

# MYTHBUSTER

**Myth: Unions are only for middle aged workers.**

**Fact: The young and the old stand to gain the most from unions.**

Whether you're a student working part-time or a senior, supplementing your partner's pension, you'll benefit from a union. Still not convinced? Keep reading.

## FAQ

## ANSWER

I'm only working in retail to get experience.

Unions offer as many **professional development** opportunities as any employer, so even if retail isn't your **dream job** you're sure to **get something** out of your membership!

Why would I bother with a union?

Pursue a **free course**. Join the **Young Workers Committee** or the **Indigenous Committee**. Learn how to hold a **townhall**, write to **politicians**, run a successful **social-justice campaign**. **Whatever your passion, our union is sure to have an outlet for it.**

Won't a union just try to get rid of my part-time position? I like the flexibility retail provides...

When you join UFCW 1518, **you are the union**. That means you and your coworkers **decide together** how you want your schedules to look.

If you **value part-time positions**, unionizing simply gives you a **chance to design** and **tailor** part-time work to **your needs**. Don't let your boss take advantage of your **part-time preference**; win **protections** while retaining **flexibility**.

I'm under 18. Am I allowed to join a union?

Teenagers **can organize** a union, and you should! Unions are a great platform for young people to voice their **political views**. You might not be allowed to **vote**, but you can participate in all the **democratic** decision making that keeps UFCW 1518 a strong, **people-powered** advocate in the **political arena**.

## FAQ

## ANSWER

The only reason I have this job is because CPP isn't enough to cover my bills. What's a union going to do except take dues?

Employers like to **spread lies** about union dues to scare people out of improving their working conditions and **retirement protections**. When you join UFCW 1518 your union fees, or dues, **never exceed 2%** of your base pay, dues are **tax-deductible**, and you don't start paying until you get your **first contract**.

Dues buy you many services, including **professional negotiations services**, so you can push for **wage increases** and strong **retirement benefits**. A union membership also ensures you have someone in your corner when workplace related issues arise, defending you against **unfair employer tactics**.

I'm a senior citizen, so prescription drug costs are my main concern. Don't unions only care about wages?

**Not at all!** When you unionize you have the power to **negotiate health and dental benefits** into your agreement (as well as **guaranteed work hours**) that can help cover the **out-of-pocket costs** you're currently paying for **prescriptions** and other medical services.

Do you feel you deserve overtime? Do you want more hours but can't get them? Are you due for a raise but stuck at the starting rate?

**Without a union, it's nearly impossible to create lasting change and ask for improvements at work.**

Old and young workers are part of the team. They need to hold power and be part of the decision making process -- it's only fair, and it's the only way we'll make jobs work for working people.

Questions?  
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