

District 4 TBU South Vice President Year End Report - 2020 AGM

Jake Loof

The year behind us has been an incredible journey. It has tested us personally, professionally and as an organization. Even as this report is written the challenge continues. In the years to come, I'm sure this year will be looked on by many as a year for the ages, we came together to tackle challenge after challenge. I have been inspired by the work of members and executive to organize and stand in solidarity.

It was clear after the turmoil of last spring that the fall and winter were going to be difficult. The government's strategy of saving money by undermining education was not going to occur without a fight from all educators. We stood for education, the kids, our peers and fought to maintain our ability to do our jobs at a high level. We built solidarity in our bargaining unit, with educators from the other affiliates and most importantly we connected with the community. We stood against a crazy student to teacher ratio and mandatory e-learning. The community clearly and consistently showed their support. I am proud to have stood beside each of you.

As we all know, a more important issue emerged. The Covid-19 pandemic challenged us in a way none of us expected. The response by teachers however should not have been unexpected or a surprise to anyone. We stepped up to bring emergency learning to the kids in this province. Our professionalism and compassion for the kids, their families and our communities are again on display. I am proud to stand as a teacher with my fellow educators.

It has been a tough year, we have carried ourselves well through it all. There are those that have come to believe the negative spin that successive governments have leveled against us. I believe that this year has shown our doubters that we are highly professional, caring people dedicated to the kids and the communities we serve.

I would like to thank the executive, Parker and Glen for their support and guidance this past year. A big thanks to the membership for your energy and commitment to each other and to education. It has been an honour and privilege to serve.

Sincerely,

Jake Loof