



THE AGRICULTURE UNION: A MEMBER-CONTROLLED UNION

As an inclusive organization, the Agriculture Union urges all members to participate in the life of their union, from the Local to the National level.

Agriculture Union Locals are the cornerstone of our union. Volunteer Local executive members fight the daily workplace fight to represent and advance the interests of their co-workers. Most Local Executives are comprised of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a number of Stewards. In larger Locals, they may also have a Chief Shop Steward.

The Agriculture Union's Triennial Convention is the supreme governing body of our union. Delegates are elected by Local Union members to attend the Triennial Convention and represent not only the interests of their Local members but of all members across the country. Their responsibilities include: adopting and/or amending the Agriculture Union's by-laws; passing policy resolutions; determining the budget which sets Agriculture Union dues; electing a National Executive, the National Director for Equal Opportunities and, in regional caucuses, electing Regional Vice Presidents. Our members from the Public Service Commission (PSC), the Department of National Defence (DND), the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) and the Canada School of Public Service (CSPS) elect their National Directors.

The National Executive includes a full-time National President and 1st Vice-President and three Executive Vice-Presidents. The Executive Vice-Presidents are assigned and responsible for specific portfolios: Collective Bargaining and Health and Safety, Finance and Communications, By-Laws & Education, and General. It is the responsibility of Regional Vice-Presidents to ensure that concerns and problems of the membership are brought up at the national level and that decisions, answers and new developments are transmitted back to the local level.

The National Executive, Regional Vice-Presidents and National Directors make up the National Council, which meets at least twice a year. The National Council is our union's governing body between conventions and, amongst other responsibilities, can establish committees for the conduct of the affairs of the Union.

The Agriculture Union's National Office is based in Ottawa and its staff carries out the day-to-day functions of our union, working with the National President, National Council, Locals and individual members.

Some major services provided by the Agriculture Union National Office include:

- Direct representation on final level grievances;
- Membership communication;
- Consultation with the employer, including participation on National Union/Management Consultation Committees; and
- Advisory services to Locals on such issues as, collective agreement interpretation, Health & Safety and Human Rights.