

EFFECTIVE UNION LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP COPE ONTARIO

On Monday December 7th I attended the **Effective Union Leadership** workshop at the offices of COPE Ontario on Richmond Street, Toronto. There were approximately 12 participants, 6 being from CUPE.

The instructor opened the course by discussing leaders in general, international, national and local leaders. We were encouraged to share who we felt good leaders were and why. We compared different leadership styles and talked about how and why we felt they became leaders which lead us into the characteristics of leadership, their responsibilities and what motivates them.

The motivation aspect covered mainly union leaders; the union environment, who we felt were great trade unionists etc., and participants shared their likes, dislikes and what lead them to the opinion they had regarding certain leaders.

We had very good group exercises, watched a video and completed a quiz, which forced us to look at our interaction in the workplace, in our committees with our committee members and to question whether or not we feel we are leadership material; if leadership is learned or a natural trait. The course offered information, ideas and tips on managing time, leading difficult people and mastering skills.

The course was informative and enjoyable. The instructor was very well informed and kept the workshop interactive and interesting. It was very well delivered and I learned a lot. This was the first time I have taken/attended a course with our union and it's definitely given me a thirst for more knowledge. I look forward to attending more workshops in the future.

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