



July 13, 2023

Secretary-Treasurers

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Friends:

**Subject: Truth and Reconciliation Workshop – November 7 & 8, 2023**

HEU has proudly represented Indigenous healthcare workers since the mid-1990s, when we successfully won the legal right to organize and represent First Nations workers. Today, HEU represents members who deliver health services under collective agreements in the Gitxsan, Stz'uminus, Nisga'a, Skidegate, Gitanyow and Gitwangak Nations.

As a social justice union, HEU has made a commitment to understand and implement recommendations made by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We recognize the history of colonization and the residential school system, and we are committed to taking action that supports justice and reconciliation for Indigenous peoples.

HEU's Indigenous Peoples Standing Committee encourages **non-Indigenous** members to attend this two-day workshop which will provide a safe and welcoming environment to discuss the complex issues facing Indigenous peoples – the history of colonization, the residential school system, stereotyping, harassment, denial of opportunities, and other forms of discrimination. We will also discuss how to move reconciliation forward in our union and in our communities.

This workshop aims to educate members about Indigenous struggles and how we can support reconciliation, with the goal of making all HEU members feel safe and included in their workplaces and in their union.

Completed applications should be addressed to the attention of Shemaine Chan and submitted by email to [schan@heu.org](mailto:schan@heu.org) or fax 604-739-1510. Alternatively, an online fillable form is available on our website at [www.heu.org](http://www.heu.org).

We will contact successful applicants by email to confirm further details. Once applicants have been notified, they will be required to apply for leave of absence for union business.

If you should have any questions regarding this workshop, please contact Shemaine Chan by phone 604-438-7063 or 1-800-663-5813 ext. 7063.

Should you have any questions about this or any other equity issues, please contact HEU Equity Officer Sharryn Modder at Provincial Office.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meena Brisard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Meena Brisard**  
Secretary-Business Manager

Attachment

cc: Chairpersons  
Reps and Directors  
Provincial Executive  
Indigenous Peoples Standing Committee