

SEIU Local 1 Canada Fact Sheet

Who are we?

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1 Canada represents more than 46,000 health care and community services workers in Ontario. Its goal is to improve the lives of working people and their families and lead the way to a more just and humane society.

SEIU Local 1 Canada has an excellent track record of improving wages, benefits and working conditions for our members, as well as strengthening standards in patient and client care. Our members work in hospitals, home care, nursing and retirement homes and community services throughout the province.

Who are our members?

SEIU Local 1 Canada's members have many different types of jobs in health care and community services. They rescue car accident victims, treat life-threatening injuries in the emergency rooms or surgery, help care for senior citizens, perform the vital administration that keeps the system going, or assist someone who is coping with a loss of a loved one.

What our members all have in common is they help patients and clients improve their health and social well-being.

SEIU's members include nurses, personal support workers, paramedics, clerical workers, community support workers, allied health care professionals, and support service workers.

What we do

SEIU Local 1 Canada's core responsibilities are to provide a high level of union services including:

- Helping members negotiate collective agreements with employers that meet their needs and improve their working conditions
- Representing members at arbitration and grievance disputes at the Ontario Labour Relations Board
- Improving health and safety standards in our workplace
- Identifying and resolving pay equity issues
- Working with the Ontario government to strengthen the province's public health care system
- Running awareness campaigns about health and safety issues in the workplace
- Resolving complex WSIB claims
- Hosting member workshops and educational conferences
- Informing members about important issues in their workplaces and communities
- Supporting members who have suffered human and civil rights violations

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Did you know...

SEIU Local 1 Canada is the fastest growing union in Ontario. It has added 9,000 new members since 2003, a 25 per cent increase in only six years. No other union can match that rate of growth.

SEIU prides itself as an Organizing Union. SEIU members want for others what they want for themselves. That means actively supporting 'unorganized' workers to form unions in their workplaces. SEIU's growth is also a product of our excellent track record in negotiating better contracts for our 46,000 members.

Approximately three-quarters of SEIU Local 1 Canada's members are female. The local has advocated for regulations that fight gender discrimination and bridges the wage gap between men and women, including being a leader for pay equity legislation in Ontario.

SEIU Local 1 Canada is diverse. A large portion of our members are new Canadians who have emigrated from almost as many places as there are countries in the world, and who speak languages as diverse as Kiswahili, Creole, Punjabi and Filipino.

SEIU is a 'member-centric' union. All important decisions in the local are made by our members. The members elect the Local's Executive Officers and Board Members, amend the Local's constitution, establish bargaining priorities, and decide how much they pay in union dues.

Executive Officers



Sharleen Stewart
President



Cathy Carroll
Secretary Treasurer



Marcelle Goldenberg
Executive Vice-President

HEAD OFFICE

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