



## NOTICE OF ELECTIONS: STEWARDS



Steward elections are held in workplaces every three years in the fall after the BCGEU Constitutional Convention. Nominations and elections may start after Labour Day and must be completed by the end of November.

### What do stewards do?

Stewards provide support and advice to members who think they are being treated unfairly. They make sure new employees sign union membership cards and provide information on BCGEU services. Stewards conduct ratification votes and elections and keep members informed by distributing BCGEU communication.

### What skills do I need to be a steward?

Stewards are well-organized, good listeners, problem solvers and team players. They have good communication skills and want to help others.

### Is there training for new stewards?

Yes. Stewards are eligible for paid union leave from work to take steward training every year at their area office. The BCGEU also offers workshops on human rights, facing management, and accommodating disabilities at the workplace.

### How do I become a steward?

Steward elections are informal. A union member from your workplace must nominate you using the Stewards Nomination Form. If there is nothing posted in your workplace contact the closest BCGEU area office. The number of stewards needed in your workplace will be decided by the Local Executive if it is not outlined in the collective agreement.

### Who conducts elections?

A current steward will conduct the vote. Only union members can vote so make sure you have signed a card. Membership cards are available from stewards and the BCGEU area offices.

If there is no steward in your workplace, or you have concerns about the election, contact your local chairperson through the area office.

**REMEMBER:** Management must not influence or interfere in steward elections. Report any such irregularities to your local chair and your staff representative through the area office.

**PLEASE POST IN WORKSITE**