

# Resolutions and Bylaw Amendment Proposals

**Atlantic Regional Council  
2024**



# Bylaw Amendment Proposal 1

## Officers and Executive

### **Atlantic Regional Council will:**

1. Change By-laws Article 3, paragraphs 10, 11 and 13 to read as follows:

10.The Atlantic Regional Council shall elect an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers named above and up to 7 Members at Large to reflect geographic regions or industries and to reflect the gender and equity principles of the union. **The Executive Committee shall also include a Retiree Representative, who shall be the Atlantic Region Representative elected to the National Retired Workers Council Executive. The term of office for the Members at Large shall be 3 years, from the first Regional Council meeting following the Unifor convention to the Regional Council meeting following the subsequent Unifor convention. The term of office for the Retiree Representative shall be three years, following elections at the annual meeting of the National Retired Workers Council immediately following the Convention of the National Union.**

11.All members of the Executive Committee shall be regularly elected delegates to the Atlantic Regional Council, **with the exception of the Retiree Representative, who is a delegate to the Regional Council with voice and one vote pursuant to Article 12.26 of the Unifor Constitution.**

13.A vacancy for an officer or other member of the Executive Committee shall be filled by an election at the next regular meeting of the Regional Council with a term of office extending to the first meeting of the Regional Council following the Unifor convention. **The National Retired Workers Council Executive shall notify the Atlantic Regional Council Chair of any vacancy, or of the filling of any vacancy, which may occur in the Retiree Representative position.**

### **Because:**

- Under Article 2, Statement of Principle, Unifor is open and inclusive, and;
- Solidarity, and;
- Will be the Retirees voice at ARC Executive Council.

Submitted by Unifor Local 2121

**Robert Coady**

President

## Resolution #1

### EI Protections for Seasonal Workers

#### **Unifor Atlantic Regional Council Will:**

1. Encourage all Atlantic locals to advocate for enhanced Employment Insurance (EI) protections for seasonal workers;

#### **Because:**

- The Government of Canada has not undertaken effective reform of the EI system despite extensive consultation in 2020 and 2021; and
- The current EI system is insensitive to the needs of seasonal workers in Atlantic Canada, with the eligibility criteria subject to change drastically at the end of the season from the beginning of the season, leaving many workers unable to bridge the gap in hours and earnings for their claim; and
- Fish harvesters do not meet the classification of a seasonal worker within Service Canada, therefore unable to avail on any of the benefit extension programs for seasonal workers.

#### **Submitted by FFAW-Unifor:**

##### **Greg Pretty**

President

##### **Courtney Langille**

Government Relations and Communications

## Resolution #2

### Reducing Corporate Concentration of Independent Fisheries

#### **Unifor Atlantic Regional Council Will:**

1. Fight to reduce corporate concentration of independent fisheries in Atlantic Canada;

#### **Because:**

- Canadian workers rely on access to adjacent natural resources for the socio-economic benefits that sustain rural, coastal communities; and
- The corporatization of the fisheries sector by the federal government is blatantly counter to the mandate of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, notably the Owner-Operator policy that was enshrined into law in 2021; and
- The influence of corporations in the processing sector, particularly those that are foreign owned and multinational, compresses competition, creates barriers for new entrants, and lessens the return to harvesters.

#### **Submitted by FFAW-Unifor:**

##### **Greg Pretty**

President

##### **Courtney Langille**

Government Relations and Communications

## Resolution # 3

### Atlantic EFAP / Mental Health / Addictions Conference

#### **Unifor Atlantic Council Will:**

1. Hold a bi-annual EFAP/Mental Health/ Addictions Conference starting in 2025 with the timing and venue of the conference to be established by the Atlantic Council executive board.

#### **Because:**

- Statistically 1 in 5 Canadians experience mental illness each year. This number also includes our Unifor Members; and
- Equity seeking members may have additional mental health issues due to stigma and discrimination already abundant in society; and
- Mental illness/addiction is an equity issue and protected grounds under human rights codes; and
- Unifor has an ongoing commitment to make sure workplace leadership have the tools and confidence to help our members who are experiencing mental health issues; and
- Unifor currently holds a bi-annual EFAP/ Mental Health/ Addictions Conference that takes place in Port Elgin, Ontario and predictably will be held in the following years: 2026, 2028 etc.; and
- Atlantic Region Members have a hard time attending the EFAP/ Mental Health/ Addictions Conference because of the travel distance from the Atlantic Region to Port Elgin. This leaves significant travel cost to the Local Union, and additional lost time to Unifor Members who wish to attend; and
- By holding bi-annual EFAP/Mental Health/ Addictions Conferences in the region of the Atlantic, our delegates and leadership will have the opportunity to attend, and our members will benefit while alleviating the conflict of lengthy travel.

#### **Submitted by Unifor Local 40-N**

##### **Doug Gray**

President

##### **Thomas Handley**

Recording Secretary