



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 sign up new employees and provide information on BCGEU services. solve problems in the workplace. They conduct ratification votes and elections, and stewards keep members informed by distributing BCGEU information.

What skills do I need to be a steward?

Stewards are usually well-organized, good listeners, problem solvers and team players. They have good communication skills, and want to help others. Stewards are eligible for paid union leave from work to take steward training, and may take shorter courses in such topics as human rights, facing management, and communication.

How do I run for office as a steward?

Steward elections are informal. A union member from your workplace must nominate you using the Steward's Nomination Form – If it is not posted ask your steward for it or contact the Area Office. The number of stewards needed, if it is not outlined in your collective agreement, will be determined by your Local Executive.

Who conducts the elections?

If there are more candidates than positions, a current steward will conduct a vote. Only union members can vote so make sure you have signed a card.

If there is no steward in your workplace or you need assistance in conducting an election, contact your Local Chairperson through the Area Office. He or she will arrange for someone from the local to conduct the vote.

REMEMBER: Management must not influence or interfere in steward elections. Report any such actions to your Local chair and your staff representative at the Area Office.