

All Eyes on E-Day: Why this federal election matters to Unifor members in the federal sector

There is less than one week until Election Day. Unifor members across Canada are busy talking to their co-workers about the issues that matter most to our union: affordability, worker's rights, pharmacare, and many others. An informed vote by Unifor members can make all the difference in electing a progressive, government that will stand with Canada's workers.

Although it has not made headlines, or been a topic in the recent federal leaders' debates, the outcome of this election could have a dramatic affect on employment standards – specifically for workers in the Federally Regulated Private Sector (FRPS).

Over the past year, the federal government has undertaken an ambitious modernization of the Canada Labour Code – perhaps the most progressive overhaul of labour standards in all of Canada. Unifor is proud to have played an advocacy role in winning these reforms, workplace protections that our union has long bargained for.

“Workers in the telecommunications sector struggle with long hours, difficult working conditions, and little rest. We need federal employments standards to protect us, not exclude us. Recent changes are a good start, but we can do even better. We need a government that is ready and willing to make worker's rights a priority in our next Parliament.” Alain Paradis, technician, Chairperson Local 8284

“Building a progressively stronger foundation of federal labour standards is needed to foster a workplace culture of safety, fairness and respect – and these standards must apply, in equal measure, to Canada's pilots and the broader aviation industry.” Barret Armann, pilot, President Local 7378

New rules introduced by the Trudeau Government, such as paid personal days, flexible work arrangements, gender pay equity, accessible leaves, protections against contract flipping, guaranteed rest periods and improved scheduling notice are just a few of the long-overdue improvements to work standards for workers in the FRPS.

Additional changes, including fair pay laws for part-time and contract workers, will soon come into force... but only if we have a federal government willing to fight for them.

Here is what we know: corporations are not happy. Many large employers have successfully pushed to have entire categories of workers temporarily exempted from specific rules, including new rest periods.

“Recent changes to the Canada Labour Code, including new time-off for personal emergencies and improvements to rest periods and scheduling are long overdue. We need to protect them, and expand on them, wherever possible. This is especially true for workers in the armoured car industry, where workplace safety and equality are paramount.” Nelly Francis, armoured car guard, Chairperson Local 112

In some cases, new standards still lack supporting regulations – clear, practical instructions that outline how new rules should be applied. This leaves workers vulnerable. It can result in a denial of benefits, especially in non-union workplaces.

We also know that provincially, conservative governments have irresponsibly torn up progressive labour laws. In Ontario, the Doug Ford conservatives ripped up landmark labour legislation within months of taking office. In Alberta, Jason Kenney weakened provincial labour standards within days.

Unifor believes that, if elected, Andrew Scheer will follow the lead of both Ford and Kenney and these federal labour gains, while not perfect, will be lost. We can't take that risk.

This election matters to Unifor members working in the Federally-Regulated Private Sector – workers in Canada's airlines, railways, roadways, waterways; in telecommunications and broadcasting; in banking and financial services; in grain handling and others.

We need you to step up, speak out and **STAND STRONG** for Canada's workers. On October 21, we need all Unifor members to cast their ballot to [Stop Scheer](#).

In solidarity,



Jerry Dias
National President

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“For those of us in broadcasting, we have gotten used to doing more work with fewer staff and less resources. For some, it means working around the clock to deliver critical news and programming. Recent federal employment standard improvements are welcome, but more still needs to be done. Workers in TV and radio need the full protection of new scheduling rules, and we need equal pay for all workers doing the same job. This can only be accomplished if we elect a government that cares about workers.” Kat Leonard, Closed Captioning and Described Video Operator, Vice President Local 723M