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*1st Vice President*

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Brothers and Sisters

At the beginning of October I was fortunate enough to attend UNIFORS very first political action conference in Port Elgin, Aptly named "from resistance to power" It was a very educational few days with workshops on how to become more politically active, how to organize a rally, how to contact your MLA or politician. Some of the speakers their were Jerry Dias Talking about NAFTA, Desmond Cole a Toronto based journalist and activist for racial equality talking about "carding" and racial profiling, Zack Oxley The past senior advisor to Bernie Sanders for president campaign, Discussing how to do large organizing!

After the conference I attended the UNIFOR Foundations course the following week this is a four-week course for members who are interested in becoming more politically active, Municipally, Provincially, and Federally. The course goes into more detail on what tools to use to become an politically active member, We also participated in the "take back the night" march at the Saugheen 1<sup>st</sup> nations reserve to honor murdered and missing indigenous woman it was a very somber ceremony with almost 150 people attending, I hope to be attending the final two UNIFOR foundations course's in the spring so that I may receive my certificate as a political activist.

Calgary and Edmonton had there Municipal elections last week Edmonton's incumbent mayor Don Iverson came away with a landslide victory, Calgary's election was a little closer The incumbent Naheed Nenshi won with an approx. 10,000 vote lead over Bill Smith, It was a nasty campaign from both sides as issues such as racism, donors, name calling etc. were front and center, I am very proud to say that 58% of eligible voters in Calgary showed up to cast there vote it is the best voter turnout in over 40 years much better than the dismal 32% that voted in the last election. I am very happy that people may actually be starting to care about who is running their government,

On the federal front is NAFTA. Concerns are being raised that Donald Trump wants to scrap the whole thing, which would cause economic Chaos in all three countries, But the interesting thing is that the US would be hurt the most because regardless of what Trump says they benefit the most currently. Kudos to the current federal government for standing up for Canada and not letting the US walk all over us.

The UCP leadership l election is next Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup> and the two front runners are still Jason Kenney and Brian Jean the allegations that both are throwing out at each other, the nastiness of both campaigns it will be interesting to see what happens when or if either becomes leader of the UCP?

In closing the provincial election is two years away and if anyone is interested in becoming a political activist please come see, or email me and lets get involved!!

I move my report



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Steve Heatherington

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