

At the 2014 CLC Summer School, I took the ODRT-WSIB course. We learnt about WSIB legislation, claims submissions, and workplace accommodations.

Although we (COPE491 members) are office workers and it's rare that we will have the need to file a WSIB claim, the course taught me the importance of thinking outside the box to accommodate members who have sustained injuries both on and off the job as well as the need to accommodate for illnesses both physical and psychological. There was a great deal of emphasis placed on the need to respect member's privacy when it comes to their physical and psychological health as well as the importance of refraining from passing judgment on their situation.

Spending a week with brothers and sisters from various unions and sectors and listening to the challenges they've faced as well as the victories they've had has increased my desire to participate with our local's activities. All of the participants left the CAW facilities proud of the work unions have done and ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead.

There were five of us from the National office that attended the CLC Summer School this year and we all came back optimistic and proud to be unionized workers. The climate in our office surrounding COPE491 is slowly starting to change and members are becoming more engaged and involved in our local's activities. This was an enlightening experience and I look forwards to having the opportunity to attend more educationals.

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