Equity Committees

Unifor recognizes the valuable contribution of equity-seeking groups within the union. Aboriginal workers, LGBTQ, workers of colour, women, workers with disabilities, young workers and others, bring to the union inspiration and diversity that makes us a better union.

The union’s struggle for justice, equity, respect, and dignity cannot be limited to fighting the bad bosses or pushing the government for legislative changes. It must also include looking internally, within our union, to consider how members are included, represented, and most importantly, how we can create opportunities for equity representation in the leadership and governing bodies of our union.

Our commitment to making our union look like our workplaces and communities means that we always work with equity and inclusion in mind. We strive for gender balance in our leadership and among our National Executive Board members. The union works hard to take direction from our equity committees in adapting our meetings, councils and operations to make Unifor a welcome space for everyone.

Speak to your Local Union representatives about how you can join a local equity committee – or how you can establish a committee in your Local or region! Visit unifor.org/equity for more information.
Unifor is home to the most sophisticated labour training centre in the country. The Unifor Family Education Centre is located on the tranquil shores of Lake Huron in Port Elgin, Ontario and features programs ranging from health and safety, equity and anti-harassment training to courses like: preparing for collective bargaining, local activism, communicating to members, building leadership and much more.

Courses vary from one day to multi-week and are offered on a rotating schedule through the year. For members who are unable to travel to Port Elgin, or for more convenient and affordable options for Locals, courses are offered in cities across the country as well. If there is a specific course requested or needed that is not being offered locally, trained Discussion Leaders will host a course in your city or town if 15 or more people are interested.

Since 1960, the union has offered a Family Education Program for members and their families. If selected by your Local to attend, the member agrees to give up their vacation time and the national union covers costs for meals and accommodations, and where required, air travel.

During Family Education, adults, both members and their spouse/partner, combine learning and recreational activities and come away from the program with a better understanding of how to integrate trade unionism and social activism in the life of the family and community. Preteens participate in recreational programs run by fully trained child care workers and counselors. Teenagers participate in a specially designed program which recognizes their unique interests but also incorporates the issues of social unionism into their curriculum.

There are many ways to take advantage of the education available to you as a member. For more information about any course, you can contact your Local or write to education@unifor.org.

Check out the education programs on the Unifor website at unifor.org/education.