



Bulletin for UFCW Canada Youth Activists
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STEP ON IT!

The UFCW Canada Council Executive Board is made up of members elected by convention delegates and local presidents. This group makes policy decisions for UFCW Canada. The UFCW Canada National Council is a larger body of members elected by council delegates on a regional basis. This larger group offers a wider voice to UFCW Canada members and participates in policy decisions for UFCW Canada.



L To R; Darren Kurmey, Marie Meyers, Kelly Provost, Samantha Grexton, Jonathon Lobo of the UFCW Canada National Youth Committee

UFCW Canada youth participate in National conference and win big!

The UFCW Canada National Youth Committee put forward various resolutions to the UFCW Canada National Council (changed in name from the UFCW Canadian Council) Convention in March 2003. The resolutions dealt with various issues including: sweatshop labour, organizing youth, changing the structure of the UFCW Canada National Council, globalization and full employment. These resolutions were hotly debated on the convention floor and young delegates were able to move various youth issues forward.

Part of the business of this Convention was to elect the UFCW Canada National Executive Board, and Council members, nominate Canadian vice-presidents to the international Executive Board.

Part of the excitement at this convention was the election of three young members to the Executive Board and Council. Marie Meyers of Local 832 and Samantha Grexton of Local 401 were elected to the UFCW Canada National Executive Board. Kelly Provost from Locals 175 and 633 was elected as a member of the UFCW Canada Council.

These elections clearly demonstrate that the UFCW's priority of including young people in the union and giving them a real voice, is being accomplished.

UFCW is one of the few unions in Canada with young people elected to its national decision making body.

For a copy of the resolutions which were adopted at the National Council Convention please contact Debora De Angelis at debora@ufcw.ca

Coming up...

***UFCW Canada Western
Region Youth Conference:
August 23-26, 2003***

***Please check out
www.ufcw.ca/youth for more
information.***

Member participates CLC Aboriginal Workers of Colour Conference, and comes away feeling empowered

Hello brothers and sisters, I'm Jeffrey Pingue, I'm a member of UFCW Local 248P in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. My local has roughly 1,800 members which are part of the 4,500 UFCW Canada members throughout Saskatchewan. I am also vice chair on our newly formed youth committee at my workplace. Our committee is small



Jeffrey Pingue is a member of UFCW Local 248P in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

right now but I know will grow as we are encouraging more youth to participate.

My union recently sent me and three other co-workers to the CLC 2nd National Aboriginal Workers of Colour Conference in Toronto, Ontario. It was a four-day conference that mainly focused on bringing social and economic issues forward affecting Aboriginal and People

of Colour. The conference also provided us a place to share our ideas, opinions, and discuss strategies on how union members like you and me can take ownership and provide leadership in solving these issues not only in Canada but also around the world.

On the third day of the conference, I attended a Youth Forum. It included all youth delegates attending the conference but also youth from the local community. It was great to meet young people from across Canada as we shared our views about different topics, from hunting for a job to resisting bad bosses. The instructors were great as they made us feel empowered, and made it enjoyable as we learned many strategies to overcome the many barriers that youth face in the workplace. I felt that we all left more knowledgeable about our rights and what solidarity is all about.

I personally recommend participating in a conference like this one if you have the chance, as the information gained is invaluable and youth need to be represented and our voices heard.

I am pleased to have contributed to the newsletter and I think it is great to see such a newsletter primarily for youth like you and me.

***UFCW Canada
Using our strengths
to build
your future!***

Youth action project, Solidarity Works! 2003 coming up

Solidarity Works! 2003 is a joint program of the CLC and provincial Federations of Labour. It is a three week, paid, hands-on training program focusing on labour/worker education and activist skills development for young workers 26 years old and younger.

Week one is an intensive in class learning experience. In weeks two and three, participants work with unions and community based groups to gain practical experience and skills.

So if you are looking for an exciting and energizing experience this summer and want to get involved, apply!

For the year 2003, Solidarity Works! is happening in the following regions:

Ontario (Ontario Federation of Labour)
Program will run July 6 to 25, 2004 in Hamilton at the Mohawk College. Contact person is Janice Gairey (416) 441-2731.

British Columbia (BC Federation of Labour)
Program is tentatively set for August 5 to August 24, 2003 at Camp Jubilee on Vancouver Island. Contact person is Irma Mohammed (604) 430-1421.

Alberta (Alberta Federation of Labour)
Program has been set for July 28 to August 15, 2003 in Edmonton. Contact is Scott Harris (780) 483-3021.

Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan Federation of Labour)
The program will take place May 19 to June 6, 2003. Training will take place Moose Jaw, placements in both Saskatoon and Regina. Contact person is Natasha Goudar (306) 525-0197.

Dates are creeping up, contact your union representative or your local to get involved!

SFL Youth Conference a smashing success!

Here's a big "howdy" from Saskatchewan. I am writing to tell you about the first Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL)/Saskatoon District Labour Council Youth Conference which took place October of 2002.

The Conference brought in 38 participants from all over the province, from various unions, and covered all the bases with the launch of the "Got Rights?" toolkit. By that I mean, the conference and toolkit, dug into such topics as your rights as a young worker, occupational health and safety issues, the myths about unions and of course how to organize a union.

The conference then shifted into high gear and began discussing trade unionism, why it's important to get active and to remain active. It was through these discussions that issues such as globalization and multiculturalism came to light.

Now, brothers and sisters, I've been to conventions and to labour educationals before, but never have I seen multicultural issues discussed as they were here, it was eye-opening and freakin amazing. It (the conference) spoke to issues such as: "white privilege" and existence of "white supremacy", and the importance of being "inclusive" not "exclusive" which grows immensely everyday.

The conference also discussed how it's important to keep discussions flowing on these issues. The conference was so open and blunt about racism that it truly showed us the effects it has on people not only in workplaces but on their livelihoods as well.

As you can tell I was thoroughly impressed by the conference and am looking forward to the next one. This conference, went well in empowering the delegates and I know this because



I've run into many already taking action through demonstrations, campaigns etc. That right there is reason for having these educationals! With that I bid you farewell.

Mark Hennessy is a member of UFCW Canada Local 248P

Local 832 Youth Committee gets busy!

It has been a busy past few months at Local 832, especially for the local Youth Committee, who have been making presentations and staffing booths at career symposiums.

The local Youth Committee is also involved in the Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL) "Workers of Tomorrow" program which trains young people to go into high schools, colleges and universities and speak to young people about health and safety issues in the workplace.

More exciting news from this local is that an observer seat has been created at Local 832's Executive Board for a young member. The Youth Committee's plan is to eventually have an actual youth seat on the Executive Board. Presently Kim Dufault, co-advisor of the youth committee attends the Executive Board.

"Our future looks busy and promising. We are



UFCW Canada Local 832 Youth Committee

constantly looking for new ways to attract more young members and create liaisons between ourselves and other organizations." says Marie Meyers staff advisor for the youth committee. "We will be launching our poster and pamphlet campaign in the spring of 2003. An on-line survey targeting all our young members within the Local has also just been launched on our website. Check it out at www.ufcw832.com!"

UFCW Canada national youth committee profile

Darren

Greetings fellow members of UFCW! My name is Darren Kurmey, and I am a member of UFCW Canada Local 1400. I've been involved and participating in UFCW for a while. Here's my resume, I am a former graduate of the first UFCW National Youth Internship Program (2000), I'm a delegate to the UFCW Canada National Youth Committee since 2001, I also sit on the UFCW Local 1400 Youth Committee.

I am currently working as a Special Project Union Representative (S.P.U.R.) helping organize non-union workplaces, and this is pretty exciting stuff. The other interesting part of being involved within my local and UFCW is that I attend conferences on behalf of my Local union as a Youth Delegate, and recently even contributed in delivering a presentation on our Youth Initiatives at the UFCW Canada Council Convention in Montreal.

I became a UFCW member in 1997, and an active member in 1998. This was somewhere near the beginning of the youth movement which was a movement which pushed for a voice and space for young people within the labour movement. Since I've been around for a while I have been fortunate enough to watch the number of young people getting involved with their union grow from a small, to a large number of activists across the country. Seeing first hand how much progress has been made in empowering the young members of this organization, encourages and fortifies my beliefs that we are headed in the right direction in ensuring our young members not only know their rights at work, but are also receiving the dignity and respect they deserve as employees.

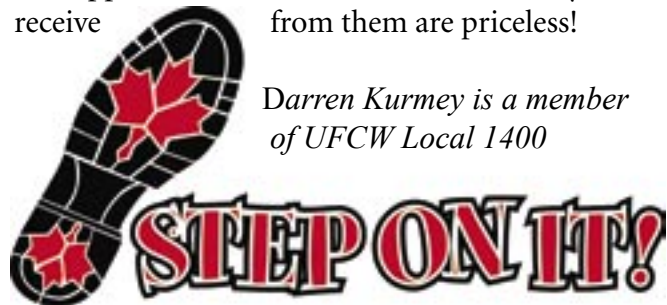
Thanks to the initiatives UFCW has put forth to get our young members active, there are more opportunities for young people to become active members in their local unions than ever before! In



my own Local Union for example, we have had a member participate in the UFCW Canada National Youth Internship program (YIP) in every year since it began. Not only has this helped contribute to the activism and enthusiasm of the young members in our Local, but it also demonstrates the commitment UFCW has made to encourage young members to get involved and become active.

It is up to us as young members to rise up and ask the questions, and challenge those employers and politicians that are affecting our quality of life today. It is up to us to become active in our local unions so that we can have the necessary tools to not only become the leaders of today, but also of tomorrow.

UFCW and its youth initiatives have provided me with many opportunities too not only explore the Labour movement, but myself as an individual. There are so many different areas for a young member to get involved and become active! I encourage all of my fellow Youth members across the country to ask the challenging questions, find the answers, equip yourself with the necessary tools so you are not exploited as an employee, and above all, become an active member of UFCW! The opportunities are endless, and benefits you receive from them are priceless!



Darren Kurmey is a member of UFCW Local 1400

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