

UNION matters

August, 2019

Celebrate the accomplishments of the labour movement and working people on September 2.



What are you doing on September 2? Enjoying one last weekend at the lake? Tackling the kids' back to school shopping list? Spending the day at work? Or, taking some time to think about and celebrate the accomplishments of the labour movement and working people? The first Monday in September is Labour Day, which has been recognized in Canada since 1894. There are many free celebrations for you and your family being held in communities near you, including:

Prince Albert: 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Union Centre)

Saskatoon: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (Victoria Park near Riversdale Pool)

Moose Jaw: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Union Centre)

Regina: 12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (West Lawn across from the Legislature)

President's Message

It's likely been a busy summer for most of you but I hope you've had some time to rest and spend time with family and friends while enjoying the season. Whether you relaxed over a backyard barbecue, headed out for a few days of fishing at a favourite lake or ventured further afield on a vacation, I think we can all agree that our province is filled with beautiful natural landscapes, creative people and interesting activities for all ages to enjoy.



Although many staff and elected leaders have taken some time off this summer, we remain busy representing you at the negotiating table or providing advice and support when you run into problems in the workplace. We're also involved in several ongoing activities . . . [read more](#)

SGEU to host inaugural Young Workers Forum



SGEU is holding its first Young Workers Forum in Regina on November 26 and 27, with almost 100 members, ages 18 to 35, registered to attend.

The event is meant to bring young SGEU members together to share ideas and opinions about what they would like to see from the union.

The goal is to encourage meaningful engagement in the union, so it reflects the priorities and goals of a wider range of members. In turn, this strengthens the union and makes it more able to provide quality service and support to members.

Look for coverage of the Young Workers Forum on SGEU's social media pages and in future issues of Union Matters.

Former SGEU activists honoured at 2019 NUPGE convention



NUPGE also presented **Barb Byers** with a *Life Membership* in recognition of her unwavering commitment to social justice and the labour movement.

Barb is a long-time member and activist who served as SGEU president for many years before taking on senior leadership positions with the Canadian Labour Congress.

The National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) *Solidarity Award* is granted to leadership activists of NUPGE, its components, and/or NUPGE's affiliated

bodies in recognition of the significant contribution they have made as advocates of working people and their families.

This year, one of three recipients was **Audrey Yaremy**, former long-time activist and staff member with SGEU.

Congratulations to Audrey and Barb for being recognized for their many years of dedication and commitment to the labour movement and working people.

Education & Training opportunities for members

Click [here](#) to get more information or to register for an upcoming Leadership Development course:

LD 20A: Grievance Handling - September 9 & 10 in Regina

LD 20C: Bargaining and Collective Agreements - September 23 & 24 in Regina

LD 10: Introduction to the Role of the Steward - October 3 in Regina

LD 11: Respectful Workplace Training - October 4 in Regina

LD 30: Third Level Steward Training - November 4 - 7 in Regina

Other training opportunities for SGEU members will be added to the [calendar of events](#) in the coming months. If you're interested, be sure to register as soon as possible because seats fill up quickly!

HELP WANTED: We're looking for facilitators!

The SGEU Education Committee is seeking facilitators to deliver the Leadership Development 70 (LD 70) course, which is ***Unionism on Turtle Island***. The course is designed to deepen our understanding of Indigenous history and the impacts of colonialism on Indigenous peoples today.

LD 70 is a four-day workshop and will be held in February 2020 (tentative). Facilitators should have some facilitation experience and/or training and be familiar with the subject matter of the course.

If you're interested in becoming a facilitator, or would like more information, please email Dipa Bharadwaj, SGEU Education Director at dbharadwaj@sgeu.org.

Take action on the issues that matter to working people and their families!

- Let's call on the Saskatchewan government to stop overusing consultants, and to rebuild in-house information technology capabilities by sending a letter to the Minister of Central Services, calling your MLA, or sending a letter to your local newspaper. [Click here](#).
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are non-profit groups that provide vital services to vulnerable people in our province when direct government programs don't meet the needs of Saskatchewan people. [Visit this link to hear from CBO workers about their jobs, and click here to read more](#)

information and send a letter telling the provincial government that CBOs need stable, reliable, multi-year funding.

- It's time for a \$15 minimum wage in Saskatchewan! Please [download the petition](#), collect signatures, and return the petition to the SGEU head office.

Join us on Facebook and Twitter

Thank you to our followers on Facebook — we've reached almost 3,000 "likes!" Join us on Facebook by "liking" the [SGEU page](#) so you can watch videos, share posts, and get the latest SGEU news delivered right to your newsfeed. You can also follow us on Twitter [@SGEU](#) for up-to-date union news and retweets from our followers and friends in the labour movement.

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