



THE AGRICULTURE UNION: AN OVERVIEW

The Agriculture Union is a Component of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, one of the country's largest and most progressive unions. Membership in the PSAC allows Agriculture Union members to enjoy the best of both worlds – the autonomy we want combined with the clout required to stand up to powerful employers.

Every day, Canadians rely on the dedication of the men and women of the Agriculture Union. Many of our members are front-line defenders of public health, supporters of sustainable agriculture and guardians of a secure food chain. Others carry out key roles in upholding integrity in the federal public service and ensuring the public is able to receive services in both official languages.

The more than 8,000 members of the Agriculture Union work for such important federal government departments and agencies as:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency;
- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada;
- Canadian Grain Commission;
- Public Service Commission;
- Department of National Defence;
- Canada School of Public Service;
- Canadian Para-Mutuel Agency;
- Canadian Dairy Commission; and
- Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration

Just as Agriculture Union members work diligently to protect the public, their union works to protect their rights in the workplace.

The Agriculture Union gives our members a voice on the job. While we believe in fostering a constructive relationship with the employer, we're vigilant and aggressive in protecting our members' interests – from the workplace to the courts to Parliament Hill.

The Agriculture Union is a fighter. We've fought for the recognition and respect our members deserve. Fought for decent pay and benefits. Fought for safe working conditions. Fought for more flexibility for work and family needs.

The federal government is unlike other employers. It can not only make the rules, it can change them or make new ones at the stroke of a pen. That's why Agriculture Union members count on their union to be at their side, and on their side.

The workplace-centered Local is the heart of our union. Our members are grouped together in over 70 Locals across Canada. Elected executive members and activists work with members to protect and enforce their rights. They assist and represent co-workers on workplace problems or incidents of management abuse in such areas as discipline, harassment, discrimination, health and safety and technological change.

Our national officers are Agriculture Union members, elected by delegates to our union's National Triennial Convention. The National Executive and the National Council together run the business of our union between conventions.

The National Executive is comprised of a National President and four National Executive Vice-Presidents. The National Council is made up of the National Executive and:

- Regional Vice-Presidents, who represent defined geographical regions of the country; and
- National Directors elected to represent our members at the Public Service Commission, CSPS, the Department of National Defence, the Canadian Grain Commission and such common interests as Equal Opportunities.

Union Officers are backed by a strong team of Service Officers and administrative staff located at our National Office in Ottawa. These experienced staff provide guidance and support to the membership.

The Agriculture Union is an inclusive, accountable and professional organization. Grassroots control extends upwards, with members setting the agenda and charting our Union's course. Each member has the right to participate in Local Union meetings, to vote for Officers, to run for office, to vote on strike mandates and contract ratifications and to help bring about change in the union.

Membership control is enshrined in Agriculture Union by-laws and regulations. Regular meetings, conferences and conventions ensure the Union's leadership – at every level – is always accountable to the membership.

All Agriculture Union members have the power to make a difference. In their workplace; and in their union. By joining together, they gain strength on the job, at the bargaining table and at the ballot box.

An involved membership ensures our Union's continued strength and inclusiveness. Each member is strongly urged to participate.

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