



Karen Caig
1st Vice President

Jay Thompson
Local President

Jim Connelly
Financial Secretary

Political action report

Jan 27th 2018

Sisters and Brothers

Lets begin with Alberta politics

Jason Kenny won the seat in the Dec 14th by-election so now he has a seat in the legislature, So it should be an interesting spring /Summer session The UCP has also made up there suggested policies to be voted on at there convention in May of this year, Some of the suggested policies are bring back the 10% flat tax which will greatly benefit income earners of \$200.000 a year but won't help out the lower wage earners, privatization of some health services, reducing and privatizing the Alberta educational system, and "making Alberta like it was under the Klein era" and we all know how well that turned out?

In more positive news Alberta's unemployment rate has dropped from 8.5% to 6.9%, which is the highest in Canada, According to Stats can there has been a 7.4 % increase in people coming to Alberta to work,

New labour laws have come into effect as of Jan 1st that takes some power away from employers and gives it back to the workers where it should be! The consensus is that we are coming out of the recession and Alberta is leading the country in Jobs, growth, and migration

The oil industry unfortunately is not coming back as quickly as some would like it but slow steady long-term growth is better than the boom and bust cycle that Alberta does consistently

There has been a huge debate on minimum wage in Canada this year; Alberta's minimum wage will increase to \$15. Dollars an hour in October of 2018, Ontario increased their minimum wage as of January 1st 2018 and the backlash has been huge! Numerous Tim Horton's have reduced or taken away what little benefits there employees have to maximize profits! Some stores in Ontario have sent out a letter threatening there "benefits" if they vote for the current government, Rallies have been organized all over Canada protesting there practices, If you wish to get involved There is an online petition That will be sent to Tim Horton's head office to protest the labour bashing that some franchisee's have been doing to there employees,

I think this is an opportune time to start organizing Tim Horton's employees so they have some protection, and protected rights!



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In Federal politics

Trudeau is the first sitting Prime Minister to have been found in violation of ethics when he took his vacation on an island owned by the Aga Khan who also receives millions of dollars in grants from the Canadian government, I'm sure it will be good fodder for the opposition once parliament resumes on January 29th

NAFTA talks have not been going well and the consensus is the Donald Trump is going to pull the plug on it, if that happens economists predict it will hurt the Canadian economy but not decimate it as some have predicted, the hardest hit would be the auto and agriculture industry which combined trades approx. 150 billion dollars per year between Canada and the U.S., Economists are being cautious in their predictions however due to if NAFTA does get pulled what will replace it? There are so many variables in place that to make an accurate prediction is very difficult,

Marijuana legislation is making its way through the system for its legalization in July of this year police forces across Canada are worried because currently there is no way to test for roadside cannabis impairment, however police have had to deal with this issue for years and there are avenues that they can take, 24 hour suspension, suspicion of intoxication etc.,

The federal government has also agreed to split the revenue from cannabis sales to 75/25% between the provinces for two years, when it will be renegotiated,

Cannabis sales are expected to bring in 1-3 billion dollars per year depending on whom you talk to, but since it's such a new market time will tell.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a Happy new year's and it's going to be an exciting year to look forward to

I move my report