

A UNION FOR BANK EMPLOYEES



A group of us who work in banks have been meeting regularly to discuss the possibility of unionizing. We are tired of our low wages, lack of benefits, and the lack of respect and recognition for our skills and seniority.

It is a common myth that banks can't unionize. But after a little investigating we have found the opposite. As employees in banks we fall under the federal Canada Labour Code. This law guarantees us the right to unionize into the union of our choice. It only takes 35% of the employees in your Branch (excluding management) to sign union cards - then you can apply for union certification. If a majority of the employees have joined the union, you will be certified automatically. If you have less than a majority, the Labour Relations Board can order a secret ballot vote.

In recent years many working women have decided to unionize. The clerical staff at UBC and Simon Fraser University were organized in 1973 and the base rate in those institutions is now \$760/month at UBC, \$850 at Simon Fraser. As bank employees we are skilled and responsible and we work for some of the largest and richest companies in Canada. Yet we make some of the lowest wages in the work force. As long as we remain unorganized, with no collective bargaining, we will remain among the poorest paid.

72% of all bank employees are women. SORWUC (Service Office & Retail Workers Union of Canada) is a union formed and controlled by women workers. As bank employees in SORWUC we will have our own union Local, we will elect our own Executive and negotiating team, and we will decide ourselves what we need or don't need in our Union Contract.

We are anxious to talk to other bank employees about unionizing - the problems and the possibilities.

Please send the form below to SORWUC at #1003-207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, or phone us at 684-2834.

I would like further information about SORWUC and the Bank Employees' Local.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Workplace _____

(all replies in strictest confidence)