



2026 Family Education Program

January 2026

TO: Presidents, Vice Presidents and Recording Secretaries

Greetings!

Does a family vacation on the shores of beautiful Lake Huron in Ontario at a resort-like facility where your travel, accommodations and food are all looked after at no cost to your members or the local sound too good to be true? Unifor's Family Education Program offers this and so much more.

The Unifor Family Education Program is funded by the National Union. There is no cost to the Local Union, and you are not required to have Paid Education Leave (PEL) negotiated in your collective agreements to have members participate in the program.

This year we are holding two (2) English language sessions:

2026 DATES

Session 1 – Sunday, August 09th through Sunday, August 16th

Session 2 – Sunday, August 16th through Sunday, August 23rd

ASL Interpretation available during Session 2

Please have each member of your local interested in participating in the Family Education program complete the application and return it via email to Family.Education@unifor.org no later than Friday, March 13th, 2026.

The program is open to members and their immediate families (spouse/partner and dependent children up to and including 18 years of age only). **Members are not eligible if they attended the Family Education Program within the last (7) seven years.**

Successful applicants will be notified by April 10th, 2026.

Posters have been included with this letter to help you promote the program. We have provided space on the poster for you to add your Local Union contact person, along with their contact information. Additionally, eligibility requirements and instructions are attached with this call letter.

If you require further information, please send an email to Family.Education@unifor.org and one of our Administration staff will get back to you.

We look forward to sharing this wonderful experience with your members and their families.

In solidarity,

Robin Fairchild Clennell
Director, Education Department
robin.fairchild@unifor.org

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Enclosures

cc. Lana Payne, Unifor National President
Len Poirier, Secretary-Treasurer
Assistants
National Executive Board
National Representatives
Sarah Hamilton, Director – Unifor Family Education Centre
Reservations – Unifor Family Education Centre
Laurie Wright, Director of Childcare, Unifor Family Education Centre

Unifor Family Education Program

What is the Unifor Family Education Program?

This is a unique program where members and their families get to participate in a week of learning and recreational activities.

ADULTS will discuss current economic and social issues from a worker's viewpoint, as well as the history, structure and policies of our Union. We will also have a number of excellent guest speakers on topics that touch the lives of workers every day.

All sessions are held in a comfortable and very informal setting.

TEENS – 13 to 18 years, will be involved in their own program that will be geared to the concerns and issues of their age group. Again, the setting for their discussions is informal and relaxed.

CHILDREN – 4 to 12 years will have a program supervised by trained recreation counsellors with activities ranging from arts and crafts to games and sports.

CHILDREN – infants to age 3 will be cared for in the day-nursery, complete with infant daycare and preschool facilities - including sleeping accommodation, enclosed playground and qualified staff. Please note that infants must be enrolled in child care and will not attend the classroom sessions with parents.

Will there be family time?

Discussions in class generally run from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Evenings are free to enjoy an array of organized and unorganized recreation activities.

If this sounds like something you and your family are interested in, complete an application and submit before the registration deadline of Friday, March 13th. (See application to find out where to return your completed application.)

Have questions? Contact the Unifor Education Department at 1-800-265-3735, ext #3217 or by e-mail at Family.Education@unifor.org

Eligibility Requirements and Instructions

- ✓ You are eligible to apply for the Family Education Program if you are a Unifor member in good standing and have a spouse/partner and/or children 18 years of age or younger. *(If you do not have a spouse/partner and/or children 18 years and younger to attend with you, you are not eligible – please investigate attending one of our Paid Education Leave Programs instead.)*
- ✓ You do not require Paid Education Leave [PEL] in your contract.
- ✓ You are **NOT eligible** to apply for the Family Education Program if you have attended within the last 7 years.
- ✓ **Unifor will provide, free of charge, food and lodging for each participant (and family member) during your stay at the Education Centre.**
- ✓ Each participant must contribute their time (vacation, personal leave, etc.). **NO LOST TIME, PER DIEM OR MILEAGE WILL BE PAID.**
- ✓ Each participant must come prepared to attend all in-class sessions. It is important that you discuss this with your family in advance of applying for the program.
- ✓ The program runs from Sunday dinner through to the following Sunday at approximately 11:00 am. **Early departures from the program cannot be accommodated.** Please ensure you can attend the entire program before applying.
- ✓ Plane tickets will be provided by the National Union (if you are traveling more than 500 kilometers one way, and choose to fly rather than drive).
- ✓ Those requiring an overnight stay while travelling to and from the Centre, will be provided with hotel accommodations. Costs for meals during this overnight stay are your responsibility.
- ✓ ***Please fill out the entire application form***, including date and signatures. Have it signed by your local union President or Financial Secretary and **return all 3 pages of the application by Friday, March 13th to:**

Unifor Education Department
115 Shipley Avenue, Port Elgin, ON
Email: Family.Education@unifor.org

If you, or a member of your family, require special medical consideration or have dietary needs while participating in the Family Program, please ensure you complete the section on page 3 of the application with full details.



2026 Family Education Program Application Form

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, March 13th, 2026

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____ Gender: _____

Local Union No.: _____ Lodge No. (if applicable): _____

Employer: _____

Please provide the LAST 6 DIGITS of your Social Insurance No.: _____
(This is required for tracking attendance of past participants.)

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Have you or your spouse/partner previously attended the Family Education Program as a member of
ANY Unifor Local? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what year did you attend? _____

****PLEASE NOTE: You are NOT ELIGIBLE to attend the Family Education Program if you have
attended within the last 7 years.****

Will your spouse/partner accompany you? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, provide First & Last Name: _____

Will dependent children attend the program with you? If so, please provide their information below.

PLEASE NOTE: Your dependent children (up to and including the age of 18) may accompany you. **This DOES NOT include nieces, nephews, grandchildren, etc.** Please bring proof of health coverage for emergency medical.

First & Last Name	Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)	Gender

Our ability to accommodate is based on the information you provide to us in advance. Do you, or anyone in your family, have special needs/requirements we should be aware of (including, but not limited to: wheelchair access, food allergies, learning disabilities, hearing/vision impairment, ADHD, Autism, behavioural issues, etc.)? **When completing this section, be sure to note the family member you are referring to.** Please provide complete details so we can be prepared so that you and your family can enjoy the program. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Listed below are the dates of each program scheduled for this summer. Indicate your first choice by placing a “1” beside your preferred session. If you are available and able to attend an alternate session, place a “2” beside your second choice. **IF IT’S NOT POSSIBLE TO ATTEND AN ALTERNATE SESSION DUE TO WORK VACATION SCHEDULE, DO NOT NOTE A 2ND CHOICE. EARLY DEPARTURES FROM THE PROGRAM CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED.**

- SESSION #1 – Sunday, August 09th through Sunday, August 16th inclusive
- SESSION #2 – Sunday, August 16th through Sunday, August 23rd inclusive



If your trip involves air travel, please specify the city from which you would like your initial flight to originate:

Please read and check off the important information below, and sign that you have read and understood the following:

- ☐ Each participant must contribute their time (vacation, personal leave, etc.) **NO LOST TIME, MILEAGE OR PER DIEM WILL BE PAID.**
- ☐ Plane tickets will be provided by the National Union if you are travelling more than 500 km one way.
- ☐ Your application must be signed by your Local Union PRESIDENT or FINANCIAL SECRETARY, to verify you are a member in good standing, and therefore eligible to attend the program.
- ☐ Participation in class is **mandatory** for **ALL** family members – including infants and children.
- ☐ Program runs from Sunday evening through to the following Sunday at approximately 11:00 am – early departures from the program cannot be accommodated.
- ☐ Unifor will provide, free of charge, food and lodging to each participant (and their family members) during your stay at the Education Centre.

I have read and understood the above:

Applicant signature

Date completed

NOTE TO THE LOCAL UNION PRESIDENT/FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

All members are eligible to attend the Family Education Program, providing they are Members in Good Standing. Paid Education Leave (PEL) is not required to attend this program as no lost time is paid, and members contribute their own time to attend (vacation, personal leave, etc.). Your Local will not be billed for any costs as a result of this applicant attending the Family Education Program.

I certify that the Applicant is a member in good standing.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Title

Return completed applications before Friday, March 13th to:

Unifor Education Department

Email: Family.Education@unifor.org

Mail: 115 Shipley Avenue, Port Elgin, ON, N0H 2C5

Successful applicants will be notified by April 10th. All applicants will be advised in writing of the disposition of their application. Questions can be directed to Family.Education@unifor.org or 1-800-265-3735, extension 3217.