

Membership Rights

Unifor is Your Union and You Have Rights!

An informed and active membership is the foundation of a democratic and dynamic trade union.

Unifor's foremost priority is to advance the interests of its current members and to assist prospective members to organize new bargaining units. In addition, the Union will open its membership to a broader range of working people including those who cannot feasibly organize a bargaining unit.

Rights and Responsibilities of Members

- Members are entitled to share equally in governing Unifor. Subject to the distinctions and rules set out in the Unifor Constitution, each member in good standing has the right to run for office, to nominate and vote in free and fair elections.
- Members have the right to fully participate in the democratic debate and decisions of the appropriate body or structure of which they are a member or a delegate. All members have the right to free speech including the right to criticize the policies or governance of the union.
- Members have the right to participate in the union free of harassment and the national union shall have an effective anti-harassment policy.
- Members have the right to fair and reasonable consideration of their individual interests and concerns when collective decisions are made.
- Members have the right to a review of any decision which they believe adversely affects them, as set out in the Constitution.
- Members shall uphold the democratic decisions and rules of the union, pay dues and fulfill obligations in the Constitution, and respect the provisions of their freely negotiated collective agreements.
- Members shall support the solidarity and the collective actions of the union in collective bargaining, and in its efforts to protect the jobs of members.
- Any member who is elected or appointed to represent other members or participate in the administration or governance of the union shall defend the Constitution and organizational integrity of the union.

Unions are democratic organizations - you have the right to elect your Local president and other local union and workplace representatives, including your bargaining committee.



Membership Rights

As a member you also have the final say to vote on your contract after it is negotiated.

Make sure to participate - it's your democratic right as a union member.

Most local unions hold regular monthly meetings that are open to all members to attend. This is a great way to find out what the union is doing and find something that interests you.

Come out to a meeting and get involved with your Local. We are stronger when we work together!

The national union will supply members with a Unifor membership card.

If you do not receive one, request a card today! Email communications@unifor.org to request your card.

Dues

Trade unions in Canada play a unique and exceptional role in the progress towards social justice. Only trade unions are self-funding working class organizations which express the interests and hopes of working people and their families. Our work and struggle requires resources; dues payments create the resources we need to move forward.

Every member in your Local pays dues, an amount of money collected to assist in meeting the needs of the Local and the national union. Although you may only see one deduction for union dues on your pay stub, the funds you provide go towards your Local and to the national. As outlined in our Constitution, national union dues will be 0.735 per cent of a worker's regular wages with respect to regularly scheduled hours as defined by the collective agreement in place..

Regional Council or Quebec Council dues are set at 0.0135 per cent.

Local Union dues are fixed at a minimum of the level set at Unifor's Founding Convention. By a majority vote of the members of your Local, a Local Union may set Local Union dues higher or lower, however Local Union dues cannot be reduced to lower than 0.6015 per cent of regular wages.

Funds are important to the union: this is how Unifor has resources to represent and defend members, do vital political action and lobbying work, and fund national union programs.