

UPCOMING EVENTS

Unifor is an active union. So much is on the go and you will want to be informed.

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You can also check into unifor.org/events/upcoming_events

World Mental Health Day

October 10

Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20

World AIDS Day

December 1

Find and Apply to Area Courses

at unifor.org/education

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Read even more Pride in Print online at:
unifor.org/prideinprint

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Unifor calls to end the ban!



Canada's health care system faces a chronic shortage of donated blood and blood products. But despite this shortage, Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Quebec still discriminate against men who have sex with men. A new policy also bans transgender women who have not had gender-affirming surgery, who also have sex with men, from donating.

Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Quebec should ask all donors the same questions, and those questions should be based on specific high-risk sexual behaviours; not who you love or what your gender identity is.

Help Unifor fight to end the ban. Visit unifor.org/endtheban to sign the petition and get involved.

All kids need comprehensive sex ed

As Ontario rolls back sex-ed, Quebec steps forward with a new curriculum. Access to comprehensive sexual education remains inconsistent across the country, with many jurisdictions leaving out or not adequately covering sexual and gender identity and expression, cyberbullying, sexual assault and harassment.

Unifor takes steps to combat sexual and gender-based violence, and to promote LGBTQ rights. We demand harassment-free spaces at union events and workplaces. We campaign publicly against violence against women, and lobby for legislative change to end the ban.

But if conversations around consent and LGBTQ equality don't happen until people enter the union, then it's already too late. Almost 50 per cent of transgender students and more than 30 to 40 per cent of gay, lesbian and bisexual students report having experienced sexual harassment.

Action is needed, right across the country, to ensure that education in primary and secondary schools prepares all children for the experiences they may face. The voice for social justice must be heard more loudly than the homophobic, transphobic opposition.

Éliane Servant-Gendron elected first trans committee member

Fostering the engagement of activists representing the broad spectrum of sexual diversity is sometimes a challenge for LGBTQ committees across the country. In May, the Quebec Council of Unifor turned a page in union history by electing an out trans person on its regional LGBTQ committee for the first time. Éliane Servant-Gendron, a member of Local 98 and 79, was elected to the position vacated at the beginning of the year by the retirement of Pierre Demontigny (Local 6000).

Éliane is a technician and computer repairer at Bell Technical Solutions. She has been involved for several

months with the Unifor-Québec LGBTQ committee. Since her election, she was invited to present at the 4-week Unifor Quebec education course, Trade unionism and society. She also wants to become more involved with her co-workers by becoming a steward in her unit.

Issues of gender identity are gaining more prominence in the struggles of the LGBTQ rights movement. The fact that trans issues are more commonly addressed in the public space helps to demystify them, however, the realities that trans people face in the workplace are



often complex and require their union to actively fulfil its role as an ally. To carry out this mission, the engagement of trans people within our union structures is essential and vital. Let's welcome Éliane with enthusiasm and solidarity!

Reach out to the LGBTQ staff liaison to get involved in Pride committees or campaigns. Contact Kellie Scanlan at pride@unifor.org.