

How are Unions Relevant in Today's Society?

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Canadian labour unions can be found in almost every modern workplace. Currently, the largest labour union in modern Canada is the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). It has about 79 offices installed throughout Canada, and this makes it easily accessible. The main goal of any union is to promote equality and fairness in any industry for all employees present. The first Canadian labour union was founded by the Toronto Trades Assembly in 1873. Employees who worked for a union were given standard benefits such as pension plans, and health care benefits. Employers that didn't subscribe to a union were pressured to increase their own benefits and conveniences in order to compete with the industries that had chosen to instate unions; reasonably, employees preferred to work for companies and employers that promised to consider their needs and rights. Unions have clearly changed the face of the modern workforce. Without them, employees would find themselves often taken advantage of.

Unions raise the standard of living for the common worker. The decrease in unions found in the common workplace has served to intimidate employees as they are forced to work under adverse conditions in order to meet inflations costs, despite the fact that their rights are not necessarily being attended to. Unions are an integral part of equality in the workforce.

Unions have found success in health care industries; industries that are growing every day. The president of the SEIU supports 1.8 million nurses, security guards, and janitors. Unions give

workers freedom to speak and have rights. They ensure dignity is granted to the working force by negotiating fair treatment for members of the union regardless of race, sex, or religious beliefs. Unions protect the modern rights that all humans are entitled to.

Despite the fact that the workplace has greatly advanced in terms of treatment and worker benefits -- even from ten years ago -- the potential for unfair treatment is still present in every workplace. Many industries still try to take advantage of their employees, using systems that are designed to make employees feel guilty for taking all of their required breaks or sick days, for example. In North America, employees are being given fewer and fewer benefits; unions are installed in order to prevent and reverse this trend. Unions seek to equalize all employees within a workplace. Union fees are kept purposefully minimal, in order to ensure that a larger number of employees have access to them.

Having a union to represent an employee's rights and concerns is entirely necessary. As an employee, being represented by a large organization that has been instated for the purpose of protecting your rights, will definitely assign an advantage to that employee as opposed to one that is self-represented. Unions are better able to draw the attention of both the industry and the government. They often eliminate the fear of reprisal in an employee, encouraging the employee to speak out against unfair treatment without the fear of losing their position.

Therefore Unions are very relevant in today society