

Announcing Unifor's Women's Advocates at VIA Rail Canada

On June 12th of last year, our 2000+ Unifor members at VIA Rail Canada overwhelmingly ratified a new four-year agreement with the Corporation. One of the highlights of this new agreement was the introduction of the Unifor Women's Advocate Program, which recognizes five (5) positions (one per region with at least one Francophone position) across Canada.

The program recognizes that female members may sometimes need to discuss with another woman matters such as violence or abuse at home or workplace harassment. Our female members may also require information about specialized resources in their communities such as counsellors or women's shelters to assist them in dealing with these and other issues.

The program was negotiated on a 12-month trial basis that may be extended beyond the 12-month period, but not beyond the current collective agreement that will expire at 23:59 local time on December 31, 2019.

The Women's Advocates were jointly selected by VIA Rail and Unifor from a group of female employees nominated by the Union.

After several months of deliberations, we are pleased to announce these Women's Advocates at VIA Rail:

Linda Lee – Atlantic Region

Marie-Claude Grenier – Quebec Region

Carmelina Stracuzzi – Ontario Region

Colleen McFee – Prairie Region

Sylvie Bonin – Mountain Region

The next steps are to arrange for the training for these Sisters in their new roles.

More information will be forthcoming on this new program once training is underway and additional details are worked out between the Union and VIA Rail.

In Solidarity,

Steven Harding

Interim President

Unifor National Council 4000

Ken Hiatt

President

Unifor Local 100

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