



Presidents Message

I hope that everyone is having a safe summer.

COVID-19 has changed the world we live in. I don't think any of us ever thought we would experience the changes that we have faced since the Pandemic hit. I know that most of us have remained extremely busy during these tough challenging times. Trying to balance all that is on our plate has been difficult for some. As the Pandemic continues, we will likely face more uncertainties as we transition back to work, find ways to manage our work load, family life and children returning to school.

The office staff has been kept busy working hard to make sure that the health and safety of our Members remains a priority. We have done our best to listen to Members concerns, investigate and then work with the Employers to make the changes needed so our Members are able to continue to do their jobs in a healthy and safe manner.

The Pandemic has changed how we do the business of COPE Local 397 as well. Holding face to face meetings is not possible. We have had to adjust our Bargaining meetings to be virtual meetings. All "in person" conventions, conferences and educational/training have been cancelled indefinitely. When the Pandemic hit, we had no idea how long it would go on. It is now clear that it may be a long time before we can meet again in person. We have held our Executive Board Meetings via conference calls/Zoom and on September 10th and 11th we will hold our Prairie Council Meeting via Zoom.

Prairie Council will be discussing how to move forward in communicating with the Membership, and planning how the future of our General Membership Meetings and sub-local meetings will look as well as scheduling the meetings. We want to continue with educating our Members, so we will be discussing and planning future educations and when we can start. Please watch the website and Facebook for further updates.

During these uncertain, challenging times, where we are all trying to maintain some type of new normal, I hope that you and your families are well and stay safe.

Labour Day

The first Monday of September each year we celebrate Labour Day across the Country. We pay tribute to the contributions and achievements of all workers. We reflect on the past how far we have come and the work ahead of us to achieve better working conditions and pay. We normally meet in large gatherings with barbeques, parades and gatherings to celebrate the achievements of Labour. This



year things will definitely look different. Please take some time to join in the events posted on our website and Facebook this Labour Day.

COPE Local 397 wants to wish everyone a Safe Happy Labour Day Weekend. While interprovincial travel is permitted, it is the public health's recommendation to limit interprovincial travel if possible. Please be safe! If you must travel follow the precautions, wash your hands, wear a mask and always try to maintain a safe social distance whenever possible.

Together We Are Stronger!

In Solidarity,

Kim Wilson