



## President's Message

### Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Friends

The second half of 2025 was busy, challenging, and meaningful.

What stands out most is this: when workers needed support, labour showed up. Affiliates gave their time, their energy, and their resources to back each other and to stay visible in our community.

This newsletter is a snapshot of that work. It is also a reminder of what we are capable of when we support each other.

**In solidarity,  
Omer Hussein**

*President, Wood Buffalo & District Labour Council*



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY – DECEMBER, 2025

### I. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach remains one of the strongest pillars of the Labour Council's work. Our focus continues to be on visibility, accessibility, and building trust beyond traditional union spaces.

#### Labour Day BBQ

Our Labour Day BBQ was once again the largest labour event in the region. More than 2,000 families attended, with nearly all affiliates participating through tents, volunteers, and activities.

Lions Park was filled with union flags, shirts, and banners, making labour visible, welcoming, and impossible to miss.

This event continues to be a cornerstone of our community outreach and a clear example of what affiliates can achieve when we show up together.



CANADA DAY, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, MORE





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY – DECEMBER, 2025

## I. COMMUNITY OUTREACH



### Canada Day Parade

Labour showed up loud and proud at the Canada Day Parade, with more than 20 union members marching together and representation from over 10 unions. Joined by provincial labour leaders and community allies, our message reached more than 20,000 residents lining Clearwater Drive. Fort McMurray is a union town, and the community saw it.

### Youth and Family Engagement

WBDLC continued investing in youth and family focused programming, including a successful youth basketball tournament that brought together dozens of local kids and families. These events reinforce that labour is not only about workplaces, but about community.



### Truth and Reconciliation Day of Remembrance

WBDLC participated in the Truth and Reconciliation Day of Remembrance, taking time to honour survivors, remember the children who never came home, and acknowledge the ongoing impacts of residential schools. As a labour council, we recognize that reconciliation is an ongoing responsibility, grounded in education, reflection, and action.



### Thanksgiving Community Lunch

WBDLC continued our Thanksgiving tradition by hosting a community lunch at the Centre of Hope. We believe everyone deserves a Thanksgiving dinner, especially those facing hardship. Union volunteers came together to prepare and serve meals, creating a welcoming space rooted in dignity, care, and solidarity.

### Remembrance Day

WBDLC participated in Remembrance Day by laying a wreath in honour of those who served and sacrificed. As a labour council, we believe remembering their service is part of our responsibility to the community and a reflection of the values of solidarity, respect, and peace.



### Holiday Community Care

As the year wrapped up, WBDLC supported a Christmas meal for out of scope hospital workers, recognizing the essential work done every day. Labour also participated in the Christmas Parade, maintaining visibility during the holiday season and identifying opportunities to strengthen affiliate participation in future years.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY – DECEMBER, 2025

### II. LABOUR IN ACTION

The second half of 2025 brought continued challenges across education, health care, public services, and communications. **When workers needed support, the Labour Council showed up.**

WBDLC stood with teachers during their month long strike, which affected more than 800 educators in our region. We showed solidarity by attending rallies and strike walks and by maintaining a visible presence alongside them. With the support of our affiliates, we raised close to 5,000 dollars to help support teachers during the strike.

The Council also stood with AUPE members, including 200 LPNs and HCAs in our community, as they fought for a fair contract.

This solidarity reflects the strength of the labour movement in Wood Buffalo. When workers take action, they do not stand alone. As bargaining pressures continue into 2026, the Council remains committed to standing with workers before, during, and after job action.



### III. POLITICAL ACTION

**The Political Action Committee played a key role throughout the second half of the year.**

#### Municipal Election Engagement

PAC led a coordinated labour strategy for the 2025 municipal elections. This included candidate questionnaires, endorsements of labour friendly candidates, door knocking, voter engagement, and QR code voter registration.

These efforts resulted in multiple endorsed candidates being elected to municipal council and school boards, demonstrating the strength of organized labour at the local level.





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY – DECEMBER, 2025

## IV. BUILDING CAPACITY

**The Council continued investing in long term capacity, not just short term action.**

### Youth Advisory Committee

WBDLC formally launched a Youth Advisory Committee, creating space for young workers and students to engage in advocacy, civic participation, mentorship, and skills development. This work helps build the next generation of labour leaders in Wood Buffalo.

### Leadership Development

WBDLC invested in executive development by sponsoring Sister Rhonda Breen to attend the Alberta Federation of Labour Winter Labour School. This strengthens our leadership capacity and ensures the Council remains informed, confident, and prepared to support workers and affiliates across the region.

### Financial Stability

The Council maintained strong financial health throughout the period, with dedicated funds in place for strike support, community outreach, and long term initiatives. This stability allows WBDLC to respond quickly and confidently when workers need support.

## V. BY THE NUMBERS

**20,000+**  
people reached at  
public events

**2000+**  
families attended  
the Labour Day BBQ

**One** Youth Advisory  
Committee launched

**Multiple** labour endorsed  
candidates elected

**800+**  
teachers supported  
during their strike

**\$5000**  
raised in strike  
support

**100+**  
youth engaged through  
sports programming

Nearly **all affiliates** participated  
in major outreach activities

## LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into 2026, the Wood Buffalo and District Labour Council remains focused on deepening youth engagement, expanding community and Indigenous partnerships, preparing for provincial political action, strengthening rapid response strike support, and continuing visible, values driven labour leadership in our region.





## Get Involved!

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM at Unifor 707A

Want to help? Email [wbdlc@gmail.com](mailto:wbdlc@gmail.com)

Follow us on social media!

Visit our website at [woodbuffalolabour.ca](http://woodbuffalolabour.ca)

Together, we're building worker power in Wood Buffalo!

