

Vice-President (Alberta and the North)
Report to National Executive – August 2014

It has been my honour to serve as the AB and the North Vice President in addition to serving as Alternate Executive Vice President during the past three year term. It has been a challenging term for the region with the workforce adjustments, introduction of union busting legislation and ongoing attacks to our collective agreement entitlements. Throughout the sustained attacks the region stayed together and grew stronger than ever.

Along with my brothers and sisters, I proudly took part in the We Are All Affected demonstration in Peter MacKay's constituency and the rally held at the Conservative Party convention. If nothing else, this government has been served notice that they will be held accountable for their actions.

The region continued the practice of holding their Council of Locals with the Saskatchewan Manitoba region holding two councils, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who had helped making them very successful events where we were able to learn, network and share leading the two regions to build a strong unified voice to address the employer.

I served as a member of the standing Finance committee with Brother Walker and Brother Turcq (Chair). Additionally I was on the Communications and Training committee with Sister Preston, Sister Lindsay and Sister Chamberlain (Chair) where we modernised the website, completed the Harassment Policy Module, introduced new PR merchandise and updated the brochures. As OPI for the DRDC portfolio and with Brother Walker at the 3rd Division (LFWA) UMCC I was able to highlight the members' workplace issues and worked towards resolving them in a manner which was satisfactory to the members involved. At each National Executive meeting during my term I have provided updates for the committees I am responsible for, these are available on the UNDE website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sister Carla Van Dyk who served as my Deputy Vice-President until she resigned in September 2012 citing personal reasons. All of Sister Van Dyk's efforts were greatly appreciated. I would like to take this opportunity to further extend my gratitude to Brother Elder, Brother Winger, Sister Westgarth, Sister Sutton, Sister Sooley and Sister Stazza. As Alternate Deputy Vice-President Brother Jason Elder assumed full responsibility of the Deputy Vice-President upon Sister Van Dyk's resignation and in coordination with Sister Della Burke, organised the selection of the UNDE Prairies Region Bargaining Team candidates. In addition to fulfilling his DVP responsibilities, Brother Elder also represented the region on the FR Wellness committee. Brother Blair Winger represented the region on the FR Steering committee. Sister Robyn Westgarth represented the region's Young Workers. Sister Deb Sutton was the region's Human Rights representative and the Secretary/Treasurer for the Council of Locals. Sister MJ Sooley is the newly elected Human Rights representative. Sister Christie Strazza is the newly elected Secretary/Treasurer for the Council of Locals. Representing the region can be an onerous task however the dedication my Brothers and Sisters presented assisted greatly in addressing the ongoing workplace issues. From the Local Executives to the general membership, this region exemplifies what it means to be a union.

I would also like to thank all the members of the National Executive for their friendship, engagement and expertise; their interest and long hours of volunteerism serve the members well. To Sister Chamberlain for her long hours in the office and managing the staff. Finally to Brother John MacLennan for his knowledge and guidance; the first National President to speak against the PSAC supplemental pension plan, his leadership at the National Board of Directors and his steady hand in guiding UNDE through difficult times when many other components have not fared well. Hope to see you all next term.

In Solidarity,
June Winger
AB & the North Vice President
Alternate Executive vice President