

Additional Activities

Title of Activity	Campaign to unionize personal support workers (PSW)
Type of Activity	Multigrade and kinesthetic activity
Suggested Subjects / Courses	Social Sciences: HIP4O, HSB4U Technical Studies: TGJ3O, TGJ4M, TGJ4O, TPJ2O Business Studies: Impact of unionization of PSW on the working conditions
Description of activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the Toronto, January 2021, Headline “‘We’ve never been busier’: New data from Statistics Canada seems to show a sudden growth in unionization” ‘We’ve never been busier’: New data from Statistics Canada seems to show a sudden growth in unionization to spark a discussion as to why there would be an increase in unionization 2. Create a list of jobs where there is little unionization, then identify which ones are held predominantly by women (ensure that Personal Support Worker, PSWs is on the list) - the research should indicate that a large proportion of jobs that employ high percentage of women are non-unionized or minimally unionized 3. Discuss how PSWs were in the news headlines repeatedly, especially at the start of the pandemic. 4. Review why workers organize themselves into unions (if this has not been previously taught, please see information in Notes) 5. Explain to the class that they will be placed into groups to develop a campaign to unionize all PSWs in Ontario. 6. Each group needs to come up with campaign material that could include digital/video/audio material
Notes	<p>It is assumed that students will have been exposed to unions prior to this lesson. If this is not the case, there will be a need to explain the role of unions and how to go about unionizing an organisation. You could have students read about previous unionizing efforts by Madeleine Parent (from list) or current examples seen Food Delivery Work Is a Big Test for Unions in Canada or Toronto Uber drivers opt to unionize for better pay, working conditions</p> <p>Another introductory lesson could be on Why Unionizing Canadian Workplaces is More Important Now Than Ever During The Pandemic</p> <p>A possible extension to this activity could be to examine Madeleine Parent, Eileen Tallman Sufrin, Huguette Plamondon and Iona Samis, all women who worked to unionize non-public sector employees - many of which were women.</p>