



September 16, 2026

Dear Presidents and executives,

CUPE Alberta is deeply concerned about the upcoming referendum and its possible implications for our members, particularly those who are racialized and/or newcomers to Alberta.

Five of the nine referenda questions would give the Government of Alberta a mandate to move forward with policy initiatives that would restrict immigrant Albertans' access to public health care and education. These proposals could have serious consequences for workers, families and communities across our province, including many CUPE members.

We are concerned that these questions are being overshadowed by the attention surrounding the separation question. While Alberta's place in Canada is an important issue, we cannot allow proposals that could directly affect the rights, services and everyday lives of our members to go unnoticed or unchallenged.

In the coming weeks, CUPE Alberta will be working to ensure our members understand what is at stake. We will launch a website, provide information and resources to our locals and members, and produce a series of videos that will focus specifically on the immigration questions and their potential impact on CUPE members and their families.

Our goal is to give members clear, accessible information so they can make informed decisions and have conversations in their workplaces and communities.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We would like to use CUPE members who have direct experience coming to Alberta as new Canadians or growing up in a family with an immigration story. We'll focus on immigrants' contributions to our province. We are looking specifically for folks from the Filipino, Latino, Punjabi/Indian, and African or Caribbean communities who are available to film on Thursday, September 24, in Calgary and on October 5 or 6 in Edmonton.

Could you help us identify members who might be interested in helping us out? No acting experience is necessary. We will treat them to dinner and a very friendly Vlogger that we know will have a conversation with them about their personal experiences. If they need to book time off work to do this, we can cover their wages and arrange for union book-off.

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If you have some folks in mind but don't feel comfortable reaching out to them, please send us their contact details, and we will do the work. The video producers will want to have an initial conversation with each person, and we may not be able to film all those who indicate interest.

Thank you in advance for your help in making this incredibly important campaign a success.

This referendum is about more than individual questions on ballots. It is about the kind of Alberta we want to build – one where workers are treated with dignity, public services are accessible to everyone, and politicians cannot divide working people based on where they were born.

Please send your contacts to Jerry Toews at jtoews@cupe.ca.

In Solidarity,



Raj Uppal
President, CUPE Alberta