

WELCOME TO THE FIRST WORKER AGENDA TOWN HALL!



YOUR HOSTS



GIL MCGOWAN
PRESIDENT



CORI LONGO
SECRETARY TREASURER

ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR

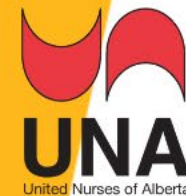
What is the Worker Agenda?

It's a campaign aimed at encouraging Alberta workers to embrace their power... and use that power to transform the political landscape in Alberta!



Who's behind the Worker Agenda?

Workers like you!

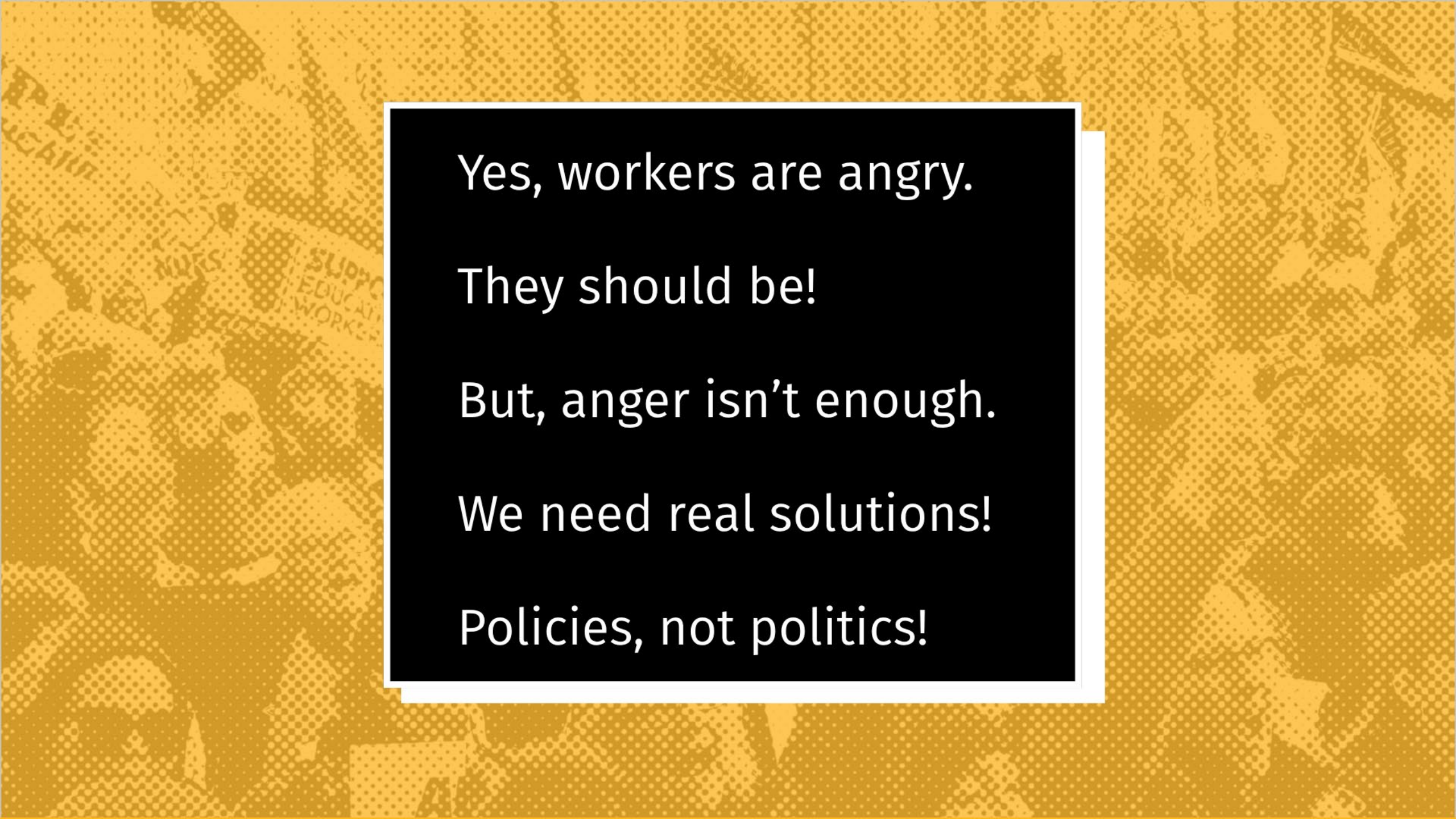


Why has the AFL launched the Worker Agenda?

Politicians are making a play for working class support.

Let's make them earn it!



The background is a vibrant yellow-orange color with a dense halftone dot pattern. Overlaid on this are various faded, semi-transparent images of protest signs and banners. Some of the visible text on the signs includes "LEARN", "SUPPORT EDUCATION WORKERS", and "WOMEN'S RIGHTS".

Yes, workers are angry.

They should be!

But, anger isn't enough.

We need real solutions!

Policies, not politics!

That's what the Worker Agenda is all about!

We want to make the Worker Agenda so popular that our leaders have no choice but to make it the ACTUAL agenda for our province!

THE WORKER AGENDA HAS 7 CHAPTERS

Each chapter corresponds to a major area of concern identified by our members

And each chapter identifies a number of policies designed to actually address those concerns

These are NOT radical ideas... they are policies that have been successfully implemented in jurisdictions across Canada and/or around the world

THE SEVEN CHAPTERS

1. WAGES
2. AFFORDABILITY
3. JOBS AND THE ECONOMY
4. PUBLIC SERVICES
5. HEALTH AND SAFETY
6. DEMOCRACY
7. TAXES AND ROYALTIES

Why now?

Election is coming

General election

Recalls

Snap election





Let's challenge our politicians to
give us something to vote FOR, not
just something to vote AGAINST!

**EACH TOWN HALL WILL FOCUS ON
ONE CHAPTER AND ITS POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS**



TONIGHT'S FOCUS WILL BE...

AFFORDABILITY



CONTEXT



OVERALL INFLATION



CBC

NEWS

Sections

Calgary

Inflation continues to cool in Alberta but is still the highest in the country

Calgary and Edmonton had highest rates compared to other major urban centres

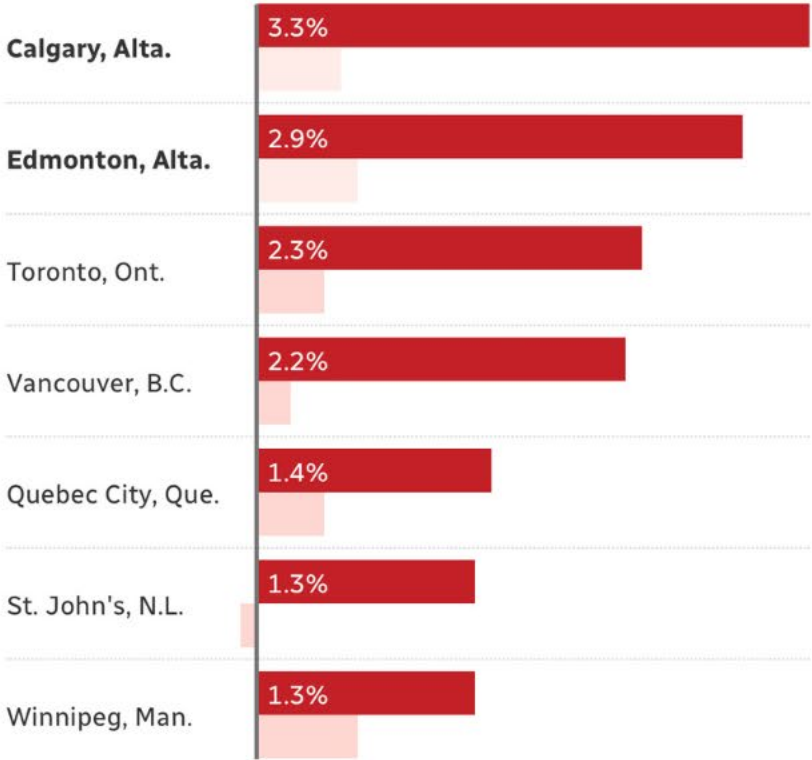
 Kylee Pedersen · CBC News ·
Posted: Nov 19, 2024 6:46 PM MST | Last Updated: November 19, 2024



Inflation rates in some major Canadian cities

The inflation rates in major Canadian cities with the largest, and smallest, year-over-year changes.

■ Oct. 2023 to Oct. 2024 increase ■ Sept. 2024 Oct. 2024 increase



City	Oct. 2023 to Oct. 2024 increase	Sept. 2024 Oct. 2024 increase
Calgary, Alta.	3.3%	1.4%
Edmonton, Alta.	2.9%	1.3%
Toronto, Ont.	2.3%	1.3%
Vancouver, B.C.	2.2%	1.3%
Quebec City, Que.	1.4%	1.3%
St. John's, N.L.	1.3%	1.3%
Winnipeg, Man.	1.3%	1.3%

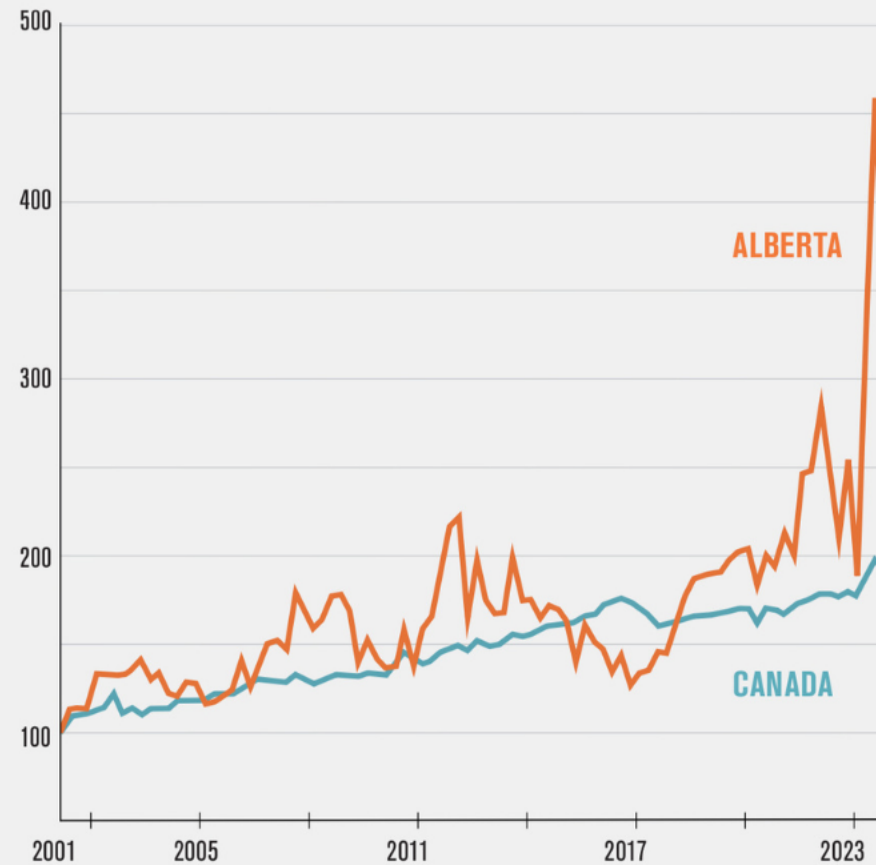
Source: [Statistics Canada](#) (Dayne Patterson/CBC)

POWER PRICES



VOLATILE PRICES

In the 24 years (2001–2025) since Alberta deregulated its power sector, electricity prices in Alberta have been as much as five times higher than in the rest of Canada, and significantly more volatile.



AUTO INSURANCE PREMIUMS





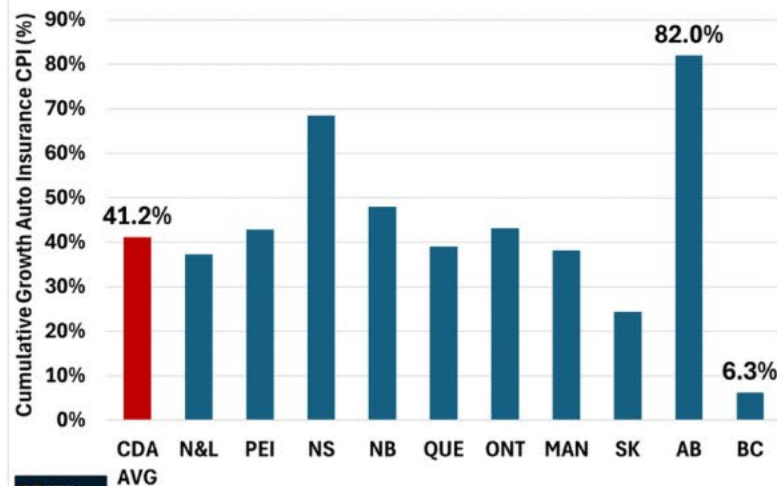
Jim Stanford

@JimboStanford

X.com

Just renewed my [#ICBC](#) car insurance for a year, cost me all of \$1477. That's \$80 cheaper than last year, which was cheaper than the year before. Public auto insurance is a wonderful thing! Here's the 10-yr change in auto insurance costs by province from StatsCan. [#bcpoli](#) [#cdnpoli](#)

Change in Private Car Insurance CPI, 2015-25



Source: Centre for Future Work from Statistics Canada Table 18-10-0004-01, 10-year chg to Sept.2025.

Auto insurance premiums by province (Canada) 2024



Provinces

British Columbia - BC

Alberta - AB

Saskatchewan - SK

Manitoba - MB

Ontario - ON

New Brunswick - NB

Prince Edward Island - PEI

Newfoundland & Labrador - NL



CHECK-IN

Who has a personal story about auto insurance premiums or power prices?



FOOD PRICES



As of July 2025, Canadians were paying 27.1% more for groceries than in July 2020

In Alberta, food costs were up 35% in the same period

Causes: supply chain disruptions; climate change and extreme weather; higher input costs (especially transportation); and PRICE GOUGING



FUEL PRICES



The increase in fuel prices alone caused 43% of all consumer price inflation in Canada from January 2021 to June 2022.

Total extra cost per house, 2020-2024 = \$12,007

Shifts in supply/demand had little to do with it – the real cause was price gouging

Source: Counting the Costs: Impact of the 2022 Oil Price Shock on Canadian Consumer and Workers





CHECK-IN

Who has a personal story about food prices or fuel prices?

APARTMENT RENTS



Alberta saw apartment rental prices increase by 16.8% in 2022 and 15.6% in 2023 – the fastest increases in Canada

Even higher in some towns (Fort McLeod 37% in 2024; Valleyview and Vulcan 35% and 31% respectively)

Rental prices softening lately, but still much higher than they were five years ago



HOUSING PRICES



Alberta's average home price is \$502,063 – significantly lower than Ontario and BC (though they can be higher in certain markets)

However, wages have not kept up with housing prices





Canada's House-Price Growth Vs Wage Growth: A Historical Look (1981- 2025)

Canada's House-Price Growth
Vs Wage Growth: A Historical
Look (1981-2025) Coldwell
Banker report



“If you've felt like buying a home in Canada has gotten harder over the years, you're not imagining things. The gap between what homes cost and what people earn has stretched wider than at almost any point in modern history.”

“The relationship between house prices and wages in Canada has fundamentally changed since 1981. We've gone from a market where homes cost 3-4 times annual income... to one where homes cost 7-10 times income...”

CHECK-IN

Who has a personal story about rental rates or house prices and mortgages?



THE WORKER AGENDA FOR AFFORDABILITY

- Public auto insurance
- Re-regulate power
- Public grocery option and price controls for staple grocery items
- Excess profits tax to discourage price gouging (at the pump and in grocery stores)
- Rent controls
- Public housing authority



OTHER WORKER AGENDA POLICIES FOR AFFORDABILITY

- Full implementation of universal public child care, pharmacare, and dental care
- Say “no” to leaving the Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Supplemental Alberta pension plan (on top of CPP, not instead of it)
- Make public transit free



CHECK-IN

What do you think of the Worker Agenda policies on affordability?

Why do you think our politicians and political parties are NOT offering these solutions?

What would YOU be willing to do to help popularize these ideas?

What could WE do to help you get the word out?



THE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS HAS TWO SIDES...

COSTS

WAGES



THE WORKER AGENDA ON WAGES

- Make wage growth an explicit priority for government
- Set a target: everyone's wages keep up with inflation
- Enhance worker bargaining power
- Pre-distribution instead of re-distribution



WORKER AGENDA WAGE POLICIES

- \$20 minimum wage
- 40-hour work week
- Make it easier to join unions (single-step certification)
- Make it easier to negotiate collective agreements (sectoral bargaining)
- Pay equity legislation
- Gig Workers Bill of Rights
- Eliminate UCP Overtime (OT) rules
- Get rid of “double-breasting” in construction
- Protect, and enhance, the right to strike



Who has the power?

In October, 2025, Alberta labour force = 2,836,800

Only 9 per cent of those are self-employed or business owners

91 per cent are employees i.e., workers (about 2.5 million)



**How many people voted in the last
Alberta election (2023)?**

1,777,321



FINAL CHECK-IN

What did you think of this town hall?

What do you think of the Worker Agenda?



THANK YOU!



WW WORKER
AGENDA

The logo features a stylized 'WW' on the left, where the second 'W' contains a black silhouette of a raised fist. To the right, the word 'WORKER' is written in white, with the 'O' replaced by a stylized globe icon. Below 'WORKER', the word 'AGENDA' is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The entire graphic is set against a dark grey background with a halftone dot pattern and faint, larger-scale patterns.

W **WORKER** **AGENDA**



**Join the Worker Agenda
WhatsApp Chat!**



Sign Up to Get Involved!