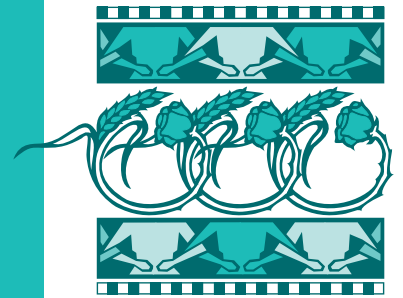


PRAIRIE SCHOOL

For Union Women 2012



Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan
June 10-14, 2012



Register by April 27 to take advantage of the early bird discount!

The Prairie School for Union Women offers trade union women an intensive four days of learning and sharing in a supportive environment. The goals of the school are to develop women's personal and leadership skills and to build solidarity among women workers. The school provides on-site child care and is committed to child-friendly attitudes.

Who Can Attend?

Whether you are a woman who is a long time activist or just starting to get involved in your union, this school is open to you. Enrolment for the 2012 School is limited to 150. Participants will be registered on a first-come first-served basis. Your registration fee **MUST** accompany your registration form in order to qualify.

Scholarship Program

The Prairie School for Union Women has established a Scholarship Fund for the purpose of encouraging women from equity-seeking groups and from non-unionized work settings to attend the school as participants.

Women from the following equity-seeking groups are eligible to apply: Aboriginal women, women with disabilities, visible minority women, lesbian/bisexual women and youth (29 and under). In addition, unemployed women and women working in non-unionized settings are eligible to apply.

The scholarship application form is available on the SFL website at www.sfl.ca. Contact the SFL office at 525-0197 for more information.



**Courses are scheduled over the four days (22 hours).
Please select *one* course from the following options
(also indicate your second and third choices).
Each course is limited to 15 participants.**

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A

Women, Work, and Ability

Sheryl Burns, CUPE
Carrie Bishop, CUPE

This course is designed to explore myths, mistaken beliefs and assumptions regarding disabilities. It will raise awareness of barriers that women with disabilities experience in the workplace and participants will develop action plans in breaking down the barriers. Rights and responsibilities for “Duty to Accommodate” will be explored and examples of accommodations will be identified. Overall, participants will gain tools on how to make the workplace accessible.

After this course, you will be able to ...

- participate in and develop return to work plans;
- represent members who have disabilities; and
- develop disability friendly collective agreement language.

You will know ...

- duty to accommodate and human rights legislation; and
- issues and facts regarding disabilities.

You will value ...

- women with disabilities; and
- human rights.

B

Union Women on Turtle Island

Darla Leard, CLC
Sandra Ahenakew, PSAC

This course is for all trade union women who want to understand the issues Aboriginal women face in diverse working environments. Participants will explore the reasons for the invisibility of Aboriginal women in union structures and begin to develop strategies to encourage Sisterhood.

After this course, you will be able to ...

- act as agents for change; and
- “see” Aboriginal people with new eyes.

You will know ...

- how to work more effectively in a diverse workplace; and
- how to challenge barriers to diversity, by exploring Aboriginal peoples’ culture and traditions, as well as contemporary issues they are facing.

You will feel ...

- challenged, but respected in an open, safe environment; and
- a true sense of personal power, grounded on a strong base of knowledge, rather than the false and temporary feeling of power that is based on stereotypes.

C

Women Speaking Up

Dolores Douglas, CUPE
Carol Cisecki, UFCW

Are you afraid of “speaking up” at meetings, speeches, public events or even one on one communication? Do you want to build your confidence and become a more effective leader?

In this workshop you will learn to think quickly on your feet, find your voice, and communicate well in public. We’ll “talk it up” using microphones and “go live” in news conferences and interviews as we get our message out to the media.

From writing and delivering a speech to crafting a resolution, speaking to the media, or speaking up at the next union meeting or bargaining session, this is a special training opportunity you won’t want to miss.

After this course, you will understand ...

- why women in our society and even in our unions may not speak up.

You will feel ...

- more confident and assertive.

You will be able to ...

- overcome your fear and find your voice.

D

Taking the World by Storm: How Corporations are Harming People and the Earth

*Denise MacDonald, CUPE
Sharon Cameron, SEIU West*

Corporate globalization directly impacts all of us at home and at work, with major effects on our communities and our natural environment. In Saskatchewan we are continuing to focus on non-renewable energy development such as nuclear and tar sands, while the rest of the world is making the shift to green jobs and a green economy. This course will help you to learn more about the workings of multinationals and how to resist them. We will explore the ways that resisting globalization is good for the health of individuals, communities and the planet.

After this course, you will understand ...

- that everything and everybody are inter-connected;
- how corporate strategies of multinational corporations affect diverse groups of workers and the environment; and
- what people are doing to resist the corporate agenda and work towards ecological balance.

You will feel ...

- connected to the struggles and experiences of others around the world;
- equipped with the tools and resources you need to resist globalization in your home, community, workplace and union; and
- that your actions can make a difference in protecting the environment.

You will be able to ...

- assess the ecological impact of our actions;
- make political and economic choices that build healthy and just communities (alternatives); and
- develop an action plan and strategies workers can take on a local level to resist corporate globalization.

E

Everyday Activism: Choose Your Own Adventure

*Jen Britton, CEP
Vicky Smallman, CLC*

Are you a person with passion and motivation, but don't know what tools to use to become more involved? Well, this course is for you! We will explore all kinds of activism, including the benefits of social media, lobbying, movement-building, and creative direct action. We will work together to design action plans including both small scale and large scale actions. Be prepared to showcase your activism starting right at the Prairie School!

After this course, you will learn ...

- how to take action and motivate others in your union and community.

You will feel ...

- excited about our collective power to make change.

F

Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History

*Lori Johb, SEIU West
Katherine Harrison, CEP*

Making change has never been easy. As women have struggled for equality through history, they have faced all kinds of barriers — personal, political, and economic.

In this course we will learn how the principles of feminism and trade unionism can guide us in transforming our workplaces and unions. We will explore how to put an end to oppression and discrimination by putting on our “feminist glasses”. We will practice ways to overcome sexism and promote feminist leadership.

After this course, you will ...

- be able to understand sexism and oppression;
- know the history of women's struggles in the workplace and the labour movement; and
- feel inspired to take on feminist struggles in your workplace and your union.

G

Popular Education for Everyday Union Work (Level 1): Introduction to Facilitating

*Judy Shannon, PSAC
Meaghan McNeil, HSAA*

As a union activist, you probably work with groups of members. You may have to run union meetings, there may be tensions and conflict within your membership, and there may be challenging collective decisions to be made.

This hands-on program will introduce you to a Popular Education approach to your union work. We will explore good communication skills and how to lead productive discussions. We will learn more about designing union meetings that members want to attend – where exciting things can happen! We'll look at some new and innovative techniques, like the Art of Hosting, that can help our members work better together so we can build a stronger union movement.

After this course, you will ...

- know more about what a “popular education approach” is;
- know more about Art of Hosting techniques such as World Café and Appreciative Inquiry;
- feel increased confidence facilitating union meetings;
- feel ready to try something new as a union activist; and
- be able to use different methods and techniques in your union work.

H

Getting Older? Getting Better!

*Marg Romanow, SUN
Wendy Daku, CLC*

What can we expect as we age? This course will explore diverse topics such as health, social programs, relationships, financial and workplace issues from the perspective of the mature union woman.

After this course, you will ...

- be able to better understand and identify that you are not alone in what you feel and wonder about as you age;
- consider the positive aspects of aging;
- understand the sources of income in retirement; and
- estimate how much retirement income you will need.

You will know ...

- that there are all kinds of allies and support systems to meet your needs in retirement;
- this is a place where we are among friends, and can feel safe and valued; and
- more about retirement income needs.

You will value ...

- yourself as a woman and your friendships;
- the importance of sharing concerns and successes of growing older with others;
- the importance of planning and saving for retirement; and
- the importance of maximizing your health status.



I

Transforming Conflict into Union Activism

Adriane Paavo, SGEU

Conflict is woven into the fibre of union life. We need to stand up to our employers, and we have tools to do that. Our main tool is union solidarity. But what happens when we have conflict with our brothers and sisters? How many of us avoid leadership roles because we fear conflict? How can we respond to conflict in our day-to-day activism in a way that builds solidarity and makes our unions stronger? This course will provide participants with a tool kit of skills and insights to help them feel more confident engaging in conflicts and produce productive results that build the union.

After this course, you will understand ...

- basic conflict resolution theory;
- the difference between functional and dysfunctional conflict; and
- how gender and culture affect how we view and act in conflict.

You will be able to ...

- listen effectively, ask better questions, and identify the issues at the heart of a conflict; and
- develop strategies for transforming conflict into union activism.

You will feel ...

- more comfortable dealing with conflict in your workplace and union.

J

Stop Standing on One Foot While Holding Your Breath: Finding a Balance in Work, Family, Union and Self

*Tracey Mitchell
Jan Cibart, SUN*

We play many roles in our lives as women. We can be workers, daughters, partners, activists, shop stewards, parents, and much more, all at once! This course explores how we can retain a sense of self and independence to help us play these roles better and be more true to who we are. The course will also look at many different types of family including single parents, families without children, non-traditional gender roles, LGBT families, disabilities in the family, and women on their own. Finally, the course will look at the roles women play as activists and how they can bring this into balance with the rest of their lives, connecting the personal and the political. The thread that ties this course together is that strong, independent women are healthier and more effective in their families, workplaces and unions.

After this course, you will ...

- have a better understanding of a wide range of families;
- know what your union can do to support women in different family situations; and
- learn ways to foster your independence in all aspects of your life and bring your family, work and union roles into balance.



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Accommodation: The School is in the resort of Waskesiu Lake located in Prince Albert National Park north of Prince Albert. We have access to a wide variety of cabins and hotel rooms all **based on double occupancy**. Please list the names of sisters that you are willing to share with. Those that do not indicate a preference will be assigned shared accommodations with another sister. **Accommodation will be assigned based on receipt of paid registrations.** Organizers reserve the right to assign rooms based on the practical needs of the school.

Wellness: The school organizers have planned a variety of free time activities throughout the week to encourage you to nurture your body, mind and spirit. Since exercise, Sisterhood, and relaxation are a part of that, there will be many planned activities such as nature hikes, water activities, a games night, etc. Come out and indulge yourself and rediscover your rhythm and voice at the Wednesday evening social.

Child Care: We are a child-friendly school! Childcare will be provided on-site to children aged 12 and under by qualified child care workers. This is **intended for mothers who have no alternate care available to them**. **Space is limited** and only pre-registered children will be accepted at the school so please make your request **no later than May 7**. Children are welcome to attend social events at the school. All mothers requesting child care will be contacted prior to the school.

Meals: Please note on the registration form any special dietary needs you have so that we can provide advance notice to the caterers.

SFL registration fee includes breakfast and lunch Monday to Thursday and dinner for Sunday evening as well as a banquet on Wednesday evening. Monday and Tuesday dinners are not included in the price.

Transportation: For women arriving by air into Saskatoon and Saskatoon and area women we will again be offering a charter bus for the **additional cost of \$75** (includes return trip and park entrance fee). Please include **\$75** with your registration fee (see "Transportation" section on conference registration form for details).

A park fee will be charged for each vehicle entering the Prince Albert National Park. This fee is the responsibility of your local. We encourage women to car pool.

Refund Policy:

- up to May 7: full refund
- May 7 to June 1: refund minus \$100 admin fee
- after June 1: no refund

Confirmation: Participants will be sent an information package in May confirming registration and providing a map and more detailed information.

Union Shop: Attractive union wear and products (including Prairie School memorabilia) will be for sale at the school.

This brochure is also available on the SFL's web site: www.sfl.sk.ca

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 10

Registration	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Supper	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Opening Session	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Monday, June 11

Plenary Session	8:30 – 9:15 a.m.
Courses Begin	

Tuesday, June 12

Plenary Session	8:30 – 9:15 a.m.
Courses Continue	

Wednesday, June 13

Plenary Session	8:30 – 9:15 a.m.
Courses Continue	
Evening Banquet	

Thursday, June 14

Courses Continue	8:30 a.m.
Closing Plenary	(approximately) 12:30 p.m.

Please make flight arrangements out of Saskatoon no earlier than 5:00 p.m.



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____

Union & Local _____

Occupation _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Child Care

Do you require child care on site? Yes No
(**DEADLINE is May 7, no exceptions.** Must accompany completed **paid** registration.) Space is limited.

Number of children: _____ girls _____ boys

Names/ages: _____

Do they have any special needs? (specify)

Accommodation (double occupancy)

I prefer to share with (name of other person(s)):

Transportation from Airport

Return trip to Waskesiu Lake and the four day park entrance fee will be provided for women **arriving by air** (no later than 2:00 p.m.) **for \$75.**

I will arrive on flight # _____ Time: _____

From (city) _____

I will need transportation from Saskatoon to Waskesiu Lake Yes No

If checked yes — please **include \$75** with your registration fee.

Special Needs

Do you have any special dietary needs? Yes No

Do you have any special access, mobility, or other health needs? Yes No

If yes, please specify:

Course Selection

We do our best to ensure you are enrolled in the course of your choice. However, each course enrolment is limited and registration will be on a first-come first-served basis. Please include your second and third choices! Indicate the course letter in the blanks below.

First: _____

Second: _____ Third: _____

PSUW Registration Fees

Is your union/local affiliated to your provincial/territorial federation of labour? Yes No

Early bird registration received by April 27, 2012. (Cheque *must* accompany completed registration form to qualify. No exceptions.)

This package includes four nights accommodation at Waskesiu Lake and meals as outlined under the **Meals** heading in this brochure.

Affiliates: by April 27: \$750

after April 27: \$900

Non-affiliates: by April 27: \$850

after April 27: \$1000

Note: If taking bus out of Saskatoon please include additional \$75 with registration fee.

Make cheque payable to SFL

Mail a copy of completed form and cheque to:

Saskatchewan Federation of Labour
220 – 2445 13th Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 0W1

Phone: (306) 525-0197

Fax: (306) 525-8960

E-mail: d.lussier@sfl.sk.ca

