

Executive
Elections

April 10,
2021

11am-5pm

• Voting at Union Office (back entrance) 18121 107 Ave. • Advance

Polls

Elect
Chris Pilgrim

March 31,
2021

7am-7pm

for 2nd Vice President (EMPP)

Empower, Organize, Resist

Canadian Union of Postal Workers Local 730

Edmonton, AB



**“I’m willing
to put in
the work,
and to
bridge
the gap”**

My name is Chris Pilgrim and I’m running to be your 2nd Vice President (EMPP) of Local 730. I’ve been a postal worker for 14 years and have held many positions including Letter Carrier and Mail Service Courier. I’m currently a PO4 in the EMPP on Shift 1, where I serve the membership as a Chief Shop Steward.

During my time with CUPW, I, like many of you, have been through 4 bad contracts and legislated back to work twice. After our last lockout, something inside me changed and I took action. Knowing I wanted to be a part of the solution, I started attending GMMs and learned the inner workings of our local.

Inspired to help, I seized every opportunity I could. In short order, I completed the Basic Shop Steward course, the Taking Back Our Workfloor class, and the Advanced

Steward course. I immediately became an active steward on my shift, honing my organizing skills regularly on the workforce. By the time I was in my advanced training, I was simultaneously attending 1st level grievance hearings. Since then I’ve skillfully represented EMPP concerns on annual shift bid, vacation board, and rotation of duties consults.

***“I want to be part
of the solution”***

I’m an active member of our Communications, Bylaw, and Trustee Committees. I’m also an elected delegate to our next CUPW Regional Prairie Conference to finalize our negotiation demand resolutions, as well as the upcoming Alberta Federation of Labour convention. It’s important that our delegates are working closely with our local and are willing to share their knowledge; I can be that strong voice for our EMPP members.

When COVID 19 hit, knowing that online resources would play a vital role in communicating with our membership, I happily stepped up to share my computer skills and help our current President, Roland Schmidt, to completely revamp and brand our website. Since then, traffic has risen to nearly 1000 unique, monthly visitors. Easy access to information empowers our members and makes our local stronger -- and I’m very proud of my part in building this resource!

I’m running for 2nd Vice President because I know I can make a difference in the lives of my Brothers, Sisters, and Cousins. My track record proves that I’m willing to put in the work, and to bridge the gap between the executive and the workforce. Unity, though sometimes hard-won, is the only way we will see the changes we want.



Here's what others are saying about Chris Pilgrim and his work

Two years ago, our local struggled getting members out to meetings, recruiting new activists, or mounting any kind of fight against CPC. Brother Pilgrim embodies the new direction our local has embraced since. Every opportunity we've provided, he's answered the call. He helps any member seeking it, attends every meeting, serves on numerous committees, grinds out countless grievance hearings and consults, and somehow still finds the time to grow the website he's built for our local.

What impresses me most is Chris' instinct to always share knowledge and welcome others into the struggle. I know I speak for most of my Exec colleagues when I say Chris is by far the better choice to continue empowering and organizing our members in the EMPP as we move into negotiations.

If you support any of our efforts to strengthen this local, know that Chris has been with us each step of the way.

**Roland Schmidt, CUPW 730,
Local President**

I am pleased to endorse Brother Chris Pilgrim for the position of Vice President 2. Since the pandemic hit us last year, Chris has been active in communicating to our office on various topics of concern. Whenever he reaches out for information he shows a willingness to learn and to guide the members on the work floor with the correct factual information. There are more than a handful of members who feel the need to continue their work by contacting me on a regular basis. Chris is one of those members and that clearly has shown the need for our local to lead in a collective fight to protect our membership and the values of our collective agreement. As I visited various sites pre-pandemic it was clear the membership was yearning for a more organized approach to matters.

Our local has been strengthened by members like Chris Pilgrim and his addition to the executive will help move us forward with new ideas and the ability to respectfully debate matters as needed. There were those that chose not to help our local and the actions and words of those members shows a clear misdirection. Chris chose very early on to get on board with concentrated effort to strengthen our local by involving himself to protect the membership correctly. Our union will be strengthened with his presence on the executive.

Rashpal Sehmy, CUPW 730, Health & Safety Officer

I've worked with Brother Chris Pilgrim via the Communications Committee for two years. In that time, the pandemic made digital communication more essential, and Chris' contributions to our committee and local have been truly indispensable.

While working tirelessly with our President to rebrand and rebuild our website, Chris stepped into the long vacant Shift 3 EMPP Chief Shop Steward role taking immediate action to resolve a contentious shift bid, helping create four more full-time jobs in the process. He's always there for members, no matter how much time he donates to our newsletter, organizing chat groups, and serving on the bylaw and trustee committees.

Moving forward, Chris will bring his insights as an EMPP activist to be a delegate at both our Regional Prairie conference and the upcoming AFL convention.

I know Chris to be a thoughtful, grounded, and affable human - qualities which will make him an effective and approachable member of our executive as we work to mobilize our membership for upcoming negotiations.

Natasha Fryzuk, CUPW 730, Communications Chair



Chris (centre row, 2d from left) at the Workfloor Organizer course