

THE USGE: AN OVERVIEW

The Union of Solicitor General Employees (USGE) unites public service workers across Canada's federal justice system.

While the Government of Canada is the common employer, our more than 11,000 members work for various Departments and Agencies under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada. These include:

- Canada Firearms Centre
- Canadian Human Rights Commission
- Canadian Human Rights Tribunal
- Canadian Security Intelligence Service
- Commission for Public Complaints Against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Correctional Service Canada
- Courts Administration Service
- Justice Canada
- Law Commission of Canada
- National Parole Board
- Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs
- Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada
- Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada
- Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court
- Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police External Review Committee

The USGE provides a vehicle for our members to address shared issues, problems and working conditions from a position of solidarity and strength. United in one union, USGE members have the advantage of superior service and resources, without sacrificing their occupational identity. There are no second class members within the USGE. All are respected. All are valued.

The greatest number of USGE members work as CSC employees within federal minimum-, medium- and maximum-security penitentiaries and in parole offices across Canada. RCMP public service employees are the next largest USGE membership grouping.

USGE members are grouped together in approximately 140 Locals and Sections across Canada, based on such shared characteristics as employer and geography.

Our members also belong to a wide variety of federal public service classification groups, namely:

Administrative Services (AS)
Clerical and Regulatory (CR)
Data Processing (DA)
Drafting and Illustration (DD)
Education (ED)
Engineering and Scientific (EG)
General Labour and Trades (GLT)
General Services (GS)
General Technical (GT)
Heating, Power and Stationary (HP)
Hospital Services (HS)
Information Services (IS)
Library Science (LS)
Office Equipment (OE)
Printing Operations (PR)
Program Administration (PM)
Secretarial, Steno, Typing (ST)
Technical Inspection (TI)
Welfare Programs (WP)

As federal public service classifications are generally common across all Departments, the USGE is also a Component Union of the Public Service Alliance of Canada. The PSAC is the umbrella bargaining agent for USGE members and most other federal government workers.

Together, the USGE and PSAC are able to provide a much higher level of service, technical expertise and financial support than if our membership was divided into smaller unions or bargaining agents. This point has long been recognized. Organizations similar to the USGE were in place to unite justice system employees decades before federal government workers first gained the right to a “real union” and free collective bargaining in the mid-1960s.

In fact, the USGE was created by the coming together of two employee associations that saw the benefits joining in a larger union. In November 1966, the Department of Justice Employees’ Association of Canada and the Civil Service Association of Canada merged into one strong, united union – USGE!

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