

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 569



LOCAL IN MOTION ATU 569 MEMBER NEWS

Summer 2017

YOUR NEW ATU 569 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Tettersington
Darryl Miller
Jose Hernandez
Damir Begovic
Martha Martinez
Anita Gates
Kerry McElroy
Troy Smith
Benjamin Dobbins
Jennifer Ewanchuk
Daniel Revega
Daryn Kreutzer
Lena Schendzielorz
Michael Trupish
Darlene Malayko

President/Business Agent
Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Assistant Business Agent
Vice President Maintenance/Assistant Business Agent
Vice President Operations/Assistant Business Agent
Recording Secretary
Operations Representative
Operations Representative
Operations Representative
Maintenance Representative
Maintenance Representative
Maintenance Representative
DATS Representative
DATS Representative
Safety & Security Representative
St. Albert Transit





Mark Tetterington
President

A Message From the President

On behalf of myself and the Executive Board, I would like to extend best wishes to all of our members along with the hope that you're having a great summer so far.

As you probably already know, the Union has been dealing with several difficult issues over the past 6 months, ranging from Driver Evaluations to the possible threat of the privatization of bus service.

Driver Evaluations

In regards to the Driver Evaluations, the Union was originally told that the City was going to start testing all members who operate a City Vehicle. The testing was supposed to consist of a ride along evaluation from one of our instructors, which was to be followed up by a written test one week later.

Oh, how things have changed since then. Our operators were required to take a DCAT cognitive test which was followed up by a ride along evaluation. This was not, at all, what we were originally told would take place.

The Union has since taken this case to arbitration. The first day of the hearing started on June 7. The Union's key witness is Dr. Bedard, the Director of the center for research on safe driving at Lakehead University. He is also the Dean of Faculty of Health and Behavioral Sciences, so overall, he is an expert in the field of cognitive testing. The first day of the hearing went very well and we have two more dates scheduled for July.

Threat of Privatization

As you have probably already heard, the City is implementing a Transit Review of service in lower ridership neighborhoods. The plan was to reduce service in lower ridership areas and reallocate it to the mainline routes. The original plan was to possibly implement the use of ride share companies or taxis to transport these patrons to main line routes so they could catch a bus.

The Union greatly opposed the idea of using any other private ride share companies. Here's how things played out... The Union formed an Action Committee which was made up of around 50 members. The Action Committee then broke off into two separate groups (internal) and (external).

The internal was led by Kelly Green, who helped organize those members interested in taking part in rallies and coming down to City Hall. The external

group was led by Rahul Joshi and their role was to contact external groups who would help us in our fight against privatization. We also had Denise Meyer and Jan Hargraves visiting Senior Centers to inform them of possible cuts and privatization of service.

We held an information rally on June 24 in which we had a great deal of support from various groups and we also received some great media coverage. We then attended a football game, where we passed out brochures which informed the public of the possible privatization of certain routes.

Spoke to City Hall

On July 5, I was given a chance to speak before the Urban Planning Committee to voice the Union's concerns about the possibility of using private ride share companies. On July 11 City council debated the Transit Review and a motion was brought forward by councillor Tony Caterina to separate the ride share portion of the Transit Review making them two separate items for council to vote on. As a result, City Council voted against the use of private ride Share companies in the Transit Review.

I personally want to thank all of those who helped make this happen. This just shows what we can all do when we come together as a Union in solidarity.

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





Daryll Miller
Financial Secretary
Treasurer

Scheduling & Construction Season

As Operators, the Summer months can be the most challenging time for us when it comes to the driving aspect of our job. The City uses this time to catch up with Construction Projects, as traffic volume is lighter with schools and University being out.

The City currently has the Valley LRT Project in full development and the "Imagine Jasper" initiative that redesigns the flow of traffic and pedestrians in the section of Jasper Avenue from 109 street to 124th Street in progress to name a few.

With these and many other City Construction initiatives occurring this Summer/Fall we need to make sure we are taking care of ourselves during this incredibly stressful time. This goes to

the basics of making sure we stay well hydrated, but also to things such as not letting the construction affect how you drive. ***I know, easier said than done!***

We know with current schedules it is difficult, and on some routes impossible, to keep it on time even without construction. But with the construction going on you will be even later. What makes this difficult to deal with is the fact that we are trained from day one to focus on time management, from the time we report to work, to all the timing points throughout our day.

What we all need to remember is that all of this construction and delay are outside of your control. You don't decide where the pylons get put that make your route one lane during peak hours, nor do you write the Correction cards we get in the running boards. We are the ones that have to find a way to get it done despite all of the things being thrown at us. And we do. Every day something different is thrown at us and we manage to find a way to work it out, sometimes on our own, sometimes with the help of our peers and / or Control.

However, we need to make sure we

are doing this in a way that does not negatively affect your life at work and at home. We need to make sure that we don't drive a little faster in poor conditions to try to make up the time, or run that 'stale yellow' to get back on time. We need to focus less on trying to keep up with a potentially impossible schedule and focus on Safety, yours and the citizens of Edmonton.

This means going to the bathroom when you need to and not **'holding'** it for 2 more trips because you might be on time later. This means you get off of the bus when you haven't had a break in hours, late or not, and stretch and get a drink of water. These examples are essential to your overall well being, not to mention you will drive in a safer manner if you can find ways to relieve the stress you're dealing with.

Ultimately, we need to make sure we don't let things like Construction ruin our day.

Enjoy your summer! I look forward to seeing you around the Garages and the streets of Edmonton. We need to take care of our own mental and physical health when we are out there in traffic.



Jose Hernandez
Vice President
Maintenance

Maintenance Update

I appreciate this opportunity to share a few words with you, our ATU 569 members. First of all, while I have been in the position for 6 months as Vice President Maintenance Assistant Business Agent, I have been working very hard to represent you, always with your best interests in mind. The Maintenance Departments have many issues that need to be corrected, however, little by little positive results are being seen by viewing things via a different perspective. Some examples include:

- In Fleet Services, we are in the process of reclassifying the Service Trained Cleaners, as they are currently not in the Collective Agreement.
- The Sign-Up process shall include the presence of Union Representation.
- For more than 3 years, the Parts Department have not promoted a Relief Foreman, which has created a lot of issues for our members. These matters will be rectified.
- In respect to Davies Garage Maintenance (Plant Section), we have faced some concerns in regards to the Sign-Up, which will be corrected.
- For many years now, Row Building Repair have been acting without proper Union Representation with regards to Sign-Ups. This aspect will be fixed.

Secondly, it is very important to know about the Collective Agreement Section 15, which deals with the Dispute Resolution Process, as it has four stages that you, as a member, should know:

1. Problem-Solving
2. Consultation
3. Formal Review
4. Arbitration

As a result, **every member has the right to request a Union Representative**, at any step in the dispute resolution process.

Summer is now upon us and this is a wonderful time for all to enjoy a safe and beautiful season. Let's happily appreciate what we do!



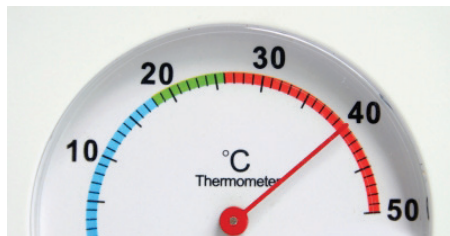
Mike Trupish
Safety & Security
Representative

Bus Too Hot?

Hello brothers and sisters. Recently, there has been some discussion about driving a bus when it is extremely hot, whether it's because the vent is just blowing hot air or the fan is not working. No matter what the reason, it cannot be comfortable. This article will focus on when the heat becomes too much and operating a vehicle starts to become dangerous.

Now, under Section 35 of the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, you as a worker have the right to refuse work that endangers you or another worker. So how might you determine when operating a bus that is hot may endanger you, another worker or your passengers? Well that's where an honest conversation with yourself needs to take place. Does the heat just cause you discomfort or is it causing you such symptoms where you are unable to operate your vehicle

safely? If the latter is the case, then this is where articulation becomes very important. Obviously, one should stop the vehicle, as safely as possible, and as soon as possible. Once stopped, take a brief moment to gather your thoughts as to what is going on and what you are feeling. Once you determine your symptoms (i.e. confusion, headache, excessive thirst, dizziness etc.) call control immediately and state that you believe you are suffering from heat exhaustion or simply say you do not feel safe to proceed due to the heat.



Now I realize that control might ask you to move to your next timing point or some other accommodation. Don't get mad at this request, simply inform them once again, that you do not feel safe to proceed. If they persist, ask to speak to the Control Room Superintendent and please follow up with the Union so we can make sure this does not continually happen to other operators.

While waiting for an Inspector to arrive,

as they will need to complete an IDIC and other paperwork related to this workplace injury, please take steps to take care of yourself. Last week, Joanna Gerber, who is an OH&S Consultant with City Operations, sent out an email titled "working in the heat", which provides some good guidelines as to how to care for yourself. While there are several things you can do listed in this document, they all relate to attempting to cool yourself down.

Once the Inspector arrives, please cooperate with their questions and processes as they have a job to do as well. The Inspector will encourage you to go to the hospital, but the choice is yours. However, if you choose not to go to the hospital, pay could be withheld if time is missed, as there will be no medical documentation to back up your injury. What I would recommend is that if you are experiencing symptoms, which are affecting your ability to drive, it would be a good idea to get checked out as some heat related illnesses are life threatening.

Please stay cool and report incidents where your concerns are not being met, by contacting the Union office or by speaking with one of your Union reps, shop stewards or calling me at 780-717-6888.



Denise Meyer
AFL Labour Law
Review Committee
Recording Secretary

AFL Labour Law Review

I was lucky to attend the AFL Labour Review Session held at the Chateau Lacombe, July 17, 2017, which was attended by roughly 60 Trade Unionists from across Alberta. There were two very interesting and knowledgeable presenters:

1. Leanne M. Chahley, the Labour Lawyer the AFL used to develop the Labour Code Review, Employment Standards Code View.

2. Rafael Gomez, Professor at University of Toronto from College of Industrial Relations & Human Resources who worked on the overhaul of the Ontario Labour legislation.

Ms. Chahley reviewed how Bill 17 evolved from the Labour Law Review Report and what is still left to look for in future labour legislation. Pay Equity, Precarious Worker Protection, Remote Work Lite Access, Construction Industry Double Breasting and more.

Rafael Gomez spoke about the multi-level negotiations that went on to reform Ontario's Labour Law Review. Ontario has 180 Inspectors that investigate Labour Act & Employment Standards Act complaints. Of those complaints, 7 out of 10 are Employment Standards complaints. Also, a

provision stipulated the legislation can not be repealed by successive Governments. Alberta needs to hire many new Inspectors to make sure all the new legislation changes are being followed. The Labour Board is also in need of new and more members so those Trade Unionists with experience to offer should check out their web site and apply for positions.

They both spoke regarding how the work is not done as many issues are still to be resolved. Organizing is another issue that needs to be developed and done by all unions in Alberta. The more union members there are the stronger we all are. The stronger we are the better the Labour Legislation will become.





Darlene Malayko
Alberta Federation
of Labour (AFL)
Representative

Bill 17: The Fair and Family Friendly Workplace Act

The Labour Movement has something to celebrate! On June 7, 2017, the Fair and Family-friendly Workplace Act passed royal assent and became

law. This 249-page bill makes changes to the Labour Relations Code and the Alberta Employment Standards Code. Long-awaited changes, as the act had not been modernized or updated since 1988. Supreme Court decisions, workforce trends, and economic changes have made our labour laws outdated and unfair. Our labour laws had fallen behind the national standards. Alberta workers need balanced labour laws that support a strong economy.

Labour Unions, the business community, and public were asked

to participate and consult on the proposed changes. Andy Sims, a well-respected labour lawyer, was hired by the government to work on the reforms. Some think the reforms do not go far enough; while the new labour law is not radical reform, it is moderate with significant amendments. These changes will result in making life better for working Albertans. Most of the changes will come into effect [January 1, 2018](#).

To reference the entire bill, please see the Legislative Assembly of Alberta website.



Martha Martinez
Recording Secretary

Women's Caucus

Welcome to a new term for your Union. I'm Martha Martinez Recording Secretary, and Chair of the Women's Caucus, organizer of the Social Events and Canadian Regional Representative of ATU International Latino Caucus. I look forward to serving you all.

The Women's Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 18:30 at the Union hall. Our committee has grown from 5 to 12 members this year. Anyone can come join the committee at any time, therefore we encourage and look forward to having many more new members joining us to help out our community.

The current project we've been working on is making back packs filled with the essentials for the homeless shelter. We have delivered them to the Mustard Seed Society on June 22, 2017. A huge thank you to the following for all the donations: Cheryl Zelisko and DATS members for raising the most in monetary donations. And most of all to you, the members of ATU 569, that have made giving back to the



community a great start for us!!

Another great event we supported in June was the Bockman Foundation for Spinal Cord Injuries. On June 11, 2017 Joyce Mackenzie, Alex Mackenzie, dog Fudge, Lena Schendzielorz and dog



Bailey fundraised \$101,000.00 for the walk. Great job sisters, brother and doggies!!

The committee will be holding the 2nd Annual Small Business Vendors Market on Saturday November 4th, 2017. If you would like to be a part of this great event and have a small business or are talented in woodworking, painting or anything, give me a call 780-265-1022 to add you to our list or email mdmartinez043@gmail.com

We will be finishing off the year with another back-pack campaign to Laurana House and Sage - senior's emergency shelter.

We look forward to more members join us. If you have more great ideas or causes you'd like to share, come on out.

**Next Regular
Women's Caucus
Meeting
September 14, 2017
18:30 pm
Union Hall
10540 - 108 Street**



Denise Meyer
Community Service
Operator

Canadian Labour Congress Convention 2017

I am Denise Meyer, a very proud member of ATU Local #569 and equally proud member of ATU CANADA and the International Amalgamated Transit Union. I attended the CLC Convention as one of ATU CANADA & Local 569's delegates and I would like to thank you for sending me.

I am writing this article about an issue that has myself and many other Unions and Union members questioning what has happened to the **"SOLIDARITY"** in our house of labour. One of the corner stones of SOLIDARITY is **"NO RAIDING"**. The founders of the Unions present at the largest gathering of Canada's Union Family, the Canadian Labour Congress believed in "No Raiding". They would be turning in their graves if they knew how ATU Local 113 was treated by UNIFOR and the Canadian Labour Congress.

To see this key principle of Trade Unionism trampled on so easily and with not a second thought is very disturbing. Many Unions have faced fines, levies and even expulsion from Labour Councils, Federations of Labour and even the CLC itself. To have the President of CLC use the Constitution to sanction, allow and even encourage "raiding" is shameful. This is made even worse by the fact the Presidents home Union is the Union doing the "RAIDING".

Also, to challenge the Constitution of another Union in the courts is

absolutely ridiculous. Each Union is entitled to their own constitution and no other Union can challenge it. It would be like Spain challenging our Constitution the "British North America Act" ... RIDICULOUS!!! To have this sanctioned then try to stop the challenge by the CLC is RIDICULOUS!!! What are they doing????

When you accept the position of President of an organization like the CLC, a Federation of Labour or a District Labour Council your loyalty, concern and decisions are for the members not your home Union and you should act accordingly. Also, the busing in on Friday morning of delegates for the election is disgusting. Most of them were UNIFOR retirees out for a free lunch and dinner in Toronto then home. We are talking 3 bus loads not just 2 or 3 members. I think they are called ringers in sports terms.



Canadian Labour Congress
Congrès du travail du Canada

We have a fight to wage against corrupt and unethical employers. The more of our energy we spend fighting each other or fighting off our sister Unions, the less time and resources we have to fulfill our REAL mandate. Raiding is against everything we stand for and to have it condoned by the head of the Canadian Labour Congress undermines all the good this organization has done.

Also seeing that our own ATU CANADA was unable or willing to stand up against the CLC and UNIFOR both during and after the CLC Convention is also disturbing. We need to show UNIFOR and others who think they can just pick us and other Unions Locals off as and when they feel like it that we

WILL fight back. Better to go down fighting then with our heads in a bucket of sand.

Surely with only 30% or less of the work force in Canada unionized we have a lot of room to organize and grow our Unions without attacking one another. We must remain in the CLC as that is the strongest place of safety from RAIDING & Constitutional challenge we and other Unions have.

As you can see the good part of the Convention was entirely overshadowed by the anti-union actions.

The demise of the Trade Union Movement in Canada will not be at the hands of any level of government, the media, anti-union Employers, anti-union members of the public but by its own hands. Unions that have forgotten what to be a UNION means.

In closing I would like to thank everyone for their patience and time. Remind everyone:

UNITED WE STAND

DIVIDED WE FALL



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

Summer 2017 - Local in Motion

Edmonton Sikh Community Celebrates Nagar Kirtan Parade was on May 21, 2017

Submitted by
Preet Toor
Training Instructor

Nagar Kirtan is a Sikh custom involving the processional singing of holy hymns throughout a community. It is customary in the month of April, however if the weather doesn't permit, it's postponed to May. Traditionally, the procession is led by the saffron-robed 5 baptized Sikhs, who are followed by the Guru Granth Sahib, and the holy Sikh scripture—which is placed on a float. Commonly, members of the procession are unshod in deference to the displayed scripture. Likewise, many cover their heads and don the color saffron or orange. Bystanders bow their heads to the scripture. Food may be provided to them from floats that follow the Scripture or from stationary points near the vicinity of the procession.

“To Know the True Way of Life one should donate 10% of their hard earn money for less fortunes” is one of the teaching of Sikhism. We as an employee of ETS take this opportunity to feed are local food bank.

This year at Sikh Parade we collected \$870 and 2,149 pounds of food. All this was not possible without our volunteers.



Regular Membership Meeting

September 26, 2017

10:00 am & 7:00 pm

Union Hall

10540 - 108 Street

ECECAF Bursary Applications

Are available at the Union Office or visit the ECECAF website for the guidelines and application forms.

Fall (September) term applications are to be submitted between receiving marks in December and March 31

Winter (January) term applications are to be submitted after receiving marks in April and by July 31

Congratulations to the Following Retired Members Living the Dream

William Angeles - December 16/16	Gurdev Atwal - December 4/16	Brian Backstrom - August 30/17
Vern Bella - January 30/16	Garry Bercha - June 10/17	James Berg - May 13, 2017
Robert Boxall - June 30/17	Michael Carroll - January 31/17	Prtitpal Chahal - March 17/17
Anthony Charles - June 1/17	Patrick Cooper - June 1/17	Myron Cramton - June 11/17
Walter David - February 5/17	Duane Doerr - October 21/16	Wendy Doucet - February 19/17
Daniel Eaglesham - June 14/17	Gail Foster - January 20/17	Timothy Fulks - June 12/17
John Glover - January 7/17	Lyle Harlton - July 28/17	Robert Jelinski - June 2/17
Dale Johnman - early retirement	Brian Klinger - early retirement	Richard Kurtz - April 7/17
Bogdan Makowski - October 29/16	Duncan Marvin - May 12/17	Rick Mazoleski - June 7/17
Andrew Metcalfe - March 18/17	Brad Myers - February 12/17	Christopher Piggott - April 8/17
Rajiv Ranjan - July 10/17	Garry Saxby - November 26/16	Dennis Schulmeister - December 2/16
Jaroslav Skowronski - November 5/16	Maureen Stewart-Wentland March 11/17	Emmanuel Tirant - February 17/17
Geoffrey Wegrich - March 14/17	Doug Wheeler - February 22/17	Chris Whelan - July 4/17
Kenneth White - April 29/17	George Williams - April 1/17	Larry Wood - June 19/17

Now Everyday....is a Good Day!



Save the Date
Retirement Banquet
September 23 2017
Shaw Conference Centre

In Remembrance of Deceased Members

Corinna Anthony - November 8, 2016	John Kostelny - February 19, 2017
Peter Barter - March 26, 2017	Ray Kusch - March 29, 2017
Brian Bompas - March 8, 2017	Peter Marchuk - March 13, 2017
Donald Clark - June 24, 2017	Ronald Massey - October 26, 2016
Robert Cruickshank - December 23, 2016	Victor Molofy - November 2, 2016
Russell Gadbois - July 26, 2017	Joe Rajman - June 26, 2017
Hans Ginnut - October 26, 2016	John Stolniuk - January 26, 2017
Thomas Hay - March 17, 2017	Noble Thompson - December 22, 2016
Han Heiligers - March 2, 2017	Gregory Tymchuk - March 22, 2017
John Jacobsen - July 11, 2017	Edward Warry - January 2, 2017
Lois Klinger - January 7, 2017	Donna Wright - July 4, 2017