

## **Report of Local Development Committee Steve Colterman September 2023 – May 2024**

Chair: Steve Colterman

Members: Jean-Michel Riel- RVP  
Sheldon Jacobs- RVP  
Joe Walsh- Local 20001 President  
Suzanne Sirois - 70017 President

Technical Advisor: Dominique Barrette

The GSU Local Development Committee (LDC) has set a schedule to meet every two months since the 2023 Triennial Convention. We have set an aggressive schedule for ourselves with planned deliverables for the Sept 2024 Local President's Conference (LPC).

The first objective to which the committee agreed is to focus the committee's work in the area of mobilization and engagement of members and locals. With this focus, the committee is planning to present the revised "Welcome to your Union" to the 2024 Local President's Conference and other initiatives throughout the year.

To address mobilization, the committee feels successful AGMs are the first step to engaging existing members, hearing their issues, and working to assist them. To this end, we will be developing a short "Post AGM" survey which will permit GSU to compile AGM information in a uniform manner with the longer-term goal of identifying those more and less successful AGMs, seeing why and directing resources appropriately. This information gathering will begin with the 2025 AGM season.

Secondly, we also recognize the value of meeting new members early on in their careers, ensuring they are aware of their rights as unionized workers and to offer them the opportunities to volunteer to be workplace leaders. GSU currently has a very well-developed "Welcome to your Union" package on the GSU website. The Committee agrees that this content needs to be reviewed regularly to ensure timeliness of the information and developed in a manner that is amenable to a high-quality print format to permit locals to share virtually or by high quality print and handed to members in person.

Thirdly, to complement meeting new members at the earliest points in their careers, we will be focusing on compiling best practices on current local/employer new member engagement activities ongoing throughout the country. This information gathering will be conducted initially via a short GSU email survey circulated to Local Presidents followed by face to face (virtually based) discussions between select committee members and

presidents. Once completed, this information will be incorporated into the “Welcome to your Union” package.

Finally, with the “Welcome to your Union” presentation scheduled for the LPC and to promote solidarity amongst locals across the country, the committee will be seeking interested activists to assist locals with less capacity to join employer/union engagement sessions to ensure we meet and greet as many new members as is possible.

I would like to thank the committee members and GSU Technical advisor for their hard work, dedication and great ideas that will serve to help build a stronger union.

Sincerely,

Steve Colterman  
Chair of the GSU Local Development Committee  
National Vice-President (NVP) of the Government Services Union (GSU)