

# CUSW NEWSLETTER



**CUSW**  
ESTABLISHED 1999



**In this issue:**

# 2026 ELECTIONS

2026 is an Election and Appointments year at CUSW — and every Member plays an important role.

Members have a voice in every aspect of our democratic Union, from shaping our direction to selecting our leaders. The first phase of the cycle began with Workplace Elections for Stewards and Joint Health & Safety Committee Members and Representatives.

These Workplace Elections concluded at the end of March.

If you wish to review your elected Steward or Joint Health and Safety Committee Member, you can visit the [Elections](#) webpage or alternatively, use the [Workplace Representative](#) Directory.

The National Executive Board nominations commenced on Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 and close on Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon. If you did not receive an email to nominate, kindly contact [electionsadmin@cusw.ca](mailto:electionsadmin@cusw.ca)

Your participation matters. Make your voice heard and take an active role in building the future of CUSW.

## POSITIONS

### WORKPLACE - COMPLETED

- Steward
- Joint Health and Safety Committee Member

### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Chairperson
- Recorder
- Treasurer
- Executive Board Members

### UNIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Unit Recorder
- Unit Treasurer
- Executive Member

### NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- Committee Members



  
**Workplace  
Representatives**  
*Article 12*

  
**National  
Executive Board**  
*Article 7*

  
**Unit Elections &  
Committee Appts.**  
*Articles 10 & 18.07*

  
**Convention  
Delegates**  
*Article 13*

January-March

April-June

July-September

October-December

## CONFERENCES

CUSW and its Members both sponsor and/or participate in many conferences, trades shows, fairs and events across Canada. Here is a snapshot of what's coming up this spring. You can review the full [Events Calendar](#) on the CUSW website.

### APRIL

- Empire Club of Canada - Eric Chassard, President & CEO of Bruce Power
- National Coalition of Chiefs Clean Energy Summit
- Canadian Nuclear Isotopes Council – Awards Reception
- Canadian Nuclear Association
- Bruce Power Reception
- First Nations Coalition Major Projects (FNCMP) - The Next Seven Generations: Our Shared Future

### MAY

- Skills Ontario Competition
- Young Women's & First Nations Metis and Intuit Conference
- Electricity Human Resources Canada – Agents of Change
- Skills Ontario - Try-A-Trade Career Fair
- The Energy Roundtable - Series 1 - Calgary Energy Roundtable

9th ANNUAL FNMPCC CONFERENCE  
**THE NEXT SEVEN GENERATIONS:**  
OUR SHARED FUTURE

FIRST NATIONS MAJOR PROJECTS COALITION  
RBC  
TITLE SPONSOR

**EARLY BIRD NOW AVAILABLE**

REGISTER NOW AT [FNMPCC.CA/CONFERENCE](https://fnmpcc.ca/conference)

April 29–May 1, 2026  
Sheraton Centre Hotel Toronto #FNMPCC

**2026 SKILLS ONTARIO COMPETITION**  
MAY 4 - MAY 5, 2026  
TORONTO CONGRESS CENTRE

COME AND EXPLORE PROVINCIALS, THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST SKILLED TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY EVENT!

[skillsontario.com/competition-visitors](https://skillsontario.com/competition-visitors)

#SOC2026  
SKILLS ONTARIO COMPETITION  
2026  
OLYMPIADES DE COMPÉTENCES ONTARIO  
SkillsCompétences Canada Ontario

IMPERIAL BALLROOM  
HYATT REGENCY CALGARY

THE ENERGY ROUNDTABLE

THE 19th ANNUAL  
**CALGARY ENERGY**  
ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

16 MAY





## CUSW & Build A Dream Celebrate Success of Women in Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship Program

The Canadian Union of Skilled Workers (CUSW), in partnership with Build A Dream and the College and Worker Health and Safety Center, is proud to celebrate the graduation of two all-female cohorts from its Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship Program—an initiative designed to open pathways for women pursuing careers in the skilled trades.

The first class, consisting of five students in Kincardine, was developed and delivered in collaboration with Bruce Power, with training support from ISEAD and Interval House of Hamilton. The program provided participants with hands-on technical training along with wraparound supports and mentorship. Following completion, the students moved on to begin their pre-apprenticeships at Bruce Power.

Building on that success, a second cohort welcomed Humber Polytechnic as a host partner, delivering the program at its North Campus. Ten students completed three weeks of training across the GTA, culminating in a graduation ceremony attended by representatives from Valard, OPG, and Hydro One. Graduates have since begun their pre-apprenticeships with the CUSW employer partners.

*“At CUSW, we believe that every person should have the opportunity to pursue meaningful work that builds their future,” said Nathan DeGagne. “Programs like this help create those pathways—combining skills, mentorship, and community support. We’re proud to stand beside these women as they take their next steps into the trades.”*

Nathan DeGagne

CUSW remains committed to supporting inclusive training opportunities that empower individuals, strengthen communities, and help build the next generation of skilled workers.



From top to bottom: Bruce Power Cohort, Valard and Hydro One Cohort, Ontario Power Generation Cohort, March 2026

## WORKFORCE HOUSING IS ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

### The Glassworks Opportunity in Owen Sound



Many CUSW families live, work, and raise their children in Owen Sound and the surrounding region through their work with Bruce Power, Hydro One, and local contractors. In 2023, the union became a member of the Glassworks Co-operative, making a financial investment to help advance the proposed affordable homeownership community of 350–500 homes.

The logic behind the investment was straightforward: a relatively low-risk contribution could help unlock significant community impact while strengthening the local economy.

First, supporting workforce housing makes it easier for local employers to recruit and retain skilled workers.

Second, it improves quality of life by enabling households with incomes starting around \$35,000 to become homeowners and long-term taxpayers in their community.

Third, it demonstrates a development approach capable of delivering attainable homeownership without requiring ongoing public operating subsidies, making it a model that can be replicated in communities across Canada.

Since joining the co-operative, several CUSW members have also become individual members of Glassworks. Two CUSW members now serve on the Board, and the

project has made steady progress through the complex pre-development stage.

For those unfamiliar with housing development, this phase can feel slow. In reality, this stage is where the most important work happens: assembling land, completing studies, securing planning approvals, building financing structures, and aligning partners. When done properly, these steps reduce risk and lay the groundwork for projects that can move efficiently into construction.

What Glassworks is doing in Owen Sound may feel unusual, but it is part of a much larger and proven tradition. Across Canada, co-operatives, non-profits, and community-led housing builders have repeatedly demonstrated that when people organize around a clear purpose — stable homes, fair costs, and long-term community benefit — they can deliver housing that the conventional market often struggles to provide.



*This is a rendering of the Glassworks Co-operative*

Canada's modern housing co-operative movement expanded significantly in the 1970s, and many of those communities remain successful today because they were designed for long-term affordability and resident stewardship rather than short-term gain.

Several landmark examples illustrate what is possible.

Toronto's St. Lawrence neighbourhood is widely recognized as one of North America's most successful mixed-income communities. It combines market housing, co-ops, and non-profit homes alongside parks, schools, and essential neighbourhood services. Interestingly, the founder of our development consultant, Home Opportunities, was involved in this development early in his career.

Ottawa's Beaver Barracks is another strong example, delivering hundreds of affordable homes through thoughtful design and sustainable community planning.

Projects like these were not easy. They succeeded because residents, governments, non-profits, and private partners worked together through the difficult stages required to turn a vision into a functioning neighbourhood.

Encouragingly, similar projects are continuing to emerge across the country, including several where [Home Opportunities](#) is currently involved.

In The Blue Mountains, a proposal at [125 Peel Street](#) is exploring the development of approximately 300 townhomes designed for workers, families, and long-time residents. The goal is for roughly half of the homes to be affordable to minimum-wage households, with housing costs near 32–35 percent of income.

In Brampton, [Mount Pleasant Commons](#) is launching with 136 homes alongside a 39-unit cohousing community.

In Guelph, the planned development at [280 Clair Road West](#) proposes approximately 960 homes in a mix of apartments and townhouses designed to expand attainable housing options.

In Scarborough, a 423-unit seniors-focused community is planned at [Warden and Ellesmere](#), designed to provide accessible housing for residents aged 55 and older.

And on the west coast, in Tofino, more than 70 affordable homes have recently opened through partnerships involving local governments, community organizations, and First Nations. Work is also underway with the [Roots to Roofs Community Development Society](#) and [Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation](#) to develop workforce skills alongside attainable homeownership opportunities.



So, what does this mean for Owen Sound, Glassworks, and CUSW?

Owen Sound needs affordable housing, and local employers need workers who can afford to live in the communities they serve. Increasingly, municipalities across Canada are recognizing that workforce housing is critical economic infrastructure, just like transportation, energy, and water systems.

New neighbourhood-scale developments must therefore deliver affordability as a core outcome — not as an afterthought or as a token number of units set aside within otherwise unaffordable projects.

Glassworks Village is part of a growing wave of non-profit-led developments designed to make homeownership more attainable. It follows a long tradition of communities organizing their own solutions to housing challenges.

## SKILLED WORKERS BUILDING A HOUSING SOLUTION

Homes working families can actually afford.

Across Grey-Bruce and Bruce County, one challenge keeps coming up in conversations with skilled workers and employers alike: finding homes that working families can actually afford in the communities where they work.

Many members of the Canadian Union of Skilled Workers working at major regional employers like Bruce Power, Hydro One, and local contractors are travelling longer distances, competing in overheated housing markets, or delaying homeownership entirely.

Skilled workers build the infrastructure that powers our country. Glassworks Development Co-op is about applying that same practical problem-solving spirit to one of the biggest challenges facing our members today — housing.

That's why many CUSW members are becoming involved with Glassworks. [Join us today!](#)

### A Major Milestone for the Project in Owen Sound

Glassworks recently reached an important milestone.

In late summer 2025 the co-operative submitted its pre-consultation package to the City of Owen Sound. We have now received the City's Pre-Consultation Response and have met with staff, providing us with a clear path forward to advance the proposed [350-500 home affordable workforce housing community and employment lands](#).

Over the coming months, the team will begin preparing the studies, applications, and technical reports required to move toward a full development application.

This is a significant turning point for the project.

### CUSW Members Are Already Stepping Up

This initiative is already being driven by skilled workers.

Since 2023:

The Canadian Union of Skilled Workers became an early supporter and investor in the project

CUSW members have joined the co-operative as individual members

Two CUSW members are currently serving on the Glassworks Board

Glassworks was created to demonstrate something important:

Attainable homeownership can be built at scale when workers, employers, and communities work together.

The next stage will require even broader support from our membership and our networks.

### A Member Campaign

Between now and June 1<sup>st</sup>, we are inviting CUSW members and their families to help push the project into its next phase.

Our goal is to build strong community backing by:

Growing membership in the co-operative

Gathering employer letters of support

Raising funds for the studies required for development approvals

There are three simple ways you can help.

Become a Member of Glassworks

Joining the co-operative strengthens the community behind the project and demonstrates to decision-makers that there is real demand from working families for attainable homeownership.

Please consider becoming a member and encouraging your family, friends, neighbours, and co-workers to do the same.

Strong membership support helps show that this project represents a real solution for workers across the region.

Details on how to become a Member of the Co-op are available here:

<https://www.glassworkscoop.com/membership>



## GLASSWORKS CO-OP'S WORKFORCE HOUSING

**Workforce Housing** focuses on creating affordable homeownership opportunities for essential workers such as health care staff, teachers, tradespeople, and service industry employees in order to secure stable housing within the communities they serve.

**Are you a local employer?** We need your input on our plans for affordable and employment supportive housing in Owen Sound! Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey **linked in our bio!**

glassworkscoop@gmail.com



### Recruit Employer Letters of Support

Employers across the region understand how serious the workforce housing challenge has become.

Glassworks is collecting letters of support from employers who recognize that housing availability affects their ability to recruit and retain skilled workers.

If you know a business owner, contractor, or employer in the region, please encourage them to submit a letter of support.

Details on how employers can participate are available here:

<https://www.glassworkscoop.com/employer-support>

Employer support plays an important role in demonstrating to municipal leaders that the project has broad economic backing.

### Make a Charitable Donation

Moving from vision to reality requires professional studies and reports.

Every charitable donation goes directly toward the planning work required to advance the project through the municipal development process.

Ontario charitable tax credits make these contributions especially impactful:

Donations up to **\$200** receive a **20.05% tax credit**

Donations **above \$200** receive a **40.16% tax credit**

Details on how to donate are available here:

<https://www.glassworkscoop.com/donate>

If you are considering a larger donation and would like to discuss options, please contact:

[glassworkscoop@gmail.com](mailto:glassworkscoop@gmail.com)

Every contribution helps move the project closer to the next stage.

### Skilled Workers Building the Communities We Live In

At its best, the labour movement has always been about more than workplaces. It has been about building stronger communities for working families.

Glassworks represents an opportunity to do exactly that.

With continued support from CUSW members, employers, and the broader community, we can turn this vision into a new neighbourhood built for working people.

Please help spread the word and be part of the next phase of this effort.

## BUILDING THE TRAIN CANADA NEEDS

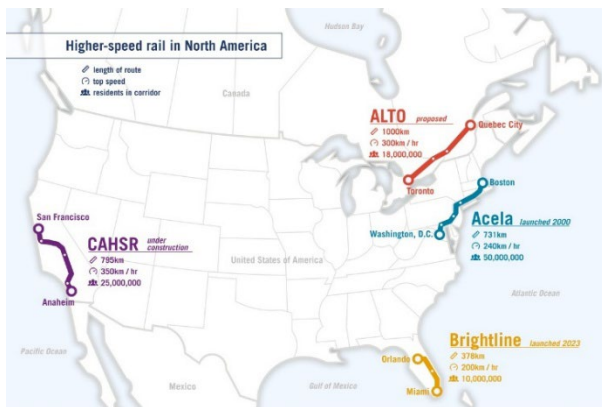
### AND SECURING WORK FOR OUR MEMBERS



The proposed Alto High-Speed Rail Project isn't just another public works project. It is the largest infrastructure build in Canadian history—and a clear signal of where skilled trades work is heading over the next generation.

With an estimated \$60–\$90 billion investment, a 1,000 km electrified rail corridor, and construction expected to begin around 2029–2030, Alto will connect the country's most important economic region from Toronto to Québec City. More importantly for us, it is expected to generate roughly 50,000 jobs over more than a decade.

That is not abstract. That is real work—steady, complex, well-paid work—for skilled tradespeople.



### Where the Work Will Be

If you look past the headlines and into how high-speed rail systems are actually built in countries like Japan, France, and South Korea, a clear pattern emerges: this is a trades-driven project.

The biggest demand will come from:

- **High-voltage electrical work** — traction power, substations, grid integration
- **Heavy civil construction** — bridges, tunnels, grading, rail beds
- **Rail systems installation** — signalling, communications, control systems
- **Station construction and surrounding development**
- **Manufacturing and installation of core infrastructure components**
- **Long-term maintenance and operations roles**

Here's the reality most people miss: the majority of project dollars flow through construction, electrical, and systems installation—not design.

If CUSW members are ready, this project can anchor years of employment.

If we're not, that work will go elsewhere.

### Where CUSW Fits — And Where We Need to Step Up

The Canadian Union of Skilled Workers is built for this kind of moment. But being “well positioned” doesn't matter unless we act early and deliberately.

There are five moves that matter right now:

1. Get Ahead of the Skills Curve

High-speed rail is not standard construction. It requires:

- Rail electrification expertise
- Systems integration skills
- Precision installation standards

We should be pushing training and partnerships now, not when hiring starts.

2. Build Apprenticeship Pipelines Tied to Real Work

This project is large enough to support multi-year apprenticeship pathways.

If we don't align training with Alto, we'll miss the chance to bring in the next generation of members at scale.

3. Lead on Indigenous Workforce Inclusion

There are already Indigenous-focused roles emerging on the project. That will expand.

CUSW should be a bridge between Indigenous communities and real jobs, not a bystander.

#### 4. Secure Our Share of Subcontracted Work

The primary consortium will not do everything. Billions of dollars in work will be subcontracted.

We need:

- Relationships with contractors
- Visibility with project planners
- Members ready to mobilize

Otherwise, we get what's left—not what we should have led.

#### 5. Think Beyond Construction

This isn't a one-time job.

High-speed rail systems require permanent maintenance, upgrades, and operations staff.

That's decades of employment—if we position members for it.

#### The Hard Truth

Canada has talked about high-speed rail for decades. Many projects have stalled.

This one may still face delays. It will require political will, coordination, and persistence.

But here's the part you need to be clear on:

If this project proceeds—and all signs say it will—it will reshape where skilled trades work is concentrated in this country for the next 20–30 years.

You don't want to be reacting to that shift. You want to be ahead of it.

#### What Members Can Do Now

This is not a “wait and see” moment. It's a positioning moment.

- Pay attention to project updates and opportunities
- Build skills aligned with electrical, infrastructure, and systems work
- Encourage apprentices and younger workers to look at rail and infrastructure careers

- Support efforts that ensure Canadian workers—and union workers—are prioritized

#### The Opportunity in Front of Us

Projects of this scale don't come around often. When they do, they create two outcomes:

- A generation of workers builds careers on them
- Or that work flows to whoever is most prepared

The Alto project is coming. The only real question is: will CUSW members be at the center of it—or watching from the sidelines?

Learn more about the ALTO High-Speed Train project and participate in the consultation process by visiting

<https://www.altotrain.ca/en>

[Estimated Travel Times Map](#)

[Article: Keeping high-speed rail on track](#)

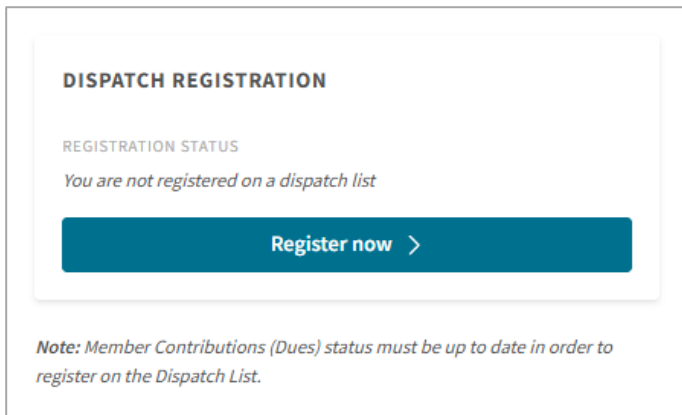
[Prime Minister's announcement - BNN Blomberg](#)

[High-Speed Rail Open House Visit Video](#)

## HIRING HALL UPDATE

The Union Hiring Hall operates through a Dispatch Registration List, which serves as the official registry of all eligible members available for job referral.

When a member is laid off or becomes unemployed, they must register on the Dispatch Registration List. Placement on the list is determined by the date of layoff, ensuring transparency and preventing favoritism in job calls and referrals.



Members are required to register their layoff no later than 4:00 p.m. on the next business day following the layoff. Registrations received after this deadline will be recorded using the date they are received, which will become the official layoff date for purposes of list placement.

When an Employer contacts the Hiring Hall with a job call, the employer will specify:

- number of members required,
- necessary skills and qualifications
- project location and approximate duration

The Union Dispatcher will refer the highest-ranked available member on the Dispatch Registration List who meets the employer's stated qualifications.

To remain eligible for job referrals, members must:

- keep all union contributions current
- maintain any required security clearances (if applicable)
- ensure mandatory training and certifications are up to date on their profiles

Members who accept a job call and are dispatched are expected to remain on the project for as long as work is available. If a member is unavailable or declines a referral, the dispatcher will proceed to the next qualified member on the list.

For short-duration assignments, members may be permitted to return to their original position on the Dispatch Registration List upon completion of the job rather than being placed at the bottom of the list. To qualify, the assignment must:

- be posted as a "Short-Term Call," and
- last less than two (2) weeks.

VISIT THE JOB CENTRE TODAY

<https://www.cusw.ca/group/cusw/about-the-job-centre>

## SOUTHWEST UNIT

### COMING UP IN 2026

**April** – In person meeting in Brantford area

**June** – Annual Golf Tournament

**July** - Unit Elections begin

### PAST EVENTS

#### September

September 30<sup>th</sup> the Southwest Unit hosted an event at Kustermans Family Farm, where there were about 50 members and families came out for a day of fun and pumpkin picking at the pumpkin patch! Tony Kusterman joined us for lunch and some photos.

#### October

October 15<sup>th</sup> there was a Zoom-only Unit meeting

#### November

November 19<sup>th</sup> – In person meeting held at the Cookie Bar in Strathroy, ON

November 29<sup>th</sup> – Southwest family Holiday Party held in Mount Brydges. 74 members and family attended. There were crafts, BINGO, a bouncy castle, DIY sugar cookie decorating, and a visit from Santa with gifts for all the children.

#### December

**December New Southwest swag for sale!** Jackets, T-shirts and Sweaters up for grabs. Limited quantities available.

December 9<sup>th</sup> – Final meeting for the 2025 year on Zoom only

#### January

January Survey results are in! Thank you to all the members who took part in the Southwest Unit Events Survey.

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 – Sarnia Sting Family Hockey Game. 32 seats were filled with members and their families.

Southwest Mini sticks were handed out to all the kids. Lots of food and great company all around.

January 21<sup>st</sup> – First meeting of 2026 on Zoom

January 23 – Adult Holiday Party took place in London, ON at Palasad South London. A 50/50 draw was held and a total of \$440 was donated to the London Food Bank

#### February

February 8<sup>th</sup> – Recruitment session held in London, ON at Four Points by Sheraton

February 18<sup>th</sup> - First in person meeting of 2026 happened in London at the Best Western Stoneridge Inn



To see more great pictures, login to the [Southwest Unit](#)

## GREATER DURHAM REGION UNIT

The GDR is hosting a spring Apprentice Orientation session Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>. An eblast was sent out on March 31<sup>st</sup> to Apprentices.

We will once again be hosting our Spring Jays game event on Saturday June 6th. This is a family-friendly event, we will be running one bus with a small fee to secure your seat as seats will be limited. Keep an eye on your email for more details. You can also our GDR Unit page for event information.

At our January meeting we had members vote on sponsoring The Durham Down Syndrome Association. This donation was requested by a member whose family is supported by the charity, members decided to donate \$1,000.

With it being an election year, we encourage all GDR members to come out to our unit meetings and learn about how they can get involved. Participation is how we keep our unit functioning strongly!



## APPRENTICESHIP ORIENTATIONS

The Canadian Union of Skilled Workers and the Apprenticeship Governance Council are hosting more Apprentice Orientations this spring.

The orientations will be facilitated by the Units and members of the Joint Training Committees. The sessions are open to all registered CUSW Apprentices.

### Attending an orientation is mandatory!

Spring locations include:

- Kincardine
- Bowmanville
- London

Book your seat today on the [Training](#) page today!

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The National Social Committee is currently working on our budget and planning events for our Members and their Families for 2026. Confirmation of dates for Events will be sent out via E-Blast to all our Members shortly as a "Save the Dates" Communication.

Currently we have booked the following for 2026:

- June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> - Annual Fishing Derby at Anchor Bay in Buckhorn
- Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup> - Annual Family Canada's Wonderland Day



- Saturday November 28<sup>th</sup> - Kids Christmas / Holiday Party at the Toronto Zoo



We are working on a few more events and will update shortly.

If you wish to contact anyone at the National Social Committee, please send an email to [social@cusw.ca](mailto:social@cusw.ca)



[JOIN OUR NSC FACEBOOK GROUP!](#)

Joining is a great way to keep up to date with these events, fun contests and more. Join Us!

## HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

As winter drags on, it's natural to feel a dip in energy or mood. Short days, cold weather and less sunlight can all contribute to what's often called the "winter blues". We are here to remind you that you are not alone and that small, intentional steps can make a big difference in boosting your mood, staying active and nurturing your mental and physical health, so you can feel your best until warmer days come upon us. We would like to highlight the supports that are available for our members that maybe struggling with the winter blues. This bulletin is to serve as a helpful tool to point members in the right direction to find assistance that they may require to educate themselves or another member that could be suffering from the "winter blues".

Who can I reach out to if I'm struggling with the winter blues?

- All CUSW representatives are required to keep strict confidentiality. You can reach out to any Joint Health and Safety committee member/Health and Safety Rep. or Steward.
- The Health, Safety and Wellness Committee is a committee made up of health and safety professionals that are committed to the mental health and well-being of the CUSW membership. All conversations with the committee are strictly confidential. You can reach out to the committee at [hsw@cusw.ca](mailto:hsw@cusw.ca)

How can I gain insights on coping with the winter blues?

- All CUSW members have access to the Homeweb Family Assistance Portal in the account hub section of the CUSW website. This portal will open the Homewood Health website. This website is full of resources and supports that will help you overcome the challenges that may arise when it comes to winter blues or how to support

someone who may be facing difficulties with times like these.

- The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), mental health toolkit brings together trusted, evidence-based tools, guides and articles to help anyone cope with the winter blues.

Use this link: [CAMH Mental Health Toolkit | Free Resources & Support](#)



## HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLNESS AWARENESS DATES

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the health, safety, and well-being of our members, we encourage everyone to take note of the following important awareness dates this spring. These events provide opportunities to reflect, learn, and access valuable resources that support both physical and psychological health in our workplaces and communities.

### APRIL 2026

#### World Health Day – April 7<sup>th</sup>

Recognized globally, World Health Day highlights important health priorities affecting people around the world. Each year, the World Health Organization focuses on a specific health theme to promote awareness and action. Learn more:

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day>

## Canadian Public Health Week – April 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>

Canadian Public Health Week celebrates the contributions of public health professionals and highlights the importance of protecting and improving the health of our communities. It is an opportunity to recognize the role public health plays in prevention, education, and overall well-being.

Learn more: <https://www.cpha.ca/cphw>

## DAY OF MOURNING REMINDER



Workers are killed by workplace hazards every day. Every year, hundreds of thousands more suffer injury or illness because of their working conditions. They are not forgotten.

April 28 is our National Day of Mourning to remember workers who have suffered work-related disability, disease and death. The Canadian Labour Congress first declared the Day in 1986. The Parliament of Canada would officially recognize the Day with passage of the Workers Mourning Day Act in 1991. Ontario's Legislative Assembly followed suit in 2016 when it passed the Workers Day of Mourning Act. Today the Day is recognized in more than 100 countries around the world where it is often observed as Workers' Memorial Day.

Unions, labour councils, families and community partners who gather annually on April 28 to mourn these losses also vow to prevent further suffering. They follow

with action in the workplace and community pressing for work that promotes dignity and health.

## On April 28<sup>th</sup>

- attend a Day of Mourning event in your community
- encourage others to attend an event
- draft a message for your organization's publication or web site
- use digital tools to create online communities, posting meaningful photos and messages
- update your health and safety knowledge through training and webinars
- work with local media to promote and cover the Day's significance and events
- convince employers and public institutions to among other things lower flags to half-mast
- work with other interested groups to host related events.
- On every day
- educate others about health and safety rights, responsibilities and prevention measures
- insist on effective workplace prevention programs developed with full worker participation
- insist on training that supports the identification, assessment and control of workplace hazards
- encourage local media to report on health, safety and environmental issues
- press elected officials to support stronger regulations and better enforcement of existing laws
- create monuments to promote public awareness of workplace health and safety
- host events with similar objectives in mind.

From <https://www.whsc.on.ca/Events/Day-of-Mourning>

Learn more: <https://www.ccohs.ca/events/mourning>

Check our Webpage:

<https://www.cusw.ca/web/health-safety-wellness/day-of-mourning>

## MAY 2026

### Safety and Health Week – May 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>

Safety and Health Week is a national initiative focused on preventing injuries and illness in the workplace, at home, and in our communities. Organizations across the country take part in activities that promote safe practices and reinforce the shared responsibility of maintaining safe environments.

Learn more:

<https://www.safetyandhealthweek.ca/english/oshinfo.html>

### Mental Health Week – May 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>

Led by the Canadian Mental Health Association, Mental Health Week encourages open conversations about mental health and promotes resources that support psychological well-being. It's an important reminder that mental health is a vital part of overall health and workplace safety.

Learn more: <https://cmha.ca/>

## JUNE

### Canadian Men's Health Month

June is dedicated to raising awareness about the unique health challenges faced by men and encouraging them to take proactive steps toward better physical and mental health. The campaign promotes healthy habits, early detection, and open conversations about well-being.

Learn more: <https://menshealthfoundation.ca/>

### PTSD Awareness Day – June 27<sup>th</sup>

PTSD Awareness Day recognizes the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder and aims to increase understanding and support for those affected. It also highlights the experiences of first responders, workers, and individuals who may encounter trauma in their professional roles.

Learn more: <https://cmha.ca/news/ptsd-awareness-day-a-tribute-to-first-responders/>

## EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Throughout the year, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services (WSPS) hosts several events and conferences that raise awareness and provide both educational and networking opportunities. Whether it's an in-person event, a webinar or virtual conference to our Regional Health & Safety Conference Series, Breakfast Briefings and more; WSPS provides a forum of knowledge sharing for all your learning and professional development needs.

Thinking of attending a conference check out WSPS website. There will be several locations. Open now for registry is the one for Mississauga.



### 2026 Partners in Prevention Regional Conference Series

Throughout the year, we host health & safety conferences that raise awareness and provide both educational and networking opportunities. Whether it's an in-person event or a webinar, Partners in Prevention provides a forum of knowledge sharing for all your learning and professional development needs.

<https://shop.wsps.ca/pages/health-and-safety-events-and-conferences>



### Falls Awareness Week 2026: Campaign Kick-off Webinar

Falls continue to be one of the leading causes of workplace injuries and fatalities across Ontario, which is why IHSA is hosting a free one-hour kick-off webinar on Friday, May 1 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Join Adam Rothwell, Coordinator, Research & Stakeholder & Public Relations, as he explains why fall

prevention deserves continued attention, how workplaces can participate in this year's campaign, and what IHSA resources—including the Falls Awareness Week Toolkit—can support meaningful prevention efforts.

This webinar is ideal for supervisors, employers, safety professionals, health and safety representatives, and individuals working toward or holding NCSO® or NHSA™ designations.

Click [here](#) to register for the free kick-off webinar.



## **A Community of Support**

CUSW members work in environments where safety is always a priority. Working around powerlines and electrical infrastructure carries risks, and burn injuries can be one of the most serious.

Life After Burns (LAB) is a Canadian non-profit organization that supports burn survivors, their families, and caregivers. Through peer support and community connection, LAB helps people navigate life after a burn injury at any stage of recovery.

Their annual community event will take place on May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Toronto, bringing together survivors, caregivers, and members of the burn community for a day of connection and support.

While we hope none of our members ever need these resources, organizations like Life After Burns are there when community matters most.

If you or someone you know has been affected by a burn injury, you can learn more at:

[www.lifeafterburns.ca](http://www.lifeafterburns.ca) &  
<https://www.lifeafterburns.ca/in-person-events>

## **GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

As a newly formed addition to the National Committees, we are busy setting ourselves up and planning what our committee will be focusing on this year. One of our first priorities of this committee is to create awareness of our mandate and the policies we are advancing in the interests of the Members of the Canadian Union of Skilled Workers.

To achieve this, we want to open our communication channels with the membership, inviting members from across all our units in all provinces to participate with this committee. The National Government and External Relations Committee exists to amplify our members voices through disciplined engagement with municipal, provincial, and federal governments, as well as external stakeholders.

That is why we need to hear from you! The best way for us to represent the priorities of our union is to know the issues that matter to our members. Over the coming months, we will be engaging with our Unit Executives and worksite Stewards to share our news and developments with the members. If you want to know more, be able to share these messages with your fellow members, and bring new items to our attention, we welcome you to join us! We invite members from all areas to come have a voice on the committee.

For more information on this committee and to keep up to date on our latest developments, go to <https://www.cusw.ca/web/govt-external-relations/home>

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



### CUSW SPOTLIGHT PODCAST – BUILDING MOMENTUM IN 2026

The CUSW Spotlight Podcast continues to build momentum in 2026, sharing the stories and experiences of the skilled

tradespeople who make the Canadian Union of Skilled Workers strong. The podcast shines a light on the pride, professionalism, and brotherhood that define our Union.

This year also marks an exciting milestone for the podcast. Nearly one year since its launch, the CUSW Spotlight Podcast has reached several thousand downloads and views across our platforms. It's encouraging to see members tuning in and engaging with the stories of their fellow skilled workers.

Due to growing interest and engagement, the podcast schedule has recently increased from one episode every three weeks to one every two weeks, allowing even more member voices and stories to be shared.

Recent episodes have featured conversations with members and safety advocates discussing workplace safety, mentorship in the trades, and the personal journeys that brought them to CUSW. Each episode offers a closer look at the people behind the tools and the work that powers our communities.

One of the latest episodes, "Climbing Towers and Pushing Power" (Episode #20), features journeyman powerline technician Chris Hibbert, sharing his experience in the power trade and what it means to live life on the line.

With growing interest from members across the country, the podcast continues to expand as a platform for sharing the stories and perspectives of skilled workers. We encourage members to help spread the word so these voices can reach even more people across our Union.

Be sure to tune in as we continue to spotlight the voices and stories that are shaping the future of CUSW.

### [DOWNLOAD THE EPISODE](#)

Access the podcast through these sources:

[Apple Podcasts](#) | [Spotify](#) | [YouTube](#) |

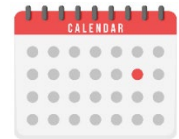
Watch the full video on: [YouTube](#) and [Spotify](#)

Be sure to follow  <https://www.cuswpodcast.ca> and help us grow our reach!

Reach out to the team anytime at [podcast@cusw.ca](mailto:podcast@cusw.ca)



**We need more Members!** If you're interested in joining the National Communications Committee, complete this quick form. [Join Us!](#)



### ANNUAL CALENDAR

If you have any pictures from CUSW Events or at Work and would like them to be considered for the annual calendar, please submit to [communications@cusw.ca](mailto:communications@cusw.ca)



Did you know you can search for Memberperks by your home address or location?

- If already enrolled: go to Venngo // Memberperks®
- Click on the "home" button
- Click in your current location or search by city, neighborhood or Postal Code
- Click "Apply"

If you are not enrolled in Memberperks, please email [communications@cusw.ca](mailto:communications@cusw.ca) and we can assist you with getting enrolled.



## CUSW EDUCATION & TRAINING TRUST REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Did you know you may be eligible to receive financial support for training you complete on your own time? The CUSW Education & Training Trust Reimbursement Program helps members enhance their technical and interpersonal skills by reimbursing 75% of eligible course costs, up to a maximum of \$500 per course.

This program is designed for learning that goes beyond employer-required training, empowering members to grow their qualifications and support their long-term career path.

To qualify for reimbursement, members must:

- Successfully complete the course, and
- Upload proof of completion (certificate, diploma, license, or other qualification) to their CUSW My Skills profile.

Examples of relevant courses include Fire Alarm Certification, DZ Training, Pre-Master preparation courses, and language training.

Invest in your development and take advantage of this opportunity to build new skills for the future. For full program details and eligibility guidelines, please refer to the [Training](#) page of the CUSW website.

## MY SKILLS PROFILE

All CUSW Applicants and Members must keep a current Skills profile. If your skills do not match the skills and qualifications required for a job posting, you will not be eligible to register for the call. You must ensure your profile is accurate.

Have you acquired a new certification, qualification, or license? Have you attended and passed trade school? Have you received security clearances?

Skills include, but are not limited to:

- Certificate of Qualification
- Master's License
- Driver's License - G, DZ, AZ, etc.
- Security Clearance for Bruce Power and Ontario Power Generation
- Work-ready training courses - WHMIS, First Aid, Confined Space Awareness, Working at Heights, Elevated Work Platforms, etc.
- Education - diplomas/transcripts from High School, College, University, Trade School, or Training Institute
- CUSW Training & Education – Mentor Workshop, WSIB Workshop, Bargaining Rights, Advocate Training, etc.

[Learn How to Upload Skills](#)

If you have a question regarding skills, please contact [skills@cusw.ca](mailto:skills@cusw.ca)

In addition to keeping your My Skills profile up to date, if you are a licensed Journey person or Apprentice, your CUSW My Profile needs to include your Skilled Trades Ontario ID # and your status needs to be Active.

This information is found in the public registrar on the [Skilled Trades Ontario](#) website.

## TRAINING

### NEW WSIB REPRESENTATIVE WORKSHOP DATES



With the on-going workplace elections this 3-day workshop is a wonderful opportunity to find health and safety leaders (Health & Safety Representatives and Stewards) who can serve as WSIB mentors in the workplace to help facilitate our requirements for representation.

After the workshop participants will understand how to navigate WSIB claims and their website to do research, effectively execute return to work meetings, how to prepare for objections and appeals both written and in person. The workshop will be facilitated by James Herman and Calvin Hicks who will lead participants through practical presentation.

#### DATES

**Bowmanville** - March 23rd, 24th, 25<sup>th</sup>

**Kincardine** - April 13th, 14th, 15th

**London** - May 11th, 12th, 13<sup>th</sup>

**Toronto** - June 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>

To reserve your seat for one of the above date, kindly email [training@cusw.ca](mailto:training@cusw.ca)

## TRAINING PROVIDERS & DISCOUNTS

The Training and Education team is working with some of the industry's leading training providers to extend discounts to CUSW Members. These are reputable organizations with a breadth of training course offerings.

### INFRASTRUCTURE HEALTH & SAFETY ASSOCIATION

CUSW Members receive a 10% discount off training courses. You must call to book training and pay in advance via credit card: 1-800-263-5024  
CUSW IHSA member account # 01\*151741



### WORKERS HEALTH & SAFETY CENTRE

CUSW Members receive the quoted online price for virtual classes.



### WORKPLACE SAFETY & PREVENTION SERVICES

From now until September 30, 2026, WSPS is offering select eCourses completely free to help you build a safer, more compliant work environment - without added costs.



### ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE

CUSW members will get 10% off local rates on: Standard First Aid, Emergency First Aid, and Mental Health & Wellness courses (both Managers & Leaders, as well as Peer to Peer)



**St. John Ambulance**

USE CODE: WORKCUSW10

Family members will get 10% off local rates on: Babysitting, Home Alone and Pet First Aid courses.

USE CODE: FAMCUSW10

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Expand Your Horizons with Dual Ticketing and Blended Skills

The Canadian Union of Skilled Workers (CUSW) is proud to support our members in developing diverse, adaptable skill sets for the future of work.

In today's industry, versatility is power. That's why CUSW encourages members to explore **dual ticketing** and **blended skill development** – combining the strengths of multiple trades to create more opportunities and stronger, safer workplaces.

### Why Go Dual or Blended?

- **Wrench** **Increase Employability:** Gain access to a wider range of projects and job opportunities.
- **Gear** **Boost Earnings:** Dual-certified workers often command higher wages and leadership roles.
- **Lightning Bolt** **Adapt to Industry Change:** Stay ahead as technology and project needs evolve.
- **Handshake** **Enhance Collaboration:** Understanding multiple trades improves teamwork and jobsite efficiency.

### CUSW Support

CUSW can help you navigate pathways to **second trade certifications, upgrading programs, and apprenticeship partnerships.**

Whether you're an electrician looking to expand into instrumentation or a ground-support person pursuing powerline certification, CUSW is here to guide your growth.

**Hand** **Take the next step in your career.**

Contact your **CUSW Training and Education Committee** or visit [Apprenticeship | CUSW, Canadian Union - CUSW](#) to learn more about programs and resources.

## U11 BEETON STINGERS CHAMPIONS!

Sponsored by CUSW



What an incredible season for the U11 Beeton Stingers team, sponsored by CUSW. They were 22-2-2, earning a first-place finish for the season in a pool of 12 teams. The kids went into the playoffs excited and eager to win. It was an amazing playoff run that ended with a 3-game sweep over the Innisfil Winterhawks 1. Every single child on this team fought for the championship and played with their heart.

In January, the team also went undefeated in the Bradford Blue and Gold tournament, taking the Lefroy Icebreakers in a 4-0 win in the Championship game. The coaches are very proud and grateful to



have such an awesome group of kids and parents. What a season for the Stingers!! Thank you CUSW!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### CUSW Head Office

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Etobicoke, ON  
M9W 6L2

#### Membership

[membership@cusw.ca](mailto:membership@cusw.ca)

1-866-600-8083

#### Apprenticeship

[apprenticeship@cusw.ca](mailto:apprenticeship@cusw.ca)

1-866-907-7694

416-240-7694

#### Security Clearance

[securityclearance@cusw.ca](mailto:securityclearance@cusw.ca)

416-245-5232

#### Operations

[operations@cusw.ca](mailto:operations@cusw.ca)

1-866-907-7694

#### Education and Training Trust

[info@ettrust.ca](mailto:info@ettrust.ca)

1-866-600-9026

#### Training and Education

[training@cusw.ca](mailto:training@cusw.ca)

1-866-600-9026

#### My Skills Profile

[skills@cusw.ca](mailto:skills@cusw.ca)

1-866-600-9026

#### Learning Centre

[help@learning.cusw.ca](mailto:help@learning.cusw.ca)

1-866-600-9026

#### CUSW Website Support

[support@cusw.ca](mailto:support@cusw.ca)

#### General Inquiries

[info@cusw.ca](mailto:info@cusw.ca)

1-800-376-8539

416-240-7259

416-240-9970 (fax)

#### CUSW-PWU Joint Dispatch

[dispatch@cusw.ca](mailto:dispatch@cusw.ca)

1-877-575-3155

416-245-9570

#### CUSW-PWU Joint Job Line

1-877-575-2855

416-245-3521

CUSW National Dispatch

[nationaldispatch@cusw.ca](mailto:nationaldispatch@cusw.ca)

1-877-220-4990

#### Power Sector Benefit Trust (PSBT)

[info@psbt.ca](mailto:info@psbt.ca)

1-888-250-2270

416-240-8083

416-240-0993 (fax)

#### Power Sector Benefit Trust - Pay Direct

[paydirect@psbt.ca](mailto:paydirect@psbt.ca)

416-245-9270

#### Member and Family Assistance Plan (MFAP)

[mfap@psbt.ca](mailto:mfap@psbt.ca)

1-888-270-1760

416-240-9384

#### Homewood Health

1-800-663-1142

#### Power Sector Retirement Trust (PSRT)

[info@psrt.ca](mailto:info@psrt.ca)

416-240-8479

416-240-0993 (fax)



# The CUSW *Spotlight*

PODCAST



NOUR HACHEM

Guest

EPISODE #21



DAN PLEXMAN

Host

## BUILD A DREAM BREAKING BARRIERS-CREATING PATHWAYS

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