

RECAP DAY 2 • March 20, 2019

THE LAST THING OUR ECONOMY NEEDS RIGHT NOW IS JASON KENNEY

Alberta Federation of Labour President Gil McGowan spent the morning arming delegates with information to share with family, friends and neighbours during this election.

McGowan took members through Kenney's falsehoods, shattering each one as he went. From blaming Alberta's economic woes on Rachel Notley—when in fact oil prices have dropped in all jurisdictions, not just in Alberta, to declaring the \$15 minimum wage a job killer in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, McGowan underscored the importance of re-electing Rachel Notley and the NDP.

Jason Kenney has said he'd cut corporate taxes by 33 per cent to spur investment, but investment is down not because of tax rates or policies but because of low oil prices. "Corporate tax cuts result in less revenue for governments to pay for things that ordinary people rely on like education, health care, and other important public services," said McGowan.



He told delegates that if they are feeling anxious about oil and gas, their anxiety is justified because Alberta is not experiencing another boom/bust cycle. "We're witnessing nothing short of a fundamental transformation of the global oil and gas economy that culminates in a move away from fossil fuel."

He said that sooner or later the world will want less of what Alberta is selling. "These are irrevocable, global and foundational changes beyond the control of any Alberta government, any Canadian government."

"When Jason Kenney denies that these changes are happening and tells you that we can get by doing business as usual, that's a lie," said McGowan. Quoting Wayne Gretsky, McGowan said that you don't win games by skating to where the puck has been, but to where the puck will be.

The Notley government, on the other hand, is responding to the changing economic landscape by investing in diversification so we don't have all our economic eggs in one basket, investing in things like infrastructure, education, and public services so that our citizens and our businesses can become more resilient to a changing economy.

...over

DAY 3

March 21, 2019

9:30 am

CUPE National President Mark Hancock

10:00 am

**Alberta Minister of Environment
Honourable Shannon Phillips**

11:00 am

Elections

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE SHARES STORY OF 'CRAZY' CAREER

There *is* life after a diagnosis of psychosis and bipolar disorder, the CUPE Alberta convention in Lethbridge heard Wednesday.

“Recovery is possible,” said actor and playwright Victoria Maxwell, who performed her one-woman show, ‘Funny, You Don’t Look Crazy,’ to the annual meeting of union members.

At turns funny and poignant, the play is the story of Maxwell’s own roller-coaster journey of the ups and downs of bipolar disorder, and her path from denial to success. Her own 18-month recovery included periods of feeling like she would never get married, never have children, and spend the rest of her life living with her parents.

“I’m standing here today because of people like you,” said Maxwell. “People who take an interest in creating equal workplaces, and an interest in understanding mental illness and mental health so that you can make it better for your Brothers and Sisters.”

Today, married with no children by choice, she is a successful actor and playwright whose sense of humour is alive and well. “And I have a career, ironically, that I’d never have had, if I had not gone crazy in the first place.”



THANK YOU, SISTER ROBERTS!

“We’re going to miss the hell out of her.”

– CUPE National President Mark Hancock

CUPE ALBERTA MEMBERS SHARE THOUGHTS ON POLITICAL ACTION



Jagdishwar Singh

CUPE 474
Residential Aide

“We have seen Jason Kenney putting out lies, after lies, after lies. I always tell members, friends, and anybody I can talk to that he is not the right person to vote for – otherwise we’ll end up in the ditch. I see a bright future with the NDP. This government has done a lot for the health care sector.”



Elaine Banbridge

CUPE 2545
Student Information System

“Public education is dependent on funding. We’ve had new schools open in the last few years which is great because there’s lots of up-and-coming little ones.

I will be involved with the local NDP in Fort MacMurray – get a sign on the front lawn and I’ll promote as much as I can.”



Kim Storebo

CUPE 1846
Canadian Blood Services

“CUPE lobbied to stop a plasma resources company from coming into Alberta because the blood wasn’t going to hospital patients in Canada. It would be sold overseas for profit. The NDP government understood that blood services must be public and withheld a license.”

Canadian Union of Professional Employees
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