

Mel Myers Labour Conference Report – March 16 & 17, 2012

Report compiled by Serina Pottinger

Thirteen members attended the conference.

The members felt the conference was relevant, informative, thought provoking and provided insights into working within the company and the union. Equipped with greater knowledge of some of the challenges and issues organizations are facing, human rights, and laws; they're better prepared to recognize potential problems and protect our members' best interests in the workplace. The value of the conference is unanimously acknowledged by the attendees' enthusiastic response to recommending it as an excellent opportunity.

Member Feedback

1. Did you feel that the conference was relevant?

- Yes, I felt that the conference was relevant - it was good to mix with members from other Unions to see that many of the issues that they are having are common to those of our Union.
- Absolutely, I learned a lot about labour laws and things to be aware of, such as pension benefits and back to work coordinators, in order to protect our members' best interests.
- Yes. The variety and topics of the workshops were great. Very informative, providing excellent insights into working within the union and the company. The three 1h sessions covering larger issues were interesting, provoking some critical thinking about the challenges unions are facing today and ideas on enhancing communications via social web sites. Also being able to network with other unions helped provide insight to challenges they face and how they deal with them. Good learning lesson.
- Yes very relevant. The Workshops are very useful and to get to know the issues and problems with other organisations.
- Yes, it is very much relevant.
- Conference was extremely informative.
- I thought the conference was excellent, very informative.

2. What was the key thing you got out of it?

- Better understanding of how things work within the union: grievances, understanding challenges, understanding the greater impact of challenges from individual to union level.

- Social media can be a great way to connect with our younger members and have a voice in the community.
- The information regarding back to work, conflict in the workplace and Duty of accommodate.
- There are laws and rights.
- Key thing that I got from the conference - it is apparent that the Unions are heading for a big fight against the large anti-union movement in the world. It was nice to see that the Labour movement is still very strong in Manitoba.
- The Panels in the workshops are very knowledgeable and have good knowledge of various cases and issues in different organisations. The sessions related to disabilities were very good.
- I was able to get a lot out of it.

3. Would you recommend it to your colleagues?

- Yes very much so. Excellent conference for learning and developing new skills/techniques for working with union members.
- I would definitely recommend it to my colleagues.
- Yes, I would recommend the conference to other TEAM members. It was an overall good experience.
- Absolutely!
- Sure. It is very strongly recommended, as the experienced lawyers are clearly communicating and explaining the legal and various other aspects of the issues to all union members (who are not very knowledgeable on legal matters).
- Yes, I certainly would.
- I have already recommended it to many. Thanks for the opportunity.
