

Weekly Round-Up January 25 – January 31

Political Round-Up

Independent arbitrator awards 1% raise to GOA members

Independent arbitrator awards 1% raise to AHS GSS members

Independent arbitrator awards no wage raise to AHS NC members

Government Seeks Independent Partners to Provide Surgeries

On January 31, the government announced the [next step in privatizing more surgeries](#).

Government's Blue Ribbon Panel

The Government has used the "independent" work of the MacKinnon Blue Ribbon Panel as justification for their current agenda of funding cuts and attrition-based FTE cuts in the public sector. However, this week it was [exposed as having received their speaking notes and print editorials straight from Premier Kenney's office](#).

- "The heavily redacted documents, obtained through the Freedom of Information process, show that the government wrote speaking notes and an opinion piece for MacKinnon."

Government hosts Budget Telephone Town Halls

The government hosted two budget telephone town halls this week.

- Finance Minister Toews stuck to a rigid key message: balance the budget.
- Toews insisted the government is not concerned with how it collects revenue.
- Toews repeatedly referenced the "independent" work of the MacKinnon Panel as justification for "spending restraint."
- When asked about the upcoming rounds of **collective bargaining**, Toews repeated that there are no provisions in the government's long-term fiscal plan for any public sector wage increases. He stressed the government has been transparent about this plan.

More Changes to AISH Coming

The government is [making changes to AISH and Income Support payments](#).

Job Losses

*As of January 31, 2020, we have been notified of the following job losses.
Since January 24, 2020, we have been notified of 3 new job losses for members*.*

University of Lethbridge

Four vacant AUPE positions eliminated: maintenance worker III, systems support specialist II, technical specialist I, fine arts technician III.

Alberta Innovates

Last year, 48 members at Alberta Innovates received layoff notices. AUPE agreed at the employer's request to extend the notice period so that the members wouldn't be getting layoff notices just prior to Christmas; their final day worked was January 23.

University of Calgary

In early November, the Board announced they were cutting 250 positions (150 FTEs, of which 100 are expected to be AUPE members).

One temporary term position in Finance/Research Accounting.

Last week: Forty-four Permanent FTE reductions.

Government of Alberta

Employer informed AUPE that 2,500 bargaining unit positions will be eliminated between April, 2020 and April, 2023.

Service Alberta

This week, [26 NON-AUPE IT managers were laid off from Service Alberta.](#)

Alberta Health Services

Employer informed AUPE that they intend to cut 2,000 to 3,000 GSS FTEs between April, 2020 and April, 2023 and up to 400 Nursing Care FTEs beginning April 1, 2020.

Reduction of 4 Permanent FTEs in the Food Production Centre (054/009)

Bow Valley College

***This week:** Reduction of three permanent FTEs in Learner Success Services.

Wage Rollbacks

Bargaining tables where the employer is or will consider tabling wage rollbacks of -2%:

Government of Alberta
University of Lethbridge
Athabasca University
Alberta Health Services/Nursing Care
Alberta Health Services/General Support Staff
Alberta University of the Arts
Lethbridge College

Carewest Nursing Care
Carewest General Support Staff
Alberta Pension Services Corporation (APS)
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)
Medicine Hat College
Covenant Health – St. Therese Villa
Canterbury Foundation
SAIT
***AGLC**
Bow Valley College

EVENT ROUND-UP

Rallies and events you don't want to miss! (January 31 – February 7)
There are no events scheduled for the upcoming week.

CHECK OUT

Fill out AUPE's working short [survey](#)
[Report rumours or signs of privatization on your worksite.](#)
[Nominations for this year's Dove Award open until Feb. 12](#)
[Nominations for the Rolyn Sumlak award open until March 1](#)
[Send a letter to the Justice Minister asking him to reverse the Legal Aid cuts](#)
[The Salvation Army Grace Manor has come to a tentative agreement.](#)
[Hardisty Care Centre ratifies their tentative agreement.](#)
[AGLC wage re-opener talks begin with employer proposing rollbacks.](#)