



Gil McGowan, President Alberta Federation of Labour

Gil McGowan was recently re-elected to his fourth term as president of the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL), Alberta's largest union organization, representing more than 145,000 workers in both the public and private sectors.

Raised in rural north-central Alberta, McGowan received degrees from both the University of Alberta in Edmonton (Bachelor of Arts in History) and Carleton University in Ottawa (Master of Journalism) before embarking on a career in journalism.

McGowan then worked for the Alberta labour movement as a researcher, communications officer and community organizer for a decade before being first elected as AFL president in 2005.

As a union staff member and communications coordinator for the group Friends of Medicare, McGowan helped lead the broad public opposition to privatization in Alberta's health care system.

As president of the AFL, McGowan has presided over the substantial growth of his organization and has been instrumental in putting many important issues on the agenda for public discussion in Alberta, including workplace safety, the use (and abuse) of temporary foreign workers and the loss of jobs due to the increasing export of raw bitumen (as opposed to creating value-added jobs in the province by doing the upgrading and refining here).

McGowan is the author of several award-winning studies on the Alberta economy including *Crumbs From the Table*, *Missing Out on the Boom* and *Lost Down the Pipeline*. He appears regularly in the Alberta media as a spokesperson for labour issues and is a frequent author of guest columns in Alberta's major newspapers.

McGowan is a member of the Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP) Local 445. He lives in Edmonton with his wife and three children.