

February 14, 2020



## THE UNION EDUCATION PROGRAM

CUPW's Union Education Program (UEP) is a four-week residential program aimed at developing knowledge and skills for union activists. It is an intensive, enriching and experiential learning practice focused on addressing current labour and social issues; finding adequate tools to combat social and economic injustice; discovering links among various unjust systems and practices; and developing solidarity to fight back with direction, vigor and efficacy against systemic oppression.

The Union Education Program is not a tools based program. You will not learn about the specifics of Collective Agreement issues.

### The objectives of the UEP are to:

- Increase our knowledge of the world and of politics
- Increase our knowledge of the labour movement
- Increase our knowledge of the climate emergency
- Deconstruct concepts that form part of our accepted belief system, but which need to be questioned such as:
  - Colonialism
  - Capitalism
  - Neoliberalism
  - Patriarchy
  - Systemic racial, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, age, faith-based oppressions, and others
- Sharpen our skills in debating
- Explore our leadership abilities
- Develop public speaking tools
- Learn how to develop-campaigns
- Consolidate our campaign development abilities
- Expand skills in relating with the media
- Re-connect with ourselves, each other, the land and nature
- Develop our solidarity

*And have fun while exploring all these aspects of labour activism!*

### Venue and dates

The UEP takes place at the Unifor Family Education Centre, in Port Elgin, Ontario  
Port Elgin is 220 km northwest of Toronto.





The four-week program takes place one week at a time, over 6 months:

- Week 1: October 03-09, 2020 (2 days of preparation; 5 days of training)
- Week 2: November 15-20, 2020 (5 days)
- Week 3: February 21-26, 2021 (5 days)
- Week 4: March 21-26, 2021 (5 days)

### Eligibility

All CUPW members *in good standing* are eligible.

Preference will be given to members who are *actively involved in the Union*, and who have attended CUPW *educationals*.

Other relevant criteria include membership in an *equity-seeking group* and *activist experience* outside CUPW.

### Participant Expenses

The Union Education Fund pays the following costs for participants:

- Lost wages
- Meals and accommodation at Port Elgin
- Travel costs
- Child care and elder care expenses per CUPW policy (7.63)

### Application form

You can obtain an application form either from your local president, or download it from [cupw.ca](http://cupw.ca).

### Deadline

Your application must be submitted by April 1, 2020 to:

**Dave Bleakney**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> National Vice-President**  
**Canadian Union of Postal Workers**  
**377 Bank Street**  
**Ottawa, ON**  
**K2P 1Y3**

You may also submit by email to [cdelisle@cupw-sttp.org](mailto:cdelisle@cupw-sttp.org).

Solidarity,

Dave Bleakney  
 2<sup>nd</sup> National Vice-President

