



## **AGRICULTURE UNION REGIONAL SEMINARS**

The Agriculture Union organizes Regional Seminars for Local activists across the country on a regular basis. These Seminars are a combination of education, information-sharing and networking. Skills-building workshops and topical information is provided by educators and facilitators from our own Union, the Public Service Alliance and relevant outside organizations. Local representatives contribute a critical workplace perspective in open discussion.

The scope and mandate of these Seminars are governed by Regulation 4 of the Agriculture Union's by-laws and regulations. Executive members in each region – Regional Vice-Presidents and Directors – are charged with organizing the seminars and determining content that best meets their Locals' issues and needs. This built-in flexibility ensures the maximum benefit for all concerned.

The key to the Seminars' effectiveness is their two-way information and education process. Local participants have the major responsibility of ensuring their members' concerns are aired. However, equally important, these Local activists are also expected to share national and regional information on their return to their workplaces.

The Regional Seminar has the authority to put forth resolutions to the Agriculture Union Convention. It also has the authority to submit bargaining demands. Each Seminar also serves as an electoral body. The first round of Seminars after our Triennial National Convention elects regional representatives to the Agriculture Union's Human Rights Committee. And when the Union gears up for one of its regular rounds of bargaining with Treasury Board, our union's delegates to the PSAC's Regional Bargaining Conferences are also chosen at our Regional Seminars. Similarly, when appropriate, Seminar participants from our Canadian Food Inspection Agency Locals put forward two representatives per region for election to the CFIA national bargaining conference.

So, as you can see, these Agriculture Union Regional Seminars are much more than a 'talk shop'. If you have a concern or issue that you feel deserves attention, be certain to ensure your Local's representative to our next Regional Seminar hears from you!

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