# intouch



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# ufcwnews



### Safeway bargaining commences

Bargaining a contract is a democratic process. The more members who get involved, the better. Being engaged shows your employer that you are united and improvements that benefit everyone will be possible.

The first step to bargaining is assembling a bargaining committee who, with the union's assistance, will conduct negotiations with your employer. The committee will start by gathering bargaining proposals and priorities – suggestions from you, the membership, about what you want in your contract and what we will all fight for together.

Meetings were held with Safeway members from different classifications and geographic areas of the province to review the submitted contract proposals from our membership.



Union bargaining proposals from that meeting held on January 12, and 13th were finalized in the office, and the first set of bargaining dates set to commence February 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Your union bargaining committee was selected from the group of Safeway members who attended the proposal meeting and who also volunteered to step forward, represent the membership, their co-workers and be part of the bargaining process.

These members, your co-workers are meat cutters, deli clerks, seafood clerks and with their different classifications and experience will be able to represent all perspectives from the shop floor.

Your bargaining committee consists of: Margaret Robins, Joanne Lipp, Wendy Dewhurst, Kirste Hawgood, Oenone Bain, Erin O'Leary, Doug Insley, Brian Taylor, Nick Tomaine, and Alicia Whitehead.



Back row left to right: Erin O'Leary, Wendy Dewhurst, Kirste Hawgood, Joanne Lipp, Oenone Bain, Alicia Whitehead, Doug Insley, Margaret Robbins. Front row: Union Representatives Bruce Jackson & Elisca Long, Assistant to the President Cathy Shannon, Brian Taylor. Nick Tomaine "I wish to thank everyone on your committee for their commitment and desire to take on the responsibility on fighting to improve your collective agreement during these challenging times" said Assistant to the President Cathy Shannon, "I expect their wealth of experience and knowledge will be put to good use in representing our issues at the bargaining table" she added.

At time of writing, your bargaining committee has concluded three sets of bargaining sessions with your Employer: February 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, and March 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. Another set has been booked for May 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2023.

The sessions continued to focus on non-monetary proposals with both the company and your union committee further discussing proposals in more detail. While some progress has been made, there are still non-monetary proposals outstanding to be discussed.

The bargaining sessions have focused primarily on scheduling, flexibility, and leaves. Other issues discussed also included concerns regarding staffing, hiring, and retention.

You bargaining committee will continue to represent the needs and concerns of members at the bargaining table and discuss the remaining non-monetary proposals with the anticipation that there will be a transition to monetary proposals.

As part of our negotiations process, it is important that we have discussions on the Union side and continue the important work to build agreement on any issue that may affect our members.

Your Union will continue to provide email updates on the progress of negotiations and all members who have registered their emails should be receiving these updates.

If you know of members who are interested in receiving updates, please encourage members to contact the Union office to add their email to the mailing list. If you are aware of any members who have signed up and are not receiving updates, we may not have their correct email address on file. Please encourage those members to check their spam folders or contact the Union office to verify that we have their correct email address.

# Connect with Telephone Town Hall meetings!

UFCW Local 247 has members living in every corner of B.C., and beyond. To better connect our widespread membership with the latest news and information from the union, we use Telephone Town Hall calls about 4 times per year.

The next Telephone Town Hall is on June 8th, 2023.

If we have your current phone number, we'll call you and all you have to do is answer your phone. You can also dial in by calling 1.877.229.8493, with ID #116389 and following the prompts.

### this issue

- p2 Chilliwack Community Comes Together
- p2 Your Union is Listening
- p3 Abbotsford Superstore Members "Can" Make a Difference
- p3 "Meet Your New Shop Steward" Event
- p4 Thompson Rivers Meat Cutting Program
- p5 National Day of Mourning
- p6 Open Letter to Management
- p6 Message from the LLSC
- p7 National Day of Mourning
- p7 Scholarships & Education Grants
- p8 Endless Savings & More (ESM)
- 8 webCampus
- 58 Follow us on FB & IG



# **Chilliwack Community Comes Together**

Ethan Fleming passed away on September 9th 2022.

Tanna Fleming is a long term employee who works at 1523, Chilliwack Superstore, her son Ethan passed away on September 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 after a courageous 9 year battle with 3 different types of cancers including two types of Blood Cancers.

Our thoughts and sympathy go out to Tanna and her family during this difficult time. Ethan was first diagnosed with cancer at the age of 7 years old and has been fighting cancer until he could not fight anymore.

The Chilliwack community including many Superstore employees hosted a fundraiser for Ethan's family on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at Corky's Irish Pub located in Chilliwack. Tickets were sold and many prizes were donated for the event.

It is remarkable what can be achieved when the Community comes together to support one another.

Special recognition to Johnny Khakh who assisted in the organization and collection of prizes for this fundraiser.

### **Your Union is Listening**

As part of the member feedback your Union has received, increased engagement has consistently been at the top of the list. Solidarity is built when union members feel that their voices are being heard and that their opinions matter. Through engagement, feedback can provide valuable insights into the needs and concerns of our members. Through our feedback process, access to Union benefits such as: health and dental, online web campus courses, and education scholarships are under utilized. It is important for all members to access the hard-fought benefits your Union has achieved.

Some of you may have already noticed the updated look of your store Union Notice Bulletin Boards. We are in the process of updating all Union Boards in the province with the intent of providing more relevant and up to date information and topics of interest to our members.

We have also increased our Social Media presence through Facebook and Instagram. If you haven't already checked us out, please search out UFCW Local 247 on one of the platforms or visit our website at www.ufcw247.com and click our social media links.

Your Union has also initiated a Special Project Union Representative engagement program. This program will see Union members visit store locations to speak and engage with fellow Union members. As Union members share similar experiences and concerns, this will foster a better environment to ensure better feedback and communication. For this engagement, shop steward Sinead Wilson has been booked time off from her Superstore.

Sinead has worked at Superstore since 1996. She was first hired at the Langley Superstore as a part time cashier and transferred to the Fraser Valley Mission Superstore as an available anytime cashier. At the Mission Superstore, Sinead received training in the different Front-End positions. When the Abbotsford Superstore was built, Sinead applied for a full time front end position and has been there ever since. She became a Shop Steward in Abbotsford and has been in that role for over 10 years. Sinead has been a proud union member since day one and truly believes that our union is only as strong as our members.



"We all as members have something to offer to build strength and solidarity," said Sinead and "I encourage all members to become involved, because it is not "the union", it is "Our Union", she added.



## Abbotsford Superstore Members "Can" Make a Difference

As a long-time UFCW Local 247 Shop Steward, Sinead Wilson knows that building a strong union depends on members getting active in their stores. After participating in her first-ever BC Federation of Labour Convention in November 2022, Sinead was ready to get to work.

"I went back to the store inspired," said Sinead in an email to her Union Representative. "I started talking to my coworkers about how this is 'our' union, not 'the' union. I wanted to encourage members to take our own initiative and try working together to make a difference."

With the holiday season and the economic situation being what it is this year, Sinead identified a simple food bank drive among her fellow UFCW members as a quick way to get things going in her store.

"I came up with the idea that we 'can' make a difference if we do something together," said

Sinead, "If each of us were to donate one can or item of food, individually, it doesn't seem like a lot. But when we put all of that together, we have a shopping cart of food that does make a difference. That's also what working as a union can do."

Members in the store loved the idea and immediately got to gathering donations for the local community foodbank. It was a simple, achievable, and practical goal. In just a few days, union members in Abbotsford filled a cart with food and felt stronger for having done something together.

Members and shop stewards also joined us at our first "Union Pop Up" event held in Abbotsford

This event gave us the enhanced opportunity to connect with members and share important information on workplace issues, benefits, webCampus, telephone town halls, scholarships, the Endless Savings program and much more.





## "Meet Your New Shop Steward" **Event Held at the Delta** Superstore February 6th

Members had an opportunity to meet 'new' shop steward Nalini Narin and Union Representative Tima Dickerson.

At the event, President Dan Goodman joined in the conversation and talked about "the importance of members keeping in close communication with their shop stewards and their Union Representatives."

New shop steward, Nalini, is excited about her new role, knowing that she has the support of her long-term steward, Sandra, and of her Union Representative, Tima.

Nalini reminded her co-workers that "we all play an important role in our union, we are the union!".

### Thompson Rivers Meat Cutting program

The Thompson Rivers Meat Cutting program focuses on productivity training and the business factors of the meat cutting industry. There is specialized training in the accuracy of cutting, knife handling, portion control, merchandising and the utilization of all products.

An advisory committee with broad representation from the meat cutting industry ensures that the program maintains relevance to provincial and local industry needs and standards.

One of your Union's Representatives, Bruce Jackson, is a member of the advisory committee and proudly represents his former background as a meat cutter. Bruce routinely represents UFCW Local 247's pride in the meat cutting industry and often speaks about his experiences in the industry.

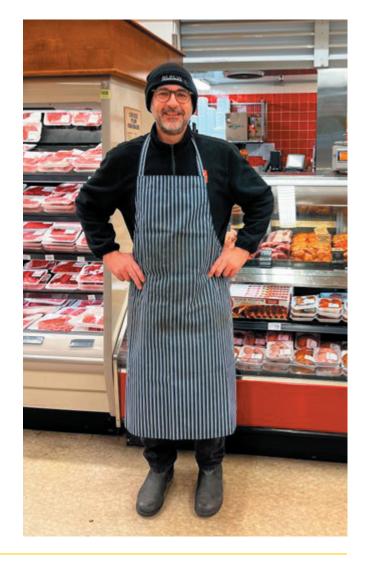
Recently Bruce has supported two applicants to the Meat Cutting program. Here are their stories:

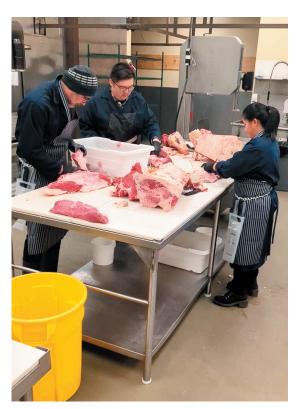
"UFCW247 was fundamental to my professional development and I want to tell my story. I am an immigrant from Brazil. I arrived in Canada in January 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic started. My first job was at the company I'm with to this day. I started working the night shift,

replenishing the store's shelves. I was a student and could only work for 20 hours, yet I managed to excel and was promoted to supervisor as soon as I was able to work 40 hours. I didn't really like working at night so I got an offer from another company. When I went to resign, the store owner proposed that I become a full-time employee and move to the meat department. Along with this opportunity I had the good fortune and pleasure to meet UFCW247 in the person of Bruce Jackson. Bruce was instrumental in getting me started in the meat cutter career. He was the one who referred me to the level 1 meat cutter course at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. This course was very edifying, there I learned to cut whole carcasses which gave me knowledge on how to deal with each part of the animals for the best use in meat retail. Along with that, I have considerably improved my skills and speed in cutting different types of meat. When I returned to my post at the company I was promoted again and I am now the assistant meat manager. I am very grateful to UFCW247 and especially to Bruce for giving me this opportunity and for being my guide in this new and so worthy profession."

Sincerely,

Wagner Fileno de Medeiros





In this picture: Wagner Fileno de Medeiros- YIGS Davie, Ricky Chen- Safeway, Nellie L. Sakito- Stongs,

I started as a full time clerk at HMR-DELI department at Stongs supermarket May 2016. Working at Stongs I felt that 'the union' didn't really do anything for me. During one of my Union Reps visit to the store, I decided to approach to see if there is anything the Union can do for me. After some discussion about the upcoming negotiations, I asked Bruce if I could join the Union bargaining agreement committee for the store. Since I became involved and started to work with my Union, I started to appreciate what they do, and how they can help us as workers. As I got to know my representative more, I shared with Bruce that I am planning to go back to school but I was not sure what course I wanted to take. He suggested that I try out the meat cutting program as this is an industry in need. I considered joining the program because there is support for the program from my store and the Union. With this program you can cut in the store to do training and accumulate your hours towards your salary increase. With the support of a scholarship from the Union specific to the Meat Cutting program, I did not have to worry about costs of attending the program.

So with the help of Bruce I transferred to the meat department to learn all about meat business. I am learning all about the meat products (special cut, best part of meat etc.) Going to school is a lot of fun and I am learning so much on breaking down the carcass (primal cut and sub primal) of the animal, in addition to building my skills on the business math on profit, shrinkage, waste and more.

My store boss was so impressed with my work ethic and what I could do that they offered me a meat manager position for the store. I have accepted that offer and now I am currently the meat manager at the Stong's supermarket Dunbar location.

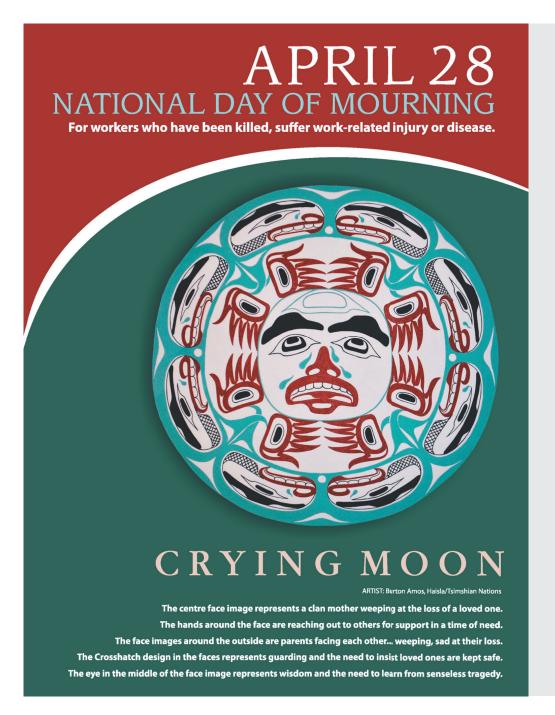
Being in the union 247/UFCW I felt that I grew a lot as a person. I was also able to do a few online courses free from the UFCW Canada website and most recently I joined my union at the UFCW Canada National Convention as a proud member of the 247.

I'm grateful that I joined our Union as they have helped me a lot for my development and for more opportunities in life.

Thank you and God bless.

Nellie L. Sakito

Your Union proudly supports our 247 members with scholarships dedicated to the **Meat Cutting Program at Thompson Rivers** University. Congratulations to our members Nellie, Wagner, and Ricky on passing their Level 2 step in the program.



### **Day of Mourning**

The Day of Mourning, also known as the National Day of Mourning, is a day set aside to remember and honor workers who have been killed, injured, or suffered illness due to their work. The day is observed on April 28<sup>th</sup> every year in Canada and in many other countries around the world.

The Day of Mourning was established in Canada in 1984 by the Canadian Labour Congress to commemorate the anniversary of the 1974 Workers' Compensation Act, which recognized the rights of workers and the importance of workplace safety. On this day, people gather in workplaces, cities, and towns across the country to hold vigils, ceremonies, and other events to remember those who have been killed or injured on the job.

The Day of Mourning serves as a reminder that workplace injuries and deaths are preventable, and that employers, workers, and governments have a shared responsibility to ensure that workplaces are safe and healthy for all workers. It also serves as a call to action for improved workplace safety laws and regulations, and for greater public awareness and support for workplace safety initiatives.

# Scholarships & Education Grants for members and their dependents

Every year, UFCW 247 members are eligible to apply for scholarships and educations grants. Your Union offers UFCW Local 247 IORIO Scholarships & EDDY Education Grants and UFCW Canada offers Beggs-Dowling-Mathieu (BDM) Scholarships.

Our two scholarship programs have been named in honour of two outstanding leaders, the heart and soul of the UFCW 247 Training Centre. For 25 years, Denyse Iorio and Nolan Eddy were instrumental in ensuring the success of multiple Government Funded programs. Programs like 45+, Women in Trades, T.R.A.D.E.S, Skills Link Hospitality, Professional Cook, G.V.U.A.S and Discovery to Apprenticeship, to name a few. Throughout the years, Denyse and Nolan guided the training centre through various changes in funding, always thinking of the many participants

who benefited immensely by these initiatives. Denyse retired in 2016 and sadly passed away in 2020. Nolan started his retirement chapter in 2021. We thank them both for their dedication throughout the years and consider it appropriate to continue to link them together with the naming of these scholarships/grants.

Information and applications for scholarships and education grants for UFCW 247 members and their dependants can be found on our website, under the education tab.

UFCW proudly supports education and life long learning as a community commitment for all our members and their dependants. Scholarships and Education grants are one way in which we support and encourage our members in our community.



The application process is now closed and will re-open July 2023.

## **Customer Abuse -Open Letter to** Management

Recently, a Union member at a Loblaw Superstore was assaulted by an angry customer at the U-Scan. While we are thankful that no serious injury resulted from this attack, this incident highlighted some concerns we have over how many of our Employers respond to these types of incidents.

Your Union has been aggressively advocating to ensure that proper processes are put in place and member safety measures are treated as a high priority. That said, we call on all levels of management to use their capacity as Leaders in the workplace to do their part in protecting their staff in the workplace.

If you are a member of management and a customer is being abusive, it's important to handle the situation quickly and professionally. In a respectful and healthy workplace this is what our members would like to see:

- 1. Assess the situation: assess the situation to determine the severity of the abuse and whether our members are at risk.
- 2. Listen to the customer: Allow the customer to express their concerns and frustrations, but make it clear that abusive behavior is not appropriate.
- 3. Set boundaries: If the customer continues to be abusive or disrespectful, it's important to set boundaries and let them know that abusive behavior is not acceptable.
- 4. Document the incident: It's important to document any incidents of customer abuse, including the date, time, and nature of the abuse. If you do not document or track incidents, it is impossible to develop any safety plans for your workers.
- 5. Follow up with members on the impact of the incident. This applies to not just the person involved but those who may have witnessed what took place. Provide resources and opportunity for members to express themselves and deal with the encounter.
- 6. Don't rush to judgment! This is not a "the customer is always right" situation.

Your primary concern should be the safety and well-being of your staff and other customers.

Your Union often negotiates language specific to these types of incidents. As an example, Loblaw Superstore Collective Agreement Article 45 states: There shall be zero tolerance for customer rudeness, impropriety, and abuse. No employee shall be required to continue to serve a customer who has engaged in any of these behaviours. Management shall take proactive steps to discourage improper customer behaviour.

The safety of our members should come first and we urge YOU, the employer to take member safety a priority and demonstrate that priority through concrete and visible actions.

### **Community Action News**

## Message from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada

"On behalf of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada, I would like to thank UFCW BC members for another year of unprecedented support for Light The Night. Collectively, members in our BC/Yukon region had an astounding impact of more than \$160,000, which is the most funds raised by UFCW BC members for the event to date. In addition to breaking your own record for support, this achievement [in combination with the leadership support of UFCW president Dan Goodman as our 2022 Event Co-Chair], undoubtedly propelled the overall success of the event, raising more than \$1 million in total. A feat that was accomplished in 2022 for only the second time in Light The Night Vancouver's history.

It is no coincidence that alongside these record breaking results, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada was able to invest \$5 million, the most in our 67 year history, into 67 research projects across Canada, including eight in British Columbia. Thanks to supporters like UFCW, lifesaving research continues to move forward in research centers across the country in order to improve outcomes and treatment options for the 155,000 Canadians affected by blood cancer. Your commitment to our mission makes us that much stronger in our pursuit to cure all blood cancers and support those affected by a diagnosis. Thank you again for your generous support. It means everything to our organization and all people affected by blood cancers." With gratitude,

Erika Kinast, Fund Development Director, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada



"Being the 2022 Event Co-Chair was an amazing and humbling experience." said Dan Goodman, UFCW. "Once again our members stepped up and supported this important cause and it's fantastic to see their engagement growing," he added.

Since 1985, our UFCW Canada family of members and Local Unions made a pledge to work together to support the efforts of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada (LLSC). This collaboration has put UFCW as the largest annual fundraising organization for the LLSC.

The money raised annually by UFCW Canada activists and Local Unions across Canada is used to support life-changing research and programs to find a cure, provide better therapies and patient support, and raise public awareness of leukemia, lymphoma, and other blood cancers.

This year, as part of our ongoing annual fundraising activities, we will again be submitting a Team to the annual Light the Night that walks. We will make an announcement on our website, Facebook and Instagram once this year's registration begins.

Find out more about UFCW Canada's history of LLSC fundraising at ufcw.ca/leukemia. To learn more about The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada (LLSC), visit www.llscanada.org.

### **UFCW Supports PRIDE!**

Your Union supports our LGBTQ+ members and participates in the Surrey Pride event FESTIVAL ON THE PLAZA and the Pride Vancouver annual Festival event held in Vancouver. These events celebrate and raises awareness of the LGBTQ+ community. The Surrey FESTIVAL ON THE PLAZA - (CIVIC PLAZA) will be held this year in front of City Hall on June 24th 2023. We will be hosting a booth, please come by to say hello to our member volunteers! For more information on this event please visit: www.surreypride.ca.

This year's Pride Vancouver Festival event will be held on August 6th 2023. The event includes a parade, live entertainment, educational and cultural activities, and a festival that provides a platform for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies to come together and promote inclusivity, diversity, and equality.

Pride Vancouver promotes social acceptance and celebrates the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities. This event aims to create a safe

and inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals to express themselves, connect with their community, and advocate for their rights. This event is an opportunity for allies and supporters to learn more about the LGBTQ+ community and show their support.

The BC Federation of Labour organizes a Multi-Union Pride contingent to walk in Solidarity during the Vancouver Pride. 247 Members and their families are welcome to visit our booth in this year's Pride Festival. Stop by to say hello and show your support. If you are interested in volunteering at our booth during this year's Pride Festival on August 6th and ioining your Union in solidarity, please email us at ufcw@ufcw247.com.

As Canada's most progressive union, UFCW Canada plays a leading role in advocating for full equality and opportunity for the LGBTQI2S community. To learn more about UFCW's LGBTQI2S initiatives, visit www.ufcw.ca/pride.



# Why does advocacy work?

### **CLC Convention**

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) is the largest labour organization in Canada and represents the interests of working Canadians. Its primary purpose is to advocate for workers' rights, promote social justice, and improve working conditions by bringing together dozens of national and international unions, provincial and territorial federations of labour and community based labour councils.

Some activities that the CLC engages are:

- 1. Lobbying the Federal government on policies and laws.
- 2. Collective bargaining support and resources.
- 3. Offering education and training programs for Labour Unions.
- Social justice advocacy promotion for the rights of women, LGBTO2+ people, racialized workers, and workers with disabilities.
- 5. International solidarity advocacy to connect with unions and labour organizations around the world.

The Canadian Labour Congress plays an important role in representing the interests of Canadian workers and promoting social justice in Canada and beyond.

# What does the BC Federation of Labour do?

The British Columbia Federation of Labour (BCFED) is a union federation representing over 500,000 workers in British Columbia, Canada. The BCFED works to promote and protect the rights and interests of workers in British Columbia.

Some activities that the BCFED engages are:

- Lobbying the Provincial government and other decision-makers on behalf of workers.
- 2. Education programs and resources for workers and local union leaders
- Working with community organizations and social justice groups to build alliances and support for workers' rights.
- 4. Building Union solidarity among different unions and promoting cooperation and unified action

The BC Federation of Labour plays an important role in representing the interests of British Columbian workers.

Your Union is affiliated with both the BC Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress. As an affiliate, local unions should assist and advocate with other affiliates to drive changes that promote fairness and improvements to all workers in Canada.

Unions play an important role in ensuring that workers have a collective voice and bargaining power, and in promoting social and economic justice for all workers.

A perfect example of the success of this advocacy is the recent announced Employment Insurance (EI) sickness program. Effective December 18<sup>th</sup> 2022, the maximum period for receiving EI sickness benefits has been extended from 15 weeks to 26 weeks.

This is a very significant change to all working members as the addition benefit period will provide those individuals with more time to recover from their illness or injury without worrying about financial stress.

As part of UFCW's mission for all workers, Local Unions share the commitment to work as a progressive force and bring positive change to the political and social environment. Your Union participates and supports these initiatives by sending Union members to attend conventions held by the BC Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress.

Most recently, 247 members attended the BCFED convention which is held once every 2 years.

The theme of BC Federation of Labour 60<sup>th</sup> Convention was "Workers Front and Centre". In the face of tremendous adversity working people in BC have chosen Unity & Solidarity.

Delegates were able to meet speakers and Labour Leaders. 247 Delegates Peter and Margaret met NDP leader Jagmeet Singh.



These conventions are important events that help link members with other union members to build up the community in which we all live and work. These conventions inspire all attendees that as individuals, as members of a Union, as members of a national organization we can make a difference.

It is our collective responsibility to participate and to build up and not tear down.

Solidarity matters.



## **Endless Savings** & More (ESM): **Discounts on your** smart phone for **UFCW 247 Members**

Download a UFCW 247 version of the Endless Savings & More App to save on everyday purchases from hundreds of businesses including national chain retailers, service and travel providers. Powered by Endless Savings & More (ESM), this program is available to UFCW 247 members and their families.

#### How It Works

- Install the UFCW 247 version of the ESM App on your smart phone
- GPS automatically shows merchants and savings that are closest to your current location
- Tap on a merchant to view offers & tap on an offer for redemption details

 You typically show the offer on your smart phone at payment in physical locations or enter a code for online purchases

### **Getting Started**

- Go to your app store (Google or Apple) on your smart phone
- Search for: ESM or Endless Savings & More
- During registration you will be asked for an "organization code": Your code is: ufcw247
- · Allow location services. ESM uses "locations services" or GPS to automatically show you offers that are closest to your current location first

### How to Save Hundreds

- Check out the UFCW 247 "Exclusive Offers" and save hundreds on your smart phone & plan from Rogers. UFCW 247 "Exclusive Offers" always appear first when you tap the ESM App
- Check out the "Travel and Play" category on the ESM App to save hundreds on your next travel
- When in the mall or your shopping district, always "Tap the ESM App" to save additional hundreds per year



### webCampus: Free online courses for members and their families!

webCampus is UFCW Canada's online learning program that allows UFCW Canada members and their family members to access their favourite online courses - free of charge - on all tablets. smart phones, laptops, desktops, and Apple computers and devices, meaning participants can complete courses whenever and wherever they want.

webCampus courses focus on everything from personal development to health and safety to computer skills, and are available to all UFCW Canada members and family members at no cost.

To learn more about webCampusPLUS, please go to **ufcw.ca**, and follow the webCampus links.

### Follow UFCW 247 on Facebook & Instagram

UFCW Local 247 has an active Facebook page, and we are also on Instagram!

To help us keep you informed, please

make sure we have your current address and telephone number.

Follow us on Facebook for the latest news and information from the union, and check us out on Instagram as well.





# **Update your Information**

Call: 1.800.667.2205

Email: ufcw@ufcw247.com

Visit: www.ufcw247.com

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