

## **About SEIU-West**

Service Employees' International Union (SEIU) was founded in 1921 when building janitors in the United States formed the Building Service Employees International Union. Since that time, workers from diverse countries and backgrounds have opted to join the SEIU family. This diversity is also reflected in the membership as workers employed in the private, public, and industrial sectors have chosen SEIU as their representative Union. The SEIU currently has approximately two point one (2.1) million members across North America.

In Canada, SEIU represents approximately 100,000 members. SEIU represents members who work for school boards, home care agencies, hospitals, special care homes, retirement homes, property services, emergency services, social services, and municipalities, among many others.

SEIU members include education workers, clerical staff, caretakers, group home workers, addictions counselors, licensed practical nurses, special care aides, day care workers, health care workers, ambulance personnel, bus drivers and janitors to name a few.

SEIU-West is affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress, the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, and various labour councils within the province.

## **How SEIU-West was born**

SEIUWEST.ca was created through a merger in 2008 of 3 strong Locals:

**Local 299**, based out of Moose Jaw, was established in 1946 and consisted of approximately 2,000 members who are school board employees in both the Public and Catholic school systems, as well as employees in the health care sector and in a variety of other industries.

**Local 333**, based out of Saskatoon, was the largest Saskatchewan Local, with 8,200 members. St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon was the first hospital organized by SEIU in 1946. The majority of members who were affiliated with this local, worked as health providers in the health-care sector, community-based organizations, private care homes and group homes.

**Local 336**, based out of Swift Current, was chartered in 1947. Its founding members were employed primarily in the health care sector. This local broadened its representation to include education workers, caretakers, office and clerical workers, crisis service workers, and municipal workers. It consisted of approximately 1,200 members.

Since the 2008 merger, SEIU-West has become a force to be reckoned with in the Labour movement. With the best membership in the country SEIU-West is the example of Stronger Together!

