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Agriculture Union Youth Survey Results

April 2008

The following are the results of the initial Youth Survey undertaken by the General Committee of the Agriculture Union. The results are reproduced as percentages of various responses. Please note that such variables as multiple answers mean some answers do not add up to one hundred per cent.

1. Have you ever been contacted by your union?

- a. Yes – 88%
- b. No – 12%

If yes, by whom and in what format (e.g. face-to-face, mail/e-mail, telephone, etc.)?

- a. Face-to-face – 48%
- b. Mail/E-mail – 72%
- c. Telephone – 12%

2. Do you know you have a collective agreement and have you read it?

- a. Yes – 100%

3. Do you think the union has a role in the following (yes, no, don't know)?

Negotiation of wages

- a. Yes – 100%

Negotiation of working conditions (e.g. leave, overtime, hours of work, medical, pension, severance pay)

- a. Yes – 100%

Occupational Health and Safety

- a. Yes – 84%
- b. No – 8%
- c. Don't Know – 8%

Municipal, Provincial and/or Federal Elections/Lobbying

- a. Yes – 40%

- b. No – 32%
- c. Don't Know – 28%

Environmental issues

- a. Yes – 36%
- b. No – 36%
- c. Don't Know – 28%

Volunteerism (United Way, Food Banks, etc.)

- a. Yes – 56%
- b. No – 12%
- c. Don't Know – 32%

Social Justice (International projects, poverty coalitions, youth in crisis, childcare, etc.)

- a. Yes – 52%
- b. No – 24%
- c. Don't Know – 24%

4. Would you be interested in participating in our union by:

Reading union material

- a. Yes – 96%
- b. No – 4%

Attending Local Union meetings

- a. Yes – 72%
- b. No – 16%
- c. Don't Know – 12%

Serving on other committees

- a. Yes – 72%
- b. No – 24%
- c. Don't Know – 4%

Participating on the local executive

- a. Yes – 52%
- b. No – 40%
- c. Not answered – 4%

Participating in union education/training

- a. Yes – 80%
- b. No – 16%
- c. Not answered – 4%

Participating in local social justice campaigns

- a. Yes – 56%
- b. No – 24%
- c. Don't Know – 4%
- d. Not answered – 4%

5. What barriers do you see to your participation in your union (e.g. time, lack of knowledge or skills, lack of available positions, not something the union is involved in, etc.)

- Lack of time
- Lack of knowledge
- Working in remote location
- Lack of opportunity for participation/activities
- Lack of interest
- Finding childcare
- Lack of communication
- Stigma attached to union activism
- What's in it for me/others
- Lack of knowledge about what the union does (and its benefits and drawbacks)

6. What issues are of concern to you? Workplace, community and/or globally?

- Occupational health and safety
- Collective agreement
- Environmental issues (locally and globally)
- Workplace - income, job security, equity, working conditions, justice in the workplace, fair collective agreement that doesn't take a year to settle, fairness, equality, respect, diversity, opportunity, transparency, hiring practices
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- Able to live and work in a safe community
- The role the union plays and how it helps
- Respect, everyone getting along (workplace and community)
- Money
- Having an indeterminate position
- Different setup for compensation for medical and dental
- Volunteer opportunities in the local community
- Work-life balance
- Justice
- Quality of workstation
- Community: affordable housing, lower tuition costs, litter, aggressive panhandlers
- Globally: human security (specifically Darfur and Uganda), global warming
- Lobbying, political action
- Evaluation of competencies of your responsibilities and receiving proper compensation
- Poverty relief, ethnic injustice
- Food banks/shelters
- Safety (especially on the road)
- Developing countries need our help
- Keeping our sick time as is – where we can bank it
- National rates of pay (GL's)
- Possible pay of sick time when retire
- Community: more accessible and more efficient public transport, more resources into alternative transportation, bike paths and safe pedestrian routes