

UNW 17th Triennial Convention Information for Delegates **Delegate Series #5: THE CONVENTION RESOLUTION**

Convention Resolutions are one of the means by which members set the principles and policies that guide the union's operations between conventions. Resolutions are reviewed in advance by Convention Committees made up of Convention delegates. The Committees make recommendations and these are what is debated and voted on by Convention. Once adopted, the resolutions constitute a membership mandate which officers of the Union are expected to follow.



Resolutions can only be sent to Convention by two bodies: LOCALS and the UNION EXECUTIVE.

All resolutions must be considered at official meetings, must be moved and seconded. A simple majority of those voting members in attendance at the meeting must approve each resolution before it can be forwarded to Convention.

What does a Convention Resolution Address?

- A Convention Resolution must address only **one subject** and should concern itself with **general policies** designed to point the union in a desired direction.
- Resolutions should avoid trying to provide instruction that is too specific about the method and means of achieving an objective.
For example, a resolution which seeks a change in an employee benefit but directs that “this shall be achieved through labour - management consultation” is potentially self-defeating. That is, time and circumstances could render the consultation method inappropriate or prevent another more expedient method from being attempted.
- It is best if a resolution only concerns itself with the end goal, not the way it might be achieved.

Whereas.... (the preamble)

Preambles provide background information and do not form part of the actual resolution. A preamble always begins with the word WHEREAS. The preamble should be used to provide information which will help delegates to understand the problem or issue which has resulted in the resolution.

Be It Resolved.... (the resolution)

- A resolution should only contain one BE IT RESOLVED. This will help to avoid complicated and confusing debates, and to allow better understanding and acceptance of its objectives.
- If there is more than one objective, it may be better to split into two resolutions.
 - This is especially true if the goals of the different propositions can be achieved independently.
 - In considering a complex resolution which proposes two or more objectives, Convention may disagree with only a part of a complex resolution but that disagreement may veto the acceptable parts along with the unacceptable.



For example:

RESOLUTION FROM LOCAL 1234

WHEREAS the members of the UNW are interested in upcoming education provided by the Union; and

WHEREAS there should be a central location to obtain this information quickly and easily; and

WHEREAS the majority of members use the internet regularly;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of Northern Workers will post information, as soon as it is available, about upcoming union training and education opportunities on the UNW website.

MOVED BY Jane Doe SECONDED BY Joe Smith MOTION CARRIED.

Referral back to Committee

A resolution can be referred back to a committee for further study but this delays the decision and extends the debate. It is better to have clear, concise, well-conceived resolutions that Convention can understand and deal with efficiently. Convention committees can and do help “clean-up” the wording of submitted resolutions.

UNW Relationship to the PSAC

Since the UNW is a “Component” union of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, certain resolutions require special treatment before they are officially accepted. Resolutions adopted at a Component convention constitutes a mandate only in so far as they apply to that component’s operations or to matters falling within the jurisdiction of the component. A resolution dealing with wider PSAC operations or policy, or to matters with union-wide impact, must be forwarded to the PSAC Convention for consideration by delegates from all Components. Until such motions are adopted at the PSAC convention, they are not official union policy.

The next circular in this series will be “THE CONVENTION CHAIRPERSON.”