

## UPCOMING EVENTS

You can also check into [unifor.org/events](http://unifor.org/events) for upcoming events.

Day of Pink : February 28

International Women's Day:  
March 8

International Day for  
the Elimination of Racial  
Discrimination: March 21

Transgender Day of  
Visibility: March 31

Aboriginal & Workers of  
Colour Week One course:  
March 4 - March 9 2018,  
or May 6 - May 11, 2018  
Port Elgin, ON.

Learn more at [unifor.org/education](http://unifor.org/education)

## PRIDE IN ACTION

### Years later, blood ban persists

Did you know that men who have sex with men are still banned from blood donation in Canada unless they are abstinent from sexual activity for one year?

More than two years after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came into office and promised to scrap the discriminatory blood ban policy, it is still in place.

Canada's blood donor policy should be based on science, not homophobic and transphobic stereotypes that have been thoroughly disproven.

In 2018, Unifor's LGBTQ Committee will be renewing the fight to end the ban once and for all. Regional reps are meeting in February to establish a campaign plan, and will need your support and your activism to make a difference.

Progress happens when we organize for change. Visit [unifor.org/pride](http://unifor.org/pride) to stay connected, or contact your local LGBTQ committee.

## PRIDE IN PRACTICE

### Pharmacare saves LGBTQ lives

Canada is the only country with a universal health care program that does not include a universal prescription drug plan. Instead, there are a patchwork of insurance providers, resulting in the second highest drug costs globally, right behind the United States.

Universal pharmacare is an LGBTQ issue. A national pharmacare plan will make a life-saving difference for many LGBTQ people and our families. It will make hormone therapies, anti-retroviral and other treatment for HIV-positive people, PrEP and other medicine accessible without prohibitive financial barriers.

"Healthcare is a right, but access to necessary prescription drugs is still often limited by a person's financial means," said Jerry Dias, Unifor National President. "By fighting to make universal pharmacare a reality, we can help those most in need."

Unifor is uniting with labour and community partners to make universal pharmacare and access to drugs a reality in Canada.

For more information, and to take action, visit [unifor.org/pharmacare](http://unifor.org/pharmacare).



## STAY CONNECTED

Read even more Pride in  
Print online at:  
[unifor.org/pride](http://unifor.org/pride).

Stay connected between  
issues:

 /UniforCanada  
 @UnifortheUnion

# Activism starts with organizing

Grassroots organizing helps establish the foundation of strong local unions. Local organizing is how LGBTQ members can win equity, safety and respect at work.

Here is just one example of activists working to create safe, inclusive space in their local. The Local 2002 LGBTQ Committee met in person for the first time on November 29, 2017. The local represents airlines workers across all 10 provinces and Yukon Territory. The committee currently consists of 12 passionate members who came together from coast to coast.

“Having a face-to-face meeting was very beneficial in building LGBTQ solidarity,” said Kevork Vahedjian, chairperson of the committee. “We are grateful for the full support

received from the Local 2002 executive.”

The goal of Local 2002’s committee is to make all its LGBTQ members feel accepted, respected and safe by educating and creating bridges for equality and equity.

Vahedjian notes that the committee also organizes online over email, and communicates through regular conference calls. A local or committee of any size can use these tools to start, or continue their organizing.

By using these digital and in-person organizing spaces, the Local 2002 committee determined 2018 goals for their activism and advocacy. In 2018 the committee plans to reach out to the LGBTQ members, form local sub-committees, incorporate some of the National LGBTQ 3-year strategic



plan into the committee and advocate for additional causes that affect the LGBTQ communities.

Creating the space to have conversations between LGBTQ members can lead to goal-setting and actions. Ask the Unifor LGBTQ staff liaison, Kellie Scanlan for help at [pride@unifor.org](mailto:pride@unifor.org) or find your regional representatives at [unifor.org/pride](http://unifor.org/pride).

If you have a story of your own local action, tell us so we can share it too!

# Let's end bullying.

## February 28, 2018

#Unifor

#PinkShirtDay

Reach out to the **LGBTQ staff liaison** to get involved in Pride committees or campaigns. Contact Kellie Scanlan at [pride@unifor.org](mailto:pride@unifor.org).