

# LOCAL IN MOTION

News of Local 569's Activities



## AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 569



Steve Bradshaw, President

### ***ETS' Authorization Consent Form***

For the past several months, the Union has been working with ETS to re-write the "consent form" on the back of the accident investigation sheet. This form, in both its original format and now in its new form is intended to allow the City's Law Branch to act on behalf of its employees who may be sued based on their actions while on the job.

#### **Vicarious Liability**

Employers, legally, have a "vicarious liability" for the actions of their employees while they're on the job. This means that if you're sued arising out of some incident that has happened (e.g. a collision), your employer bears the liability that would otherwise be your

responsibility. There are limitations, of course, like if your action had criminal intent.

The important thing to know is that signing the form allows the City, as your employer, to receive service of statements or summons on your behalf, take legal action on your behalf or to settle the claim on your behalf with No COST to you. This is a good thing.

#### **Understandable Language**

Lawyers have a tendency say things in very terse language, and the Consent Form was and is written in legalese. A quick reading of it seems to be asking you to sign over all of your rights to

them. The newly re-written form uses gentler and more direct and understandable language and make no reference to turning over your first-born.

#### **Your Best Interest**

The form is now at a stage where the Union is comfortable in advising you that **it is in your best interest to sign the Consent Form and we recommend you do so if you have a collision.** That said, we also stand by your right not to sign if that is your choice. If you DO choose not to sign, you should expect to receive the summons yourself and you may need to retain legal advice on your own dime.

### ***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](mailto:office@atu569.ca)

**This Newsletter can  
be accessed  
on our website:  
[atu569.ca](http://atu569.ca)**



Bill Bruce, Vice - President Maintenance

## 2016 Vacation Sign-up

The Transit Fleet Maintenance vacation sign-up is fast approaching. With that in mind, here are a few reminders before signing.

### Your Responsibility

It is your responsibility to check your allotment well in advance of the vacation sign-up. If you believe there is a discrepancy please contact Employee Service Centre at 780-496-6300.

It is very important your allotment is correct before signing. Transit Fleet Maintenance vacation choice sign-up forms are there for you to ensure your choices are there when you are not.

### City Policy

City Policy A1115B does not allow

employees to carry over vacation. All vacation is to be signed at the time of signing your vacation allotment.

Nobody wants to be forced to sign their remaining vacation days if it is not all signed at the vacation sign-up. Con-



sider picking a week not in prime and you will be allowed to change that week if you so wish or you can use that

week as individual single days of vacation throughout the calendar year.

### Request Carry Over

There is a process through the proper managerial steps to request a vacation carry over into the next calendar year. In your request specifically include the first day and return date and make sure you use your entire allotment.

### 2016 or 2017?

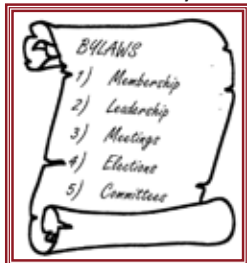
Please note if you sign vacation in January, February, March of 2017 you will be using the vacation dump from January 2017, unless you put a request to carry over your vacation from 2016 to cover any **requests for the first 3 months in 2017.**



Steve Bradshaw, President

## Another Crack at the By-laws, Anyone?

After a rocky start to the process last fall, the Executive Board expects to bring forward a package of Bylaw changes, upgrades and housekeeping improvements. First reading is anticipated for the January membership meeting, with 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, full debate and vote at the February meeting.



### Meeting Requirements

Some have wondered if bringing these changes in January/February meets

the current bylaws for amending. The simple answer is yes, it does. Article 16, Amendments to These Bylaws reads, in part:

“In order to amend, rescind or alter these By-laws, the proposed changes must be made in the month of September or upon the recommendation of the Executive Board.”

As these changes are being recommended by the Executive Board, the motion does meet the requirements of the current Bylaws.

### Significant Changes

Some of the significant changes in the proposals:

- A dedicated Board Rep position for **Local in Motion - Winter 2016**

the St. Albert membership

- A requirement that at least 1% of the membership be named as shop stewards and that half of them be elected
- Specifically stated duties for the Sergeant-at-Arms
- Clarifications around nominations & elections, delegates to conventions and vacation time for business agents
- Some provision for covering loss time for members attending training.

For a full reading, please check the website, [atu569.ca](http://atu569.ca) and come on out to the meetings to participate!





Liam Peuramaki, CECU Liaison Representative

## Coalition Update: Budget 2016 Recap

There was a fair amount of uncertainty heading into the operating budget deliberations this year, primarily due to the City's shift from one-year budgets to three year cycles. Touted as a method to facilitate more long-term planning of operating costs, the three year budget will function much like the three year cycle that sets the City's capital budget. Every three years a plan will be set out and regular reports will be brought back to Council (along with the opportunity to make changes to the plan).

### Property Tax Increase

In addition to that challenge, the draft budget that administration put before Council did not feature much in the way of spending money. The City proposed a 4.9% property tax increase in each of the three years (to account for growth and allow \$10 million for

Council to spend, as well as special levies for the Neighbourhood Renewal program and the South East LRT line), but that also included approximately \$58 million in unfunded service packages. When deliberations were done, the property tax increase was pegged at 3.4% for both 2016 and 2017 (2018's increase is set at 4.8%).

### Interesting Decisions

Along with the usual debate about where to allocate the available dollars, there were some interesting decisions. First, Council opted to take the 1.5% for Neighbourhood Renewal out of the tax levy and pay for that work with grants from the provincial government. Council also proposed a long-term solution to the reoccurring issues surrounding the Edmonton Police Service budget by setting an annual increase that is tied to inflation and other factors.

### Review Aims

From my point of view, the biggest thing to come out of the budget this year was the approval of a City-wide program & service review. Proposed by Councillor Oshry and approved unanimously by City Council, this review aims to look at each department

of the City and examine the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of each program. While many (including Acting City Manager Linda Cochrane and several Councillors) stressed that this will not be a budget cutting exercise (unlike some previous reviews conducted by the City), I think it must be said that this three-year process will influence some significant changes across the organization.

### Feedback and Input

It must be noted that as part of the terms of reference for the review, numerous opportunities are laid out for the civic unions in general and the Coalition of Edmonton Civic Unions in particular to offer feedback and input. With this in mind, I'm hopeful that this program and service review will be carried out in a transparent and fair manner. Both your union and the Coalition will be paying close attention to this review and will do our best to listen to the members and keep our concerns and input top-of-mind with the Corporate Leadership Team. We will update you as more information is available.

I hope that all of you had time for some rest and relaxation over the holidays and look forward to a safe and exciting 2016!





Mark Tetterington, Financial Secretary Treasurer

### *Happy New Year from all of us at ATU Local 569*

Once again another year has come and gone and we want to wish all of our members all the best in 2016.

#### **Kids Christmas Party**

The annual Kids Christmas party was once again a great success. Thanks to all of those who volunteered. It was brought to our attention that there were long lineups and some people who attended the event were not related to our ATU members. Please remember that this event is put on for enjoyment for you and all your family members.

#### **Oil Kings Game**

On another note we hosted our first annual ATU 569 Edmonton Oil Kings



Game on January 1. The event was well attended and we received lots of positive feedback.

The fans were treated to a great game which the Oil Kings won in overtime.

Hopefully this will become an annual event.

So once again from all of us on the Executive Board we want to wish you and all of your loved ones all the best in the upcoming year.



**Save the Date  
Retirement Banquet  
September 24, 2016  
Shaw Conference Centre**

**In Remembrance of  
of Deceased Member**

**Roderick Evans December 2, 2015**

#### **Congratulations to the following Retired Members**

Gary Brown - January 1, 2016
Melhem Denny - February 10, 2016
Randy Harris - December 31, 2015
Mark Leskie - October 30, 2015
Darryl Peters - April 1, 2016
Paul Riches - January 4, 2016
George Saul - January 16, 2016
Claudia Shirjang - January 7, 2016
Richard Walter - March 4, 2016
Kumar Weerasooriya - March 26, 2016



#### **Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP) Seminar**

Wednesday April 20, 2015  
2 Separate Sessions Available  
10:00 am or 1:30 pm  
Approximately 2 hours in length  
Union Hall 10540 - 108 Street

To Register call the Union Office  
780-426-1636  
Spouses or Partners are welcomed  
In order to proceed we need a minimum of  
20 attendees for each session