

**UFCW Canada Local 1006A**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**January 21, 2020 - 7 p.m.**  
**Telephone Telephone Hall**

Executive Assistant to the President Paul Docherty chaired the general meeting. Recorder Glacier Effs-Samuel hosted and began the meeting by welcoming participants.

1. Members voted to approve the minutes of the last telephone town hall general meeting, held on November 19, 2019.
2. Members were informed that the minutes of this meeting will be posted for review on the local union's website and voted on for adoption at the next telephone town hall general meeting.
3. Executive Assistant to the President Paul Docherty updated members on the latest union news.
  - a. The local union continues to seek ways to better serve our membership, improve and strengthen our union.
  - b. Bargaining is already underway at several workplaces across Ontario and several other negotiations will take place during the course of this year.
  - c. 1006A welcomed new members from Mama Earth Organics. Mama Earth Organics is located in East York and prepares and delivers fresh and organic food baskets.
  - d. Lesley Prince was promoted to Director of Organizing for 1006A.
  - e. The Organizing Department's objectives include the continued organizing of hotels, restaurants, food/warehouse distribution, transit operators and childcare facilities.

- f. 1006A continues to be a voice for injured workers. In December, 1006A rallied outside the Ministry of Labour in downtown Toronto calling on Premier Doug Ford to stop cuts to health and safety, benefits to injured workers, and funding to Legal Aid clinics.
  - g. Activism opportunities:
    - i. UFCW Canada's annual Young-Workers Internship Program is looking for members 30 and under for the spring 2020 session. (contact [youth@ufcw1006a.ca](mailto:youth@ufcw1006a.ca))
    - ii. 1006Outreach is recruiting members from the 2SLGBTQI+ community. (contact [outreach@ufcw1006a.ca](mailto:outreach@ufcw1006a.ca))
    - iii. 1006A's Women's Issues Network is seeking participants for the Women's Day March and for other initiatives. (contact [win@ufcw1006a.ca](mailto:win@ufcw1006a.ca))
  - h. To help escalating tuition fees, 1006A awards 42 scholarships annually to members and their dependents. Applications now open at [ufcw1006a.ca](http://ufcw1006a.ca)
  - i. 1006A's Member Achievement Awards are now open to recognize the commitment, dedication and activism within our membership. Nominate an outstanding member in one of five categories at [ufcw1006a.ca](http://ufcw1006a.ca)
4. 1006A Executive Assistant to the President Dan Gilbert interviewed Karen Lior, Project Director (Working Green) for the Labour Education Centre.
- a. The United Nations reports Climate Change is the defining issue of our time, affecting us on a global scale.
  - b. UFCW's National President Paul Meinema, has called the climate crisis an emergency and has urged the federal and provincial governments to take concrete steps for action.
  - c. Karen Lior spoke about the rise in greenhouse gases, earth's rising temperatures, the impact of climate change, and the

need for action on individual level (Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, and Repair).

- d. Dan Gilbert reported on UFCW Canada's efforts to raise awareness about climate change
  - i. UFCW Canada offers two courses on climate change through webCampus, our free online education center for members and their families. ([ufcw.ca](http://ufcw.ca))
    1. "Our Environment: Welcome to the Issues" focuses on greenhouse gases, how warm the earth will become and the effects of humankind on this planet.
    2. "Canada's Environmental Record" explores Canada's impact on the environment and its roles and responsibilities moving forward.
  - e. UFCW Canada also partners with the Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change project. This initiative looks at how can Canadians and their workplaces contribute to slowing global warming.
- 5. 1006A Executive Assistant to the President Paul Docherty interviewed Rick Young, 1006A Health and Safety Representative on protecting health and safety while working in the cold.
  - a. Almost all of our workplaces have positions where some members will have to work in cold temperatures and could be at risk of experiencing the hazards that come with the cold.
  - b. If workers believe that their health and safety is at risk and no safe solution can be found, they should exercise their right to refuse that unsafe work. They should inform their supervisor and ask for alternative safe work until the situation can be resolved. It's recommended that the worker should ask to speak with a worker member of the Joint Health and Safety Committee. For more information on specific steps, visit [ufcw1006a.ca](http://ufcw1006a.ca) (Look for the Health and Safety section)

- c. Rick Young also spoke about the signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
  - d. Top things to consider when working in the cold:
    - i. Determine importance and timing of task (Can the work be scheduled around temperature and weather conditions)
    - ii. Consider clothing and personal protective equipment (Dress in removable layers)
    - iii. Consider diet to maintain a healthy and safe core temperature. Stay hydrated.
    - iv. Self-awareness: listen to what your body is telling you in terms of discomfort, pain, numbness or any symptoms.
6. Membership Contest - members were given the opportunity to enter a draw for Toronto Maple Leaf tickets or a tablet computer. The winner was chosen and the notice was posted on [ufcw1006a.ca](http://ufcw1006a.ca) (Madelyn Botsikos from Loblaw Real Canadian Superstore).
7. Open Questions - Throughout the meeting, one question was answered. All other questions and comments were all forwarded to the appropriate union representative for follow up.

7:40 PM - Meeting Adjourned

A full transcription and recording of the meeting are available to members online at [www.ufcw1006a.ca](http://www.ufcw1006a.ca)