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*National Secretary-Treasurer*  
*Secrétaire-trésorier national*

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March 7, 2018

**To: Unifor Local Union Presidents, Recording Secretaries, Unit Chairpersons, Human Rights Committees, AWOC Committees/Caucuses**

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## **Unifor Aboriginal & Workers of Colour Conference**

***Resistance, Reckoning and Reconciliation: Changing the World Through Activism***

**June 15-17, 2018 - Unifor Family Education Centre in Port Elgin**

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Greetings!

Unifor Aboriginal & Workers of Colour Standing Committee has been actively working to advance racial justice and equality in both our workplaces and our communities. Through member and public education, political advocacy, and supporting our partners and allies across Canada, we have worked hard to ensure that equity, anti-racism, and social justice continue to act as the guiding principles of the union.

However, like you, we are gravely concerned about the wave of racist, Islamophobic and anti-Semitic incidents witnessed across Canada. We know that issues of racism and systemic discrimination have never truly disappeared. Yet, emboldened in part by outspoken right-wing populist leaders, we are seeing an increase in the attacks on Indigenous Peoples, people of colour, and hate crimes based on religion, but as well, organized white supremacist and nationalist groups are re-emerging to spread hatred and violence.

From the shocking deaths of six Canadian men killed in a shooting at a mosque in Quebec City; the murder of Colten Boushie, a young Indigenous man in Saskatchewan; increasing racist harassment and attacks on our city streets; ongoing anti-black racism and racial profiling of youth by police, and watching groups that are actively rallying against immigrants and refugees, we know these are issues that impact not only Aboriginal and Workers of Colour, but everyone from coast to coast to coast.

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In light of these events, this year's conference will engage Aboriginal and Workers of Colour in Unifor in an open discussion about the role of our union in combatting racism to discuss how we can forge better alliances with activists and organizations that are already leading the fight against racial and religious intolerance.

Recognizing that we must, as a group, have concrete strategies and tools to fight back and to seek true reconciliation, this year's conference theme ***"Resistance, Reckoning and Reconciliation: Changing the World Through Activism"***.

Join us, to engage in creative workshops, cultural activities, networking opportunities and challenging discussion about reconciliation and justice in our workplaces, and our union. We will also hear an update from the Equity Audit Report Advisory Panel and the recommendations to be sent to the Canadian Council this August.

The conference will provide a safe space for members to share strategies and skills, and solidify confidence to continue the fight for justice in the workplaces and in the communities.

Last year we had close to two hundred participants and it's our hope, that with your help, we will have many more in attendance this June. Our union's commitment to the principles of human rights and equality can only be met with the enthusiastic participation and involvement of our leadership and activists. Please ensure women and young ***Aboriginal & Workers of Colour*** activists are in your delegation.

Please make every effort to send delegates (leadership, political activists and benefit representatives) to this important conference.

#### **Conference Hours**

The conference begins at 7:00 p.m. ET on Friday, June 15 and ends at 12:00 p.m. ET on Sunday, June 17, 2018. Registration will take place on Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET.

#### **Logistical Details:**

- Accommodation check-in begins at 3:00 p.m. ET on Friday, June 15, 2018.
- Registration begins at 4:00 p.m. ET.
- Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. ET in the dining room
- **The plenary session commences at 7:00 p.m. ET Friday**
- Late room check-in, after 6:00 p.m. ET is available by pressing the "maintenance buzzer" outside the main administration office front doors.
- Check-out time is 11:00 a.m. ET on Sunday. Please check-out at the main administration office before attending the conference session. Any telephone charges are to be paid at that time.

**Grey Bruce Airbus** arrangements can be made directly: 1-800-361-0393 or 1-519-389-4433 for delegates who require transportation to and from Toronto Pearson airport.

**You will need to fully complete and submit the following forms:**

- ✓ **Reservation Form and payment** (for on-site accommodations or meal package if staying off-site) email: [confcentre@unifor.org](mailto:confcentre@unifor.org), Fax to Reservations 519-389-3222 or Mail to Unifor Family Education Centre.
- ✓ **Childcare forms** (one per child, if childcare is required) Email: [fecchildcare@unifor.org](mailto:fecchildcare@unifor.org) or Fax to Laurie Wright – Unifor Childcare Port Elgin 519-389-3544.

**CHILD CARE**

Child care is available for children 0 – 12 years of age, of eligible delegates during the conference hours only, if numbers permit. Delegates will be eligible for child care providing they are a single parent, or a parent not accompanied by a spouse or companion. Where both parents are registered delegates, they will also qualify for child care. Child care registration forms are enclosed. Please make your child care reservations as early as possible.

**Reservation and Childcare Deadline are both May 14, 2018**

**RESERVATION & REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE**

Payment of **\$60.00** is required for the conference kit materials. (By separate cheque made payable to Unifor Family Education Centre).

**ACCOMMODATION FEES**

**All rates quoted are based on two (2) nights accommodation at the Unifor Family Education Centre, beginning with dinner on Friday, up to and including lunch on Sunday.**

<b>Shared Room with another delegate</b>	<b>\$370.00</b>
<b>Single Room with Spouse or child age 17+</b>	<b>\$620.00</b>
<b>Single Room</b>	<b>\$520.00</b>
<b>Children, age 12-16</b>	<b>\$50.00 per child</b>
<b>Children, 11 or younger</b>	<b>No Charge</b>

If rates are being paid by the INDIVIDUAL rather than the local or organization, please contact the Unifor Family Education Centre Reception at 1-800-265-3735 or (519)389-3221. Taxes will be applicable. The delegate can provide a personal Visa, American Express or MasterCard for the family charges. The prices are as follows:

<b>Partner or child aged 17+:</b>	<b>\$113.00</b>
<b>Child age 12 – 16:</b>	<b>\$56.50</b>

**ADDITIONAL GUESTS**

For accommodation arrangements other than outline above, please contact Reception for pricing.

**PAYMENT METHODS**

All room and board fees must be paid in advance by cheque, Visa, American Express or MasterCard.

Cheque:

Forward **two separate cheques** to the Unifor Family Education Centre, one for the conference registration fee and one for accommodation costs. Cheques are to be **made payable to the “Unifor**

**Family Education Centre"** and mailed along with the enclosed reservation form directly to the Unifor Family Education Centre, 115 Shipley Ave., Port Elgin, ON, N0H 2C5.

Credit Card:

Record the credit card number and expiry date on the Reservation Form and Email: [confcentre@unifor.org](mailto:confcentre@unifor.org), fax to 519-389-3222 or mail.

**OR**

Call the Centre, toll free at 1-800-265-3735 or 519-389-3221 and provide the credit card number and expiry date.

**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS**

Registrations and Accommodation for the conference will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to participate in the conference, delegates must have accommodations at the Centre. **If the Centre is fully booked, the Centre will advise you, and you (or your local) will be responsible for making alternative arrangements.**

For those delegates and family required to stay off-site, please note that it is still mandatory to purchase the meal plan and to check in with the Front desk at the Unifor Family Education Center.

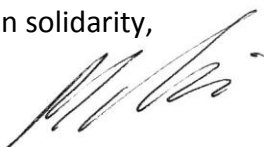
**CANCELLATIONS**

Cancellations must be made in writing, 24 hours prior to the 3:00 p.m. ET check-in time on Friday – email: [confcentre@unifor.org](mailto:confcentre@unifor.org) or fax the Centre at 519-389-3222. Failure to do so will result in a billing for the first night's accommodation cost.

Please make every effort to have your local represented at this important conference.

***Looking forward to seeing everyone at the conference.***

In solidarity,



**Mohamad Alsadi**

Director, Human Rights and International Department

Enclosures: Port Elgin Reservation Form; Child Care Registration Form; Meal Request Form

cc: J. Dias, Renaud Gagné, B. Orr, D Tveit, J. Ahn, S. Wark, B. Johnson, C. MacDonald, K. Fortier, S. Doherty, National Representatives, National Executive Board, Port Elgin Reservations & Port Elgin Child Care

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