

Young Workers Committee Report to National Executive May 2017

Current UNDE Regional Young Worker Representatives List.

BC - Danielle Dardengo Local 1011 Rocky Point
ABN - Nicole Boulianne Local 30910 Suffield
MB/Sask - Megan Duthie Local 50705 Winnipeg
ONT - Joshua Sadler Local 00641 Kingston
NCR - Vacant
CSE - Stephanie Torrealba Local 70654 Ottawa
Quebec - Simon Richard Local 10526 Montreal
NS - Amanda Reid Local 80406 Halifax
NL/NB - Leigh Hewitt Local 60303 Gagetown
NPF - Patrick Desormeaux Local 00680 Petawawa

OPI - Mona Simcoe
Staff Resource - Sandra Montpetit

The Young Workers Committee has continued networking through conference calls. Conference calls are scheduled even without 100% attendance to allow for networking to happen in a variety of ways. Representatives have agreed to allow for alternates to attend calls in their absences.

Energy is currently being focused on developing a survey that can be distributed to the UNDE membership in regards to Young Workers (YW). Answering such questions as How active are you in the Local, Region, Component, Alliance, and Federation as a YW. Have you been to a local general meeting. Have you met a member of your local executive. Have you seen the UNDE Facebook page. Would you be interested in signing up for union education, volunteering for your local, talking with your MP as examples.

It's a challenge to get any new member involved in the Union, and in some ways young workers are no different. But it's a myth that young people don't care about Unions, and don't want to be part of the Union. Recruiting a young member can be a lot like organizing a new group of workers. Most people just need to know where to start. Think back to the moment when you knew getting involved in the Union was the right thing to do, when you wanted to do more, when you were inspired to fight for workers' rights. What did it feel like? How did it happen? How can we develop the same feelings in young workers?

Young Workers have many challenges - retention, ageism, communication, a need to establish best practises, and succession planning to name a few. The YW Committee wants to develop a three year action plan and education calendar to move this committee forward. The intent of the action plan is to focus on ways to make YW's a

more prominent and vocal part of our union. To build a network of YW's to work towards achieving set priorities and protecting public services. To connect the YW network within regions and across regions. To keep YW's active, educated, and supported within all aspects of UNDE. To build this action plan considering regional, cultural, and linguistic differences. A motion is being put forward at this National Executive meeting to provide an opportunity to work on this plan and provide a great educational opportunity to build young workers' leadership, communication and political action. This opportunity is about building, energizing, and strengthening the union movement. Our Young Worker representatives will build solidarity with a diverse group of other UNDE members and become energized and more knowledgeable about how to build a stronger union.

We continue to discuss the other young worker committee networks. These include PSAC networking, PSAC and UNDE web site information, PSAC Sister Marianne Haldun as the OPI for PSAC young workers and encourage involvement in federations of labour and CLC committee networks. The PSAC Social Justice Fund invites members to participate in the "Education In Action" project in Guatemala for 2 weeks in the spring of 2018. "Education In Action" is supported by the PSAC Social Justice Fund to engage members and other Canadians to deepen their understanding of Guatemala and to build solidarity with Mayan communities in Guatemala. In the past UNDE members have participated in this project.

The committee will continue to communicate via email. All information, requests, comments, and concerns will be sent to OPI Mona Simcoe who will compile and send to Sandra Montpetit our staff resource who will send it out to the committee.

By communicating with one another regarding issues, events and available training this builds a stronger young worker network which in turn builds a stronger union.

Respectfully submitted
Mona Simcoe
OPI UNDE Young Workers Committee