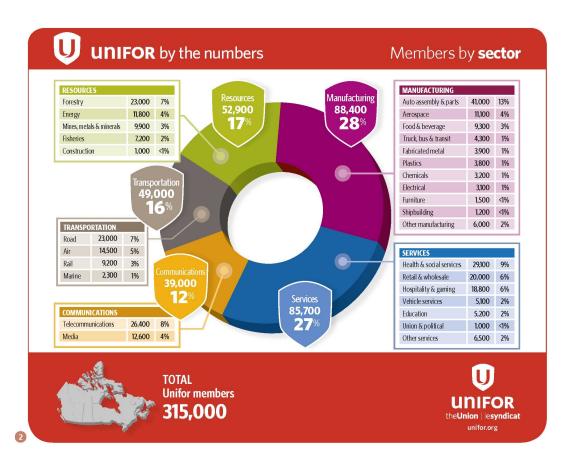
Essential Public Services,
Essential Workers' Health:
Union-based Initiatives to Protect the Mental
Health of Young Public Transport Workers
Unifor Road Transportation Council

Krista Lee Hanson May 17, 2023



Unifor

Unifor is Canada's largest private sector union representing 315,000 workers, from every sector of the economy, coast to coast to coast.



Existing Structural Supports

National Level

Constitution

Regional/Provincial Level

Regional Bylaws

Local Level

National Constitution & Local Bylaws

Constitution – Canada Council

The Canadian Council shall establish Standing Committees with respect to Women, Aboriginal and Workers of Colour, Young Workers, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues (LGBT), Workers with Disabilities, Health and Safety and Environment (HSE), Political Action and other Committees as determined by the Executive of the Council. These committees will be composed of representatives of the respective standing committees of the regional and Quebec Councils. The process for selecting additional members to the Standing Committees shall be described in the By-Laws. The selection of members to the Standing Committees on Women, Aboriginal and Workers of Colour, Young Workers, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues (LGBT) and Workers with Disabilities, shall include a provision for peer election.

Constitution – Provincial Level

Each Regional Council and the Quebec Council will establish standing committees with respect to Women, Aboriginal and Workers of Colour, Young Workers, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Workers (LGBT), Workers with Disabilities, Health, Safety and the Environment (HSE), Political Action, Employee and Family Assistance Program Committee (EFAP) and other committees as determined by the Executive of the Council

Provincial Standing Committees

Letters & Resources for Mental Health Awareness Week







https://www.unifor.org/news/all-news/support-mental-health-awareness-may

Constitution – Local Level

- 1.A Local Union should establish the following Standing Committees:
- Constitution and By-Laws
- Education
- Environment
- Recreation
- Community Services
- Human Rights
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Workers (LGBT)
- Aboriginal and Workers of Colour
- Workers with Disabilities
- Union in Politics
- Women's
- Young Workers
- Health and Safety
- Employee and Family Assistance Program Committee (EFAP)

Social Opportunities











Education:



- Stand alone 1 day
- Part of every educational
- Stand Alone Materials



Mental Health

200 minutes



Session Objectives

Our mental health session is intended to:

- open up some dialogue about mental health in the workplace;
- learn about tools and resources to support our members;
- provide some skill building active listening and making referrals;
- review our obligations and responsibilities as reps;
- collectively develop action plans to scenarios.

UNIFOR Education

Mental Health Matters

This is an important program for union representatives and local union officers who want to learn how to support and represent members who are dealing with mental illness, including addiction. The program will provide a foundation to better understand mental illness and will engage participants in how to effectively refer members to appropriate services. Participants will learn about the duty to accommodate as it applies to workers with mental illness, including dependency issues, and the rights and duties that apply to the employer, the union, and the individual worker.

We will look where improvements can be made to collective agreement language to support members when they are at their most vulnerable and discuss ways in which to shift from a culture of fear and avoidance to a culture of empathy and true solidarity in our workplaces.

We will tackle issues that are complex and often uncomfortable, but this program aims to navigate participants through this tough topic and supply the tools required for their role in the union.

Program Duration

1 Day

Bargaining Language

- Model language for Mental Health Reps
- Paid Mandatory training
- Model language for benefits



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