

Lorna Durand - August 4, 2016	Winston Holder - August 25, 2016
Nirmal Gill - August 28, 2016	George Nadema - July 21, 2016
Norman Grammer - September 6, 2016	Raymond Rowsell - June 27, 2016
Thomas Hadley - July 29, 2016	

Seeking All Aspiring Journalists!

You are invited to become an ATU newsperson by writing a 300 - 500 word article you think would be of interest to Local 569 members. Your submission will be considered and subjected to editorial prerogative.

Please send your article to: office@atu569.ca

This Newsletter can be accessed on our website: atu569.ca

ATU 569
Women's Caucus Presents.....

Tis' the Season
vendor market

November 5th
9:30-5pm
10540-108 Street
ATU 569 Union Hall

Over 20 vendors to help you with your
holiday shopping and events
Bake sale proceeds going to YESS
Cash Only

2016 Kids Annual Christmas Party

November 26, 2016

7:30 PM to 10:30 PM

West Edmonton Mall

Galaxyland Amusement Park

8882 - 170 Street

Hope to See you There!!!



ATU Local 569 Night
Come Out & Enjoy a Game
with Family & Friends

300 Tickets Available 1st Come 1st Serve
Saturday December 10, 2016 at 7:00 pm
Reserve your 2 Free tickets per member
by calling the Union Office @ 780.426.6136

New
Website!

Have You Seen It?
Our New Website is Live!
Check it out at:
www.atu569.ca

