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June 22, 2023

TO: BC Region Local Union Presidents, BC Region Local Recording Secretaries, BC Regional Women's Committee, BC Region Women's Advocates

BC REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

October 23rd – 25th, 2023

Hyatt Regency Vancouver

Sisters,

We are pleased to announce that our BC Regional Women's Conference will take place at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver (655 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC) commencing Monday, October 23rd at 7:00pm and concluding on Wednesday, October 25th at 12:00pm.

Locals are encouraged to send delegates from equity-deserving groups including trans women and two-spirit members, queer women, Black, Indigenous and women of colour, women living with disAbilities, and young workers. This conference welcomes all our sisters, not just our cisters!

The BC Regional Women's Conference is a regional conference that allows participants to come together, build skills, exchange knowledge and strategize for the future while focusing on the region. This conference is for BC locals only. Alternating regional and national women's conferences meets the Regional Council Women's Committees' recommendation which was endorsed by the National Executive Board. The next national women's conference will be in the fall of 2024 at the Unifor Family Education Centre in Port Elgin, Ontario.

Conference delegates will have the opportunity to hear about some of the tremendous work being done within our union and your communities in the struggle for gender equality. Through participation in skills-building workshops and conversations hosted by local activists and leaders, delegates will gain knowledge and build relationships they can bring back to their local union and to advocate for equity.

As always, this conference fills up quickly. Please submit your registrations early to avoid disappointment. **The registration deadline is September 15th, 2023.**

The conference begins at 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 23rd, 2023 and ends at 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 25th, 2023. Registration takes place on Monday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Registration

You can register your local participants via our online form.

Reservations

Unifor has negotiated a special rate and reserved a block of rooms at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver (655 Burrard Street, Vancouver). When making your reservation, please keep in mind that Unifor has to secure this space in advance and may be financially responsible if the block commitments are not met.

You can book your special rate directly with the Hyatt Regency Vancouver here.

If you would prefer to contact the hotel reservations department, please call 1-604-683-1234 and quote the group block – **Unifor BC Women's Conference.** <u>The room block closes on</u> <u>September 15th, 2023</u>

Travel

Air Canada has offered savings to our delegates travelling by air. If you wish to take advantage of these savings, please contact Air Canada at 1-888-247-2262 (in Canada), TTY 1-800-361-8071 or online at <u>www.aircanada.ca</u>. In all cases, please quote promotional code: KFX7X2X1

Payments

A payment of \$50.00 is required for the conference kit materials. Cheques can be made payable to Unifor and sent to the following:

Unifor National Office Attention: Catarina Cunha Xhuli, Women's Department 115 Gordon Baker Road Toronto, ON M2H 0A8

Please send your cheques in advance of the conference, clearly indicating the local union and the number of delegates attending to ensure that the required material is available to all

participants.

Childcare

Free 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.

Delegates requiring child care must pre-register no later than September 15th, 2023.

Include the attached child care form with the conference registration form that is returned to the Unifor Family Education Centre. Child Care may be cancelled if there are an insufficient number of children registered by the deadline. If you have any questions regarding child care, please call 1-519-389-3233 or email <u>fecchildcare@unifor.org</u>.

Meals

The following meals are included in the conference: Monday, October 23rd: Welcome Reception Tuesday, October 24th: coffee, lunch Wednesday, October 25th: coffee, AM snack If any participants require special meal requirements or have any dietary concerns (food allergies), please advise us in advance of your arrival.

Covid-19 Protocols

Our union strives to maintain safety guidelines and standards in an attempt to protect the health and safety of our members and our staff, including the most vulnerable among us. Our event is a vaccine-friendly environment and full vaccination is strongly encouraged for all participants attending the BC Regional Women's Conference.

Accessibility

Unifor seeks to make all union meetings and events accessible and barrier free. If you require accommodations for human rights related needs, we invite you to provide us with your relevant information so we can take all reasonable steps to address any barriers to your participation in your Union. Please email requests to <u>Catarina.xhuli@unifor.org</u>.

In solidarity,

Chacey Ramsey

Tracey Ramsey Director, Women's Department ccxcope343

cc: National Officers, Executive Assistants, Assistants to the National Officers and Senior Directors, National Executive Board, National Representatives, National Coordinators, Laurie Wright

Attached: Child Care Registration Form, Medical or Religious Meal Request, Unifor Event Self-Screening Questions