



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

PROVINCIAL OFFICE:

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February 23, 2017

Secretary-Treasurers

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Re: HEU Equity Conference, May 30 to June 1, 2017
Rising Together – Roots, Struggle, Strength

HEU's 2017 Equity Conference will be held all day May 30 and 31, and the morning of June 1 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Vancouver.

Human rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King often spoke of the “fierce urgency of now”. The work to build solidarity and combat hatred is as urgent now as it ever was. It starts with coming together, sharing our histories, and building our skills to make a difference at work, in our union, and in our communities.

At this year's equity conference, we'll talk about our shared and distinct struggles, and learn from stories of resistance. We'll also learn about the historical context of our work to build a more equitable union, and talk about reconciliation and how colonization impacts each equity group. And we'll build our capacity to act in solidarity with all equity-related struggles, and strengthen our ability to stand up for ourselves.

Participants will also elect representatives to serve on HEU's five equity standing committees – Pink Triangle (LGBTQ+), Indigenous Peoples, Women, Ethnic Diversity, and People with disAbilities.

As we promote greater understanding of equity issues within our membership, we're also equipping ourselves to better meet the needs of patients, residents and clients who reflect that same diversity.

Who should attend the conference?

We need your help to get this information to as many HEU members as possible. This conference is a great opportunity to engage members who are new to the union, or new to union activism. In order for our equity committees to do this work, we need HEU members who self-identify as a member of an equity group (*listed above*).

Please distribute the poster and application form (photocopy as needed). Completed applications must be returned to **Jamie Cruz, HEU Education Department**, 5000 North Fraser Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5J 5M3 by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 7**. Forms can be faxed, mailed, or emailed. Please send ONE COPY only.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Whiteside
Secretary-Business Manager

Enclosures

cc: Provincial Executive, Chairpersons, Servicing Representatives, Equity caucus members