



# CONNECTED

IUOE 955 email update curated by Business Manager, Chris Flett  
[linktr.ee/iuoe955](https://linktr.ee/iuoe955)

## UNION DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

You can claim the total amount you paid in union dues on your 2024 taxes!

IUOE 955 union dues receipts for the 2024 tax year will be mailed out Feb. 17 to Feb. 21, 2025, so please ensure your current contact info is in with the union hall so we can get them to you.

To update info, please call: **780-483-0955** and speak with union administration.

### IUOE 955 VISITS CUPE SUPPORT STAFF ON LEGAL STRIKE IN EDMONTON



### WE'RE OFF AND RUNNING!

The first month of the new year has proven to be just as exciting and busy as the last 12 months were, with a lot on the go both here and with our International out of Washington D.C.

In mid-January, we welcomed John Downey as our new General President.



Downey was unanimously elected to his new position at the union's annual winter meeting in Florida, and we look forward to working with him and his team in the months to come.

A bit more on that, and much more in this issue of Connected, including an awesome Member Spotlight, a charitable donation that hits close to home and province-wide ACOA bargaining meetings that bring out hundreds of members united in getting an agreement that reflects their worth, and nothing less.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and that your 2025 has left the starting gate hard, ready to take on whatever challenges and successes this year may bring.

IUOE 955 Business Agents, Delanee Daviau and Ryan Ermet delivered some warm Tim Hortons to CUPE Alberta educational support staff out on legal strike action Jan. 14 in Edmonton.

The dispute has seen some dramatic moments, with substitute teachers used to scab support staff work and the resignation of Trisha Estabrooks, Trustee with Edmonton Public Schools.

As of press time, bargaining remains at an impasse as these working Albertans continue to hold the line, standing up for a fair agreement that treats them with the value and respect they deserve in a time of ever-rising costs.

CUPE school support staff in both Edmonton and Fort McMurray have taken job action over the last few months.

Visit: [alberta.cupe.ca](https://alberta.cupe.ca) for the latest.



## GIVING BACK IN THE MAG!

IUOE 955 Business Agent, Luke Shea and Organizer, Josh Ward braved some -30C weather in Fort McMurray in early January to deliver bags of clothing, winter coats and warm Tim Hortons to our friends at Centre of Hope!

The Centre of Hope is located in the heart of downtown Fort McMurray. It is a daytime drop-in centre for those living in homelessness in the municipality. Practicing from a client centered approach, their goal is to assist individuals in moving forward toward self-sufficiency in their lives.

IUOE 955 is proud to give back to the communities we live and work in,

## HALF A CENTURY OF UNION LOYALTY



A very big congratulations to long-time IUOE 955er, Robert Kobel, who received his 50-year long service award in December in Calgary from Southern District Supervisor, Rod Sedrovic.

What an incredible milestone. Thank you for your service and dedication, Robert!

Know a member who should be featured in IUOE 955's Connected, and on our social media? Email us!

[connected@oe955.com](mailto:connected@oe955.com)

**GOOD JOB!**

## CRANE BARGAINING MEMBERS OUT IN FULL FORCE!



At the end of January, the IUOE 955, Alberta Crane Owners Association bargaining committee toured the province to provide in-person updates on ACOA bargaining, and to discuss potential next steps.

One thing from the committee was clear: they will not accept an agreement that undervalues the good and important work members do, every single day.

We are all united in doing what it takes to get that agreement.

Thank you to the hundreds who showed up in Fort McMurray, Edmonton and Calgary for these important meetings.

This is what solidarity looks like. Stay tuned for more.



## CONGRATS, NEW GENERAL PRESIDENT DOWNEY

On Jan. 20, the IUOE General Executive Board unanimously elected Fourteenth International Vice President, John Downey, a member of IUOE Local 542, as the union's new General President.

All of us at IUOE Local 955 are excited to work with General President, Downey and his administration to continue the incredibly good working relationship we've developed with the International over the past several years.

We look forward to hosting Mr. Downey and his team to Alberta as he settles into his new position over the next few months.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - BROTHER, MARK SMALL

Join us in giving a huge IUOE 955 shout out to 7-year member and HEO from Fort McMurray, Mark Small.

While his name may be Small, his heart and attitude is anything but.

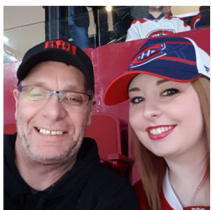
Mark's spent his entire career on the union side, working on numerous oilsands sites - from Suncor Base Plant to Syncrude Aurora and Fort Hills - holding multiple Job Steward titles.

Mark's dedication to the union and its members hasn't slowed down, even throughout his ongoing battle with cancer.

Mark was first diagnosed in 2018, then again in 2019, 2022 and 2024. He is currently battling his fifth diagnosis of prostate cancer.

But Mark still manages to show up to help his union whenever he can, including at IUOE 955 events like this summer's Family Fun Days and our first ever Show and Shine in September. He was even out pounding the pavement informing the community about our "Stop The Wage Theft" campaign last spring.

Mark, you're the definition of a warrior, a gentleman and a true union brother. It's an honour to have you in the 955 family.





## STOLLERY DONATION WILL ALSO HELP ONE OF OUR OWN

IUOE 955 Business Agent, Trevor Hansen and Executive Assistant, Ashley Berg delivered a cheque for \$4,900 to Stollery Children's Hospital on Jan. 23, which members collectively donated during last year's Long-Service Awards and "Holiday Pics with Old Saint Nick."

While 955 has proudly given to the Stollery for many years, this donation hits different.

Hansen's daughter, Ava, is currently undergoing treatment at the hospital for leukemia, which she has been fighting with bravery and might since last summer.

Ava, you got this. The entire IUOE family here and across North America is behind you.

Those interested in helping the Stollery do the good work they do can visit: [stollerykids.com/donate](http://stollerykids.com/donate)

## APPLY NOW! NB COUTTS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD - DEADLINE, AUG. 22

The NB Coutts Scholarship Award Program will begin May 1, 2025. All documents must be official transcripts by the post-secondary or high school the applicant last attended.

Apply here: [oe955.com/our-union/scholarships-bursaries/](http://oe955.com/our-union/scholarships-bursaries/)

Scholarships may be awarded to students who are members or dependents of a member in good standing with the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 955.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- The total amount of each scholarship is \$5,000 to be paid over two consecutive years of academic study, in increments of \$2,500 per year. Recipients will receive \$2,500 in the first year and \$2,500 in the second consecutive year, while attending a full-time program at an accredited post-secondary institution.
- To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must provide IUOE 955 with: the N.B. Coutts Scholarship Application form, official transcripts of the most recent year of study including proof of satisfactory academic standing (High School Grades or GPA Score), confirmation of enrolment and course load list for the subsequent year of studies
- The minimum course load must be 80% of a "full course" load as defined by the institution and indicated on the course load transcript or confirmation of enrolment

### High School Applicants:

- High school transcript is required (core subjects are English, Math, Social Studies and one Science)
- Post-secondary transcripts including course load information
- Second instalment requirements: Applicants will need to resubmit the N.B. Coutts Scholarship Application form, confirmation of enrolment transcripts, previous year's marks, and upcoming course load

**Deadline to apply is August 22nd, 2025.**