

Hassan Yussuf

Hassan Yussuff is used to being first.

A trailblazer in the labour movement, Yussuff was the first minority elected to an executive position of the CLC in 1999. He was also the first challenger to unseat a sitting CLC president in 2014. And, as President he was part of an effort to expand the Canadian Pension Plan for the first time in Canadian history.

Most recently, President Yussuff has been working to build solidarity between unions and refugees, discussing what being a feminist government might look like, and of course helping pave the way to the expansion of the Canada Pension Plan.

He believes that one of the fundamental challenges facing the labour movement is that labour's opponents are doing a better job at defining the movement than labour activists.

"For so long, forces that are opposed to the labour movement have been defining us and we must redefine ourselves to the Canadian public," he says.



Budget 2017-18

Good news: our 2017-18 budget is balanced. It wasn't an easy task, given the anticipated reduction in revenue and the increased cost of defending members following the provincial government's attack on public services. And yet, the Admin Committee is recommending that dues do not increase.

Secretary-Treasurer Roseann Strelezki says that for the past four years, we've been under budget.

"That's because everybody does their part," she says. "While I oversee the totals in the financial statements, I would like to thank the bargaining chairs and vice-presidents for being diligent when spending."

Thanks to yearly surpluses, SGEU has been able to pay off the mortgage on the new Regina building.

"We have no debt, and money saved for the future," Strelezki adds.

Welcome Mayor Dionne

Mayor Greg Dionne brings greetings today to the SGEU delegates on behalf of the City of Prince Albert and city council.

Elected in 2012, Mayor Dionne wanted to do away with "your worship" — so don't call him that. In 2016 he was elected on a platform of infrastructure growth, job creation, investment in sport and recreation, and the construction of a new hospital through a provincial funding model. He has overseen 40 km of paved streets in the city, and somehow didn't spend \$1.5 billion dollars doing it.

When funding for Prince Albert Mobile Crisis' gambling hotline was pulled, Dionne stressed the importance of having people available to deal with the issue locally, and said he would pursue new provincial funding for the agency. You should ask him how that's going.



Welcome to Convention

The Convention Procedures Committee (CPC) wishes to welcome all SGEU delegates, special guests, and SGEU staff to Convention 2017.

Convention is a time to come together to discuss policy, develop strategies, build relationships, share knowledge, and support one another in the critical work we do to keep the labour movement strong in Saskatchewan. It is also a time to socialize, meet like-minded people, share our concerns, debate ideas, and grow as a community.

This year's convention theme highlights the ways in which SGEU members benefit the people of Saskatchewan through our work and the many important jobs we do for our province. Think about your fellow SGEU workers across sectors and the many critical tasks we are performing every day.

It's no secret: public services and our members who deliver them are under attack. The Sask. Party government is trying to convince people that public service workers should pay the price for government's own mismanagement and waste – the shady land deals, high-priced consultants, and costly mega-projects.

We need to stand up for Saskatchewan, and tell this government to stop the drastic cutbacks and privatizations that will hurt public service workers and Saskatchewan families. There is a better way.

Delegates are invited to visit the action table. There you will find petitions, letters, posters, info about upcoming rallies, and materials for you to take back home to your community.

Women's Luncheon

Every 6 days.

That's, on average, how often a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner.

You can learn more about violence against women and the supports provided at this year's women's luncheon. Executive Director of the Prince Albert Safe Shelter for Women Carol Soles will be the guest speaker, along with Assistant Director Sherry Bates.

The Prince Albert Safe Shelter provides women and their children with a safe refuge from all types of abuse. About 7,500 women and children stay at this shelter every year.

The SGEU Women's Committee will also present Bread and Roses Awards at the luncheon. These awards recognize women who promote equality, justice, and solidarity within the labour movement, and who have been nominated by their peers.

Rumour has it that CLC President Hassan Yussuff and CLC Secretary-Treasurer Barb Byers will be in attendance. The Women's Committee will also be accepting cash donations for the Prince Albert Safe Shelter for Women.

To attend the luncheon, head on over to the Lower Grandstand at 11:55 a.m.



SGEU gets social

SGEU Convention will be using the hashtag #SGEUCon2017 on Facebook and Twitter.

By using this hashtag, SGEU members will be able to see each others' posts and interact with one another. Search #SGEUCon2017 on Facebook and Twitter to see what's going on!

Be sure to "like" the SGEU Facebook page to receive updates to your newsfeed during Convention. To follow SGEU on Twitter, search for @SGEU.

Elections

Elections will be held for the following positions:

- Secretary-Treasurer (2 year term)
- Board Trustee (2 year term)
- Board Trustee alternative (2 year term)

Cis-sexism not welcome

SGEU Convention 2016 adopted a motion to add "cis-sexism" to the Statement of Equality that is read at the beginning of SGEU meetings.

What is cis-sexism? To understand cis-sexism, we need to define cisgender. If a woman, for example, was assigned female at birth and identifies as female, she is cisgender.

Some people, however, are assigned a gender at birth and don't identify as that gender. They may be transgender or non-binary. A person who identifies as non-binary doesn't identify as male or female.

Cis-sexism, therefore, is when you assume that everyone identifies as male and female, or that everyone is cisgender, and you perpetuate this assumption in your language and beliefs.

For example, it's common for union members to greet one another as brother and sister, but not all union members identify as male or female. Some identify as non-binary, genderqueer or gender fluid, and may use gender-neutral pronouns, such as they/them/their.

Another example of cis-sexism is the assumption that reproductive rights only concern women, and that they concern *all* women – when in fact, some transgender men become pregnant and transgender women do not.