

Political Action Committee 2023-2024 Annual Report

From: MJ Eagleson, Chair – North Trail
Daniel Pitts, Past Chair – William D Pratt
Kyler Siemens – Deer Run
Stephanie Quesnel – Royal Oak
Katherine Clarke – CBe-learn
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Jacqueline Cameron – Area 1 Office
Carly Lutzmann – Robert Thirsk
Allison Scott Davies – District Representative
Stephani Clements – President
Kennedy Whitby – Communications Committee Liaison



Dear Members,

It has been yet another challenging year for educators across our district and the province. These challenges made it imperative for Political Action to focus their work on the engagement of teacher members, parents, community leaders and elected representatives. The committee is grateful for all of the support we have received from member reps, teacher/leader members and Executive.

Over the course of the last school year there have been many areas the Political Action Committee focused on. The political landscape continues to evolve and as a result so too did our committee's plan for engagement and advocacy. The committee continued to focus on building member and community engagement in support of public education. Much of this work was to connect with teachers in order to highlight and share current learning and teaching conditions in our classrooms. As a committee, we are proud of the initiatives, campaigns, and events we were able to bring to Local 38 members.

The year began with a Fall collaboration meeting between Political Action Committee members from Calgary Public Teachers Local 38, Calgary Separate Local 55, Rockyview Local 35, and Foothills Local 16. This collaboration meeting provided an opportunity for our locals to come together and to continue to work collaboratively in a shared direction.

In November, the committee reached out to Calgary MLAs with an invitation to meet during constituency week. Political representatives from across party lines came together in person at our Local's office and met with Local 38 and Local 35 Executive and Political Action committee members to share stories about classroom conditions and desperately needed student support. The committee continued to reach out to representatives throughout the year. In April and early May, PAC members engaged in several online meetings with each of the NDP Leadership candidates. These meetings once again highlighted the need for members to share stories from their classrooms and working conditions as many of the candidates highlighted and/or referenced these stories in their campaign material and talking points. Finally, near the end of June, the Local President and Chair of Political Action will be meeting with the Minister of Education to highlight current learning conditions and challenges facing Calgary teachers and students.

Beginning in February, PAC embarked on their third political postcard campaign. For this year's campaign the committee chose a report card style format that provided members with the opportunity to grade and offer feedback to Alberta Education and the Education Minister. With the help of CSR reps, members were provided postcards and once completed these were forwarded to

the Minister at the Legislature in Edmonton. Engaging with elected representatives at all levels of government, as well as encouraging members to do the same, continues to be a core practice of the committee's work.

Political Action is proud to have held two Politics and Pints member engagement events this year, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. The committee also hosted a screening of "A Backpack Full of Cash," for members and members of parent councils. A big thank you to all members able to attend and join in conversation surrounding political advocacy and public education. Events such as these build capacity and confidence in members when speaking to the challenges currently facing students and teachers. It has also allowed for the building of community connections through collaboration with local Calgary businesses as hosts of these events.

In the Spring, PAC created a subcommittee focused on community engagement for public education. This subcommittee looked into the possibility of creating large community signs to highlight the importance of public schools and their roles in building strong communities. These signs were designed in house and nine (9) of them will be strategically placed in communities around Calgary during the month June. The committee will review the success of this campaign when we come back together in the Fall to see how we can use campaigns like these to engage the public at large.

Once again this year, the committee released a Class Size survey in early April. A big thank you to all who completed the survey. It remains critical to have this data in order to accurately reflect the conditions within the average CBE classroom. This data will be used by the committee in an upcoming Fall campaign.

One of the most critical elements of this report is "where do we go from here?" At the time of writing this report Central Table Bargaining is beginning. Currently issues facing students, teachers, and classrooms are hard to ignore. Member engagement will be crucial to ensuring that teachers and their classrooms are adequately supported so that all students across the province have equitable access to quality public education. The issues and challenges facing public education need to be addressed by the UCP Government and it is up to all of us to advocate on behalf of our students and each other.

Thank you to all members that have reached out, participated in our committee events, and campaigns. We are grateful for your support and we look forward to all the great advocacy that lies ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

MJ Eagleson, Chair
Political Action Committee

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