

LABOUR

Another “Super Union” Emerges

On November 7th, the Telecommunications Workers Union voted to merge with the United Steelworkers. The TWU is the largest telecommunications union in Alberta and British Columbia and has a significant presence in Ontario and Quebec. The United Steelworkers is North America’s most diverse union.

The merger became effective January 1, 2015. As set out in the Merger Agreement’s preamble, the merger between the TWU and the USW accomplishes the following for the TWU’s members:

- Immediate access to the USW’s \$300 million Strike and Defense Fund, which frees up significant resources to the TWU going forward.
- A stabilization of the TWU’s finances, which will assure its ability to continue to advocate on behalf of its members in the workplace and in the community.
- Immediate support for collective bargaining.
- Access to the USW’s leading strategic campaigns and corporate research capacities.
- Access to in-house legal support for the TWU.
- Initial commitment of \$1,000,000 for organizing.

The merger agreement is available at: <http://www.wearestrongertogether.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/TWU-Merger-Agreement.pdf>