

April 11, 2019

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

Unifor Aboriginal & Workers of Colour Conference
“Building Communities as Teachers and Students through Connections”
Friday June 21st – Sunday June 23rd, 2019
Unifor Family Education Centre in Port Elgin

Greetings to All My Relations!

Join us in 2019 to engage in creative workshops, cultural activities, networking opportunities and challenging discussions about reconciliation and justice in our workplaces, in our union and in the society. This year is extra special. The conference date was voted on by those who attended the conference last year and our first night falls on June 21, National Indigenous People’s day. We will mark this very important date with an Indigenous Feast beginning at 6:00 p.m. ET on Friday June 21, 2019. We will honour our elders, break bread with each other and celebrate the vast cultures of Indigenous people. On Saturday June 22, 2019 we will have a variety of workshops including: Importance of Government, Indigenous Incentives, Racism and the Impact on the Mental Health of Indigenous and People of Colour, Slay the Mic, Mentorship, Migrant Workers and International Solidarity.

The conference will provide a safe space for members who self-identify to share strategies and skills, and ways to support those we can call on as allies to continue the fight for justice all around. Childcare and a teen program will be offered. Racism and discrimination impacts people of all ages. On Sunday June 23rd, 2019, we will report back and hear from our future generations about what they need from us.

In these times when acts motivated by racism, Islamophobia and division have become everyday occurrences, there has never been a more opportune time to bring all of our Aboriginal and workers of colour members together to strategically find ways to support our allies in helping us all tackle hate.

We can all teach each other and learn from each other every single day. Through these connections throughout the union, we will stand in true solidarity where no one will be isolated, targeted or harmed. The Regional Aboriginal and Workers of Colour Standing Committees have been actively working to advance racial justice and equality in both our workplaces and our communities. They have done so by putting forth of resolutions on racial profiling at councils, lobbying the government for action on Truth and Reconciliation,

taking on Islamophobia and supporting members from diverse communities, and hosting and participating in a variety of events across the country. Many of these members have been featured for their leadership during the equity months we recognize. Seeing ourselves as leaders was one of the key takeaways from last year's conference and members have made good on that.

Last year's conference was themed ***"Resistance, Reckoning and Reconciliation: Changing the World Through Activism"***. We had just over two hundred participants. This year we will continue to build on what we started and it is 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.

The conference will be held at the Unifor Family Education Centre, in Port Elgin, Ontario. The conference will begin on Friday, June 21st at 6:00 p.m. and will adjourn on Sunday, June 23rd no later than 12:00pm. Please note that room registration and check-in will begin after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, with dinner being served at 6:00 pm. Check out will be at 11:00 am – Please check out before attending the conference session on Sunday morning.

Reservations and Accommodations

Reservations/Accommodations at the Unifor Family Education Centre will only be made upon receipt of the attached Reservation Form (including registration fee, room and meals, paid in advance by cheque, Visa, MasterCard or American Express).

Deadline for registration for on-site accommodations is Friday, May 31st. Please forward the Reservation Form to the Front Desk via email at confcentre@unifor.org or fax to 519-389-3222.

The registration fee for this conference is \$60.

Room and meal rates at the Unifor Family Education Centre are:

Single Occupancy	\$520.00
Single Room with Spouse or Child (17+)	\$620.00
Double Occupancy (sharing with another delegate)	\$370.00
Children, age 12-16	\$50.00 per child
Children, age 11 and under	No Charge

Important: TWO cheques must be sent along with a copy of the Registration Form, Reservation Form and (only if necessary) the Meal Requirements form:

- One cheque for the conference registration fee (\$60 per delegate)
- A separate cheque for the total cost of room and meals for all delegates (as per above rates)

Both cheques are to be made payable to the **Unifor Family Education Centre** and mailed, along with a copy of the enclosed Registration Form, Reservation Form and (only if necessary) Meal Requirements form, directly to: Unifor Family Education Centre, 115 Shipley Avenue, Port Elgin ON N0H 2C5.

Cancellations must be made in writing 48 hours prior to the conference. Failure to do so will result in billing for the first night's accommodation.

If you have any questions about accommodations, please call the Centre at 1-800-265-3735.

Travel from and to Toronto Pearson Airport

Grey Bruce Airbus arrangements can be made directly at 1-800-361-0393 or 1-519-389-4433 for delegates who need transportation from and to Pearson Airport.

On-Site Child Care Available

Free child care is available for children of eligible delegates **during conference hours only**. An eligible delegate is a single parent, a parent **not** accompanied by a spouse/companion, or where **both** parents are delegates. **Delegates requiring child care must pre-register by May 31st**. Please include the attached Child Care form with the Reservation form. Child care is for children up to and including age 12. Teen program will be offered for children aged 12 to 18. If you have any questions about child care please call 1-519-389-3233.

Registration deadline is May 31st, 2019.

We look forward to seeing you there.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine Maclin".

Christine Maclin
Director, Human Rights

Enclosures: Family Education Centre Reservation Form; Child Care Registration Form; Meal Request Form ; Teen program

cc: R Gagné, , B. Orr, D Tveit, D. Moffat, J. Ahn, S. Wark, , S. Doherty, M. Alsadi, National Representatives, National Executive Board, Port Elgin Reservations and Port Elgin Child
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