

ELECTIONS – PRAIRIE COUNCIL

COPE Local 397 Constitution Article 12.2.1 recognizes the following units who shall have representation at the Prairie Council table:

Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI):

Kindersley	1 member
Lloydminster/Meadow Lake	1 member
Moose Jaw	1 member
North Battleford	1 member
Prince Albert	1 member
Regina – Branches	2 members
Regina – Head Office	3 members
Saskatoon	2 members
Swift Current	1 member
Tisdale	1 member
Weyburn/Estevan	1 member
Winnipeg	1 member
Yorkton	1 member

NDP Provincial Office	1 member
NDP Caucus Office	1 member
NDP Constituency Assistants	1 member
Calgary Unit	1 member
University of Regina Faculty Association	1 member
Rural Municipality of Alexander	1 member

As outlined in the COPE Local 397 Constitution, Article 12.5 Elections to Prairie Council guidelines to elect a Prairie Council member are as follows:

12.5 *Elections to Prairie Council*

12.5.1 *The Prairie Council members of the various units, including an alternate from each unit, shall be elected by a plurality vote, by a method approved by the Prairie Council, to be held amongst the active members of the Unit or Sub-Local; there shall be no voting by proxy.*

12.5.2 *The election for each Prairie Council member shall be held in December or January and shall be for a two (2) year term. Notice of the election is to be posted in the Units for at least five (5) working days.*

a) *Effective the election following the ratification of this constitution, Prairie Council term of office shall be a two (2) year term.*

12.5.3 *Each Unit shall select an Election Board charged with the duty of conducting the election of the Unit Representative. The Election Board shall have the duty of enforcing the right of members to vote. In case of any difficulties the may refer the case to the Executive Board for decision or guidance.*

12.5.4 Results of the election for Prairie Council member and alternate shall be transmitted to the Local office within ten (10) working days of the election.

PURPOSE

To clarify who may vote for each of the units and outline what type of campaigning for the Prairie Council position may occur.

PROCEDURE

1. At the beginning of each new term for a Prairie Council from the identified Unit(s) listed above, a notice must be placed in prominent view of the Membership alerting them of an opportunity to become the Prairie Council Member to represent that particular unit.
2. For SGI Regina Branches and SGI Head Office where there are two or more Prairie Council Members to be elected, the vote will be held at a Special General Membership meeting to be called in the month of January of the New Year.
3. Nominee names can be emailed to the Union Office at cope397@sasktel.net.
4. The person nominating the person shall copy the nominee at the same time of notifying the Union Office.
5. Nominees may:
 - a. put their own name forward to be considered for election to the position.
 - i. A nominated person retains the right to refuse and must do so within five working days of being nominated.
 - ii. If declining the nomination, the refusing nominee must notify the Union Office by email of their decision within the five working days as noted in i. above.
6. If more nominees have been nominated than the number of seats available, the SGI Regina Branches and/or SGI Head Office elections will take place at the January meeting.
 - The Saskatoon elections will take place at their Sub-Local meetings at the first available meeting in the New Year.
7. Nominees will not have the floor at the General Membership meeting to canvas or campaign regarding the Prairie Council seat. Any awareness of the person running for the seat should have been done on the nominee's own time on a coffee break or lunch hour to advise the potential voters as to the reason why they make the best candidate for the position.
8. Only SGI Branch members can vote for SGI Branch Prairie Council nominees. Conversely, only SGI Head Office Members can vote for SGI Head Office Council nominees.
 - a. The vote will take place by secret ballot.
 - b. The Executive Board table shall appoint two (2) ballot persons, who will:
 - i. distribute ballots containing each candidate's name and a check box,

- ii. collect the marked ballots,
 - iii. count the marked ballots,
 - iv. determine the candidate with the most votes, and
 - v. promptly gather the marked ballots and place them back in the container used to collect them.
9. The candidate with the most votes shall be declared the elected representative to the Prairie Council.
10. The number of votes received by each candidate will not be revealed to the elected Prairie Council or the candidates.
11. Upon a motion to destroy the ballots, the ballots shall be destroyed.