

## Political Action Committee 2022-2023 Annual Report

**From:**

Mari-Jane Eagleson, Chair – Thomas B Riley  
Daniel Pitts, Past Chair – William D Pratt  
Kyler Siemens – West Dover  
Stephanie Quesnel – Royal Oak  
Cody Anderson – Valley Creek  
Dean Kokonas - Lester B Pearson  
Jacqueline Cameron - William D Pratt  
Carly Lutzmann - Robert Thirsk  
Kathy Hoehn – District Representative  
Stephani Clements – President  
Kennedy Whitby – Communications Committee Liaison



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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, with the most obvious being at the forefront of our work, the provincial election in May 2023. The political landscape continued to evolve throughout much of the school year, and as a result so too did our committee's plan for engagement and advocacy. Much of the committee's initial focus was on building member and community engagement in support of public education and to 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 both Local 38 members as well as the public at large.

The year began with a summer collaboration meeting between political action committee and communication committee members from Calgary Public Teachers Local 38, Calgary Separate Local 55, Rocky View Local 35, Foothills Local 16, and Christ the Redeemer Local 29. This initial collaboration meeting set the tone and direction for the committee's work in the fall. The main focus of the committee through September and October was around the 'Stand For Education' Rally in Edmonton. This was an important first event that brought together all education stakeholders to share stories, build awareness of the challenges facing public education, and to stand together as a provincial association. Approximately 4000+ teachers, students, parents and education stakeholders attended the 'Stand For Education' rally on Saturday October 22 including many members from our Local.

In November, the committee reached out to MLAs with an invitation to meet during constituency week. Political representatives from across party lines met with teacher members and members of the committee to share stories about classroom conditions and desperately needed student support. The committee continued outreach to elected officials through a postcard campaign in December that allowed members to share what students in their schools needed in order to be successful. With the help of CSR reps, members

were provided postcards and once completed these were forwarded to appropriate constituency offices for MLAs to read. 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.

The new year brought more collaboration opportunities between Calgary District Locals 38 and 55, as well as with surrounding Locals. The committee, along with Provincial ATA, hosted two community engagement round table discussions in which members of the public could engage in conversation about their hopes for the future of public education in Alberta. Round table discussions provided an opportunity to connect with community members, parents, and elected officials. The committee also began a second postcard campaign designed specifically to engage members of the parent community and parent councils. Much like the member postcard campaign and the help of CSR reps, parent councils from across our school district were provided an opportunity to share what they believed was necessary for their child to be successful in school this year with the elected representative in their constituency. Connecting and working together with parents and community members will continue to be a focus of next year's work.

Political Action is proud to have held two *Politics and Pints* member engagement events in the Spring. 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.

Once again, this year, the committee released a *Class Size Survey* in early March. A big thank you to all who completed the survey. Currently the committee is collaborating with the Communications Data team to analyze this year's data and cross-reference it with the previous years. It remains critical to have this data in order to accurately reflect the conditions within the average CBE classroom. We hope to present this information next year during CSR.

Our final election engagement opportunity came through a digital "*Get out the Vote*" campaign to encourage all members to vote. Throughout the year, the committee has continued to build a digital presence by working with our Communications Committee liaison. Providing members, a variety of ways to be politically active and engage, including digital campaigns, will continue to be an area of focus for the committee as we move forward.

One of the most critical elements of this report is "where do we go from here?" At the time of writing this report the Alberta 2023 provincial election results are unknown. Regardless of who sits in the seat of government the issues facing students, teachers, and classrooms will be hard to ignore. Public and member support and engagement will be crucial to ensuring that all students across the province have equitable access to quality public education. The outcome of this election will likely inform the direction of the committee's advocacy for the upcoming year. Again, regardless of who sits in the seat of government in this province, education needs to be addressed 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 outreach, events, and campaigns. We're grateful for your support and we look forward to all the great advocacy that lies ahead.

Respectfully submitted,  
MJ Eagleson  
Political Action Committee Chair

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