

A Young Person Graphically Organizes Three Ways Unions Matter

By Nicholas LeBlanc

Scenario 1

The Spring Hill Mining Company tried to make two consecutive three-cent wage cuts in 1879, despite being conspicuously well-off. One of the mine managers, Robert Drummond condemned the company's tactics in a Halifax paper. He lost his job but earned a career giving unions a voice.

Unions help prevent employees from being mistreated by allowing them to speak for themselves.

Voice

Scenario 2

In 1981, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers went on strike for 42 days in a pointed message to predominantly male management. Their message: maternity leave is necessary to eliminate the injustice suffered by female workers who endure a significant pay loss due to pregnancy.

Unions are a platform for establishing equality in the workplace and fighting discrimination in our society.

Equality

Scenario 3

Liam was at the top of his game, high in the company. Big bucks, man. So full of life he couldn't fit under the cap. Got the boot. Private company, wasn't unionized. Thank Goodness he'd tucked money away, but the kids had to give up hockey for a few years. No forest grows if you cut from the top.

Unions support you when it all goes wrong. They protect your rights if you get hurt, harassed, or wronged.

Security

UNION