

# From The Hall

## I.B.E.W. Local 2067

Newsletter #11 / March 20, 2019

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Brothers and Sisters,

In late February of 2019 it was reported that the Saskatchewan Equivalency Agreement on extending coal fired power generation was likely to be pushed back. It was hoped that the agreement would be signed in March, but it is more likely that the agreement will be pushed back until April or May of 2019.

The terms of the agreement were agreed to and published in the Canada Gazette on Dec. 29, 2018. That began a 60-day public comment period. The provincial government approved the Minister of Environment, Dustin Duncan, to sign the agreement on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. The Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, also received federal approval to sign. However, the signing is subject to a new 60-day public comment period, as the government was looking for more public input than they had previously received.

On February 27, 2019, representatives from IBEW and UMWA met with the federal minister's office. The meeting had a dual purpose; to provide our support for the signing of the Equivalency Agreement, and also to point out that even with agreement on equivalency there would still be substantial uncertainty around the viability of coal fired generation past 2022, due to the impact of the current carbon pricing regulations.

It is projected that the potential costs will be \$623 million by 2022 based on the declining threshold for coal. The threshold will be around 650 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> per gigawatt hour, a 250% increase from the rates set for April 1, 2019.

Coal fired generation is a vital part of the industry we represent and we have a large portion of our membership working in the industry. We will work closely with our friends in labour and make every effort to lobby the provincial and federal governments to ensure the transition to cleaner energy through advancements in carbon capture as well as other reduction methods as opposed to the purchase of energy from 3<sup>rd</sup> party companies.

Please see the attachment that further explains the Equivalency Agreement as well as the federal and provincial regulations on carbon pricing. The attachment contains links to the various government documents which provide more detail.

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