



UNW Local Political Action Guideline

Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to assist UNW members and active Locals that are engaging in political action to advance and protect the economic and social conditions of UNW members and other working people, as mandated in the UNW Regulation Part 1, Section II Local Affairs, 3. Political Action Funds.

Guideline

Locals should work collaboratively with the UNW Executive Political Action Committee (PAC), which is a mandated committee of the Executive, to ensure common goals to engage its members and other people.

In some circumstances, the Locals and the UNW PAC may wish to partner with like-minded coalitions and labour organizations. Some of these organizations may include:

- NTFL,
- PSAC North Regional Council,
- PSAC North NWT Area Council,
- Canadian Labour Congress,
- NWT Status of Women,
- Indigenous groups,
- UNW Equity Committee,
- one or more of the PSAC North Equity Committees
- other UNW committees
- Canadian Council of Canadians,
- Alternatives North.

During political elections and campaigns, UNW headquarters will assist Locals with common messaging. (See also Regulations Part 1, Section II. Local Affairs, 1. Communications)

Funding

Union of Northern Workers allocates funds annually for political action to each active Local, usually around the end of February. (See Regulation Part 1, Section II. Local Affairs, 3. Political Action Funds for the specifics on how the funds are allocated.)



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Activities

The Local Executive should work with their RVP and the Communications Officer at headquarters on their political action plan to ensure common messaging and adherence to Union principles and ideals.

The RVP should ask for assistance from the PAC if he/she is uncertain how to assist the Local with its action plan.

Each political action plan should include a checklist of tasks to be done, outcomes expected, and dates for check in on progress.

The Local executive should discuss the action plan at its annual strategic planning session and should present the plan or its ideas for approval to a Local General Meeting. This ensures that the Local members are aware of the proposed plan for campaign and political action.

The Local can request assistance from UNW headquarters in developing materials such as pamphlets, or sourcing these materials from other organizations.

The RVPs will report to FEM on any Local political action campaigns so other Locals can support them.

Some examples of political action activities may include:

- Social events which specifically promote targeted political issues
- Meetings with municipal, territorial, or federal political figures to promote specific political issues
- Political message mail outs to members or the public
- Political advertising
- Panel discussions
- Candidates forums
- Political film showings