

# UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS

## Rights For Ag Workers

**AgWorkers**



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From the orchards of the Okanagan Valley to the berry fields of Nova Scotia, to the hazardous mushroom factories of southern Ontario, UFCW Canada is fighting for workers in the agribusiness industry. From a church cellar in Leamington, Ont., to the Supreme Court of Canada, UFCW Canada is on their side. From all walks of life, working people know an injustice to one is an injustice to all.

Since 1995 UFCW Canada has fought to bring agricultural workers in Ontario the same rights that other workers in the province now enjoy.

When the Harris government in Ontario banned agricultural workers from joining a union in 1995, UFCW Canada took the government to court. In 2001 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in *Dunsmore v. Ontario*, in favour of UFCW Canada saying it was unconstitutional to exclude agricultural workers from the Ontario Labour Relations Act as it infringed on agricultural workers' freedom of association.

Since the Supreme Court decision on December 19, 2001, the Ontario government has brought forth new legislation that will give agricultural workers the right to join or form an association but no rights to collective bargaining. Agricultural workers will be able to make representations to their employer but the employer can ignore the worker's concerns.

UFCW Canada has also shown its concern for agricultural workers by sponsoring the Global Justice Care Van Project. The Project is an outreach and support program for the more than 16,000 migrant agricultural workers who come to Ontario each year. A resource center for migrant workers was opened in Leamington assisting migrant workers. In addition, Health and Safety Information and manuals in both English and Spanish were distributed to migrant workers throughout the province.

For further information on UFCW Canada's Agricultural Workers Campaign please visit our [Organizing Agricultural Workers publications](#) and watch our commercial [The Union for Agricultural Workers](#).