

How are Unions Relevant in today's Society

Labor unions play a large and important role in the workplace for many Canadians, as well as workers across the globe. Unions guarantee the rights of workers, and represent equality among the working classes by pushing for better rights, benefits and wages. Canadian unions, such as the National Health Union and the Public Service Alliance of Canada, help to improve its members' quality of life, not only by fighting for their members' rights in the workplace, but also by lobbying for greater benefits such as medical and dental coverage. Also, such unions help strengthen and ameliorate the public health and security system across the nation. Though the creation of labor unions in 19th century Britain were essential for workers in that time period, in order to bring minimally fair wages and decent working conditions, unions still remain relevant in today's society. In our 21st century world of increasing competition in the workplace and technological advancements in industry, unions must also move forward and continue to strive for workers' rights.

Unlike the Industrial Age, Canadian society today has rapidly advanced in information technology. This has increased Canadians' knowledge and education levels, resulting in better human resource policies for all workers across the nation. Although union awareness is waning among younger generations, the promotion of workers' rights and equality in the workplace should and will continuously remain a top priority in our society. Safe work practices, fair working hours and fair wages can always be improved to make hours spent in the workplace safer and more enjoyable.

As our society changes, so too, do our ideologies. Workplace rights that labor unions and their employees have fought so rigorously for in the past have been incorporated into Canadian law. However, without the existence of unions to defend them, such laws may quickly lose support. It is also possible that without these unions, many organizations will have the laws that protect workers' rights reversed in order to save money and gain more profit by lowering wages and benefits. Millions of workers will continually need an organized body to help address their wants and needs in the workplace. There is no substitution for unions and the benefits they provide. In view of current globalization and the integration of international economies, labour unions which are viewed to be more popular in the West, should organize and recruit new members in Third World and developing countries. These countries could gain prosperity with the example of Canadian labour unions that offer its members safe working conditions, fair wages and fair treatment in the workplace.

It can be said that labor unions influence and applicability may be slowly decreasing in today's society. Today's worker are more informed and more educated than their predecessors. They are certainly more aware of their rights in the workplace. However none of them would be possible without the unceasing efforts that unions provide on behalf of their member. Labor unions such as the National Health Union have helped workers achieve and promote equality, safe work conditions, fair wages and fair benefits. At the end of the day, the ultimate goal of unions is to provide a greater quality of life for workers.