

# **TEN BASIC PRINCIPLES**

## **GUIDELINE FOR LABOUR'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED WAY**

1. Union members are first and foremost citizens of their community.
2. Union members have a responsibility to their community. They must co-operate with their fellow citizens in making the community a good place in which to live, work and raise children. They must be concerned about the availability of adequate health, educational, recreational and social services for the whole community.
3. Unions have a responsibility for the support of their members and their families, which extends beyond their place of employment. Their responsibility includes not only emergencies caused by unemployment or other disasters, but extends to helping meet personal or family needs.
4. The community has a responsibility to its citizens. It must be prepared to meet social and economic needs which individuals or families cannot meet adequately with their own resources.
5. The staff and facilities of existing social service agencies serve the whole community. Unions have chosen to support and participate in these agencies and have also established social services of their own. Unions are encouraged to continue this policy.
6. Unions, however, are totally committed to the concept that government has ultimate responsibility to provide basic levels of education, health care and social services, financed through a progressive tax structure, and that at no time are volunteers to be used to reduce the cost of that commitment.
7. Voluntary or non-profit social service agencies occupy an important position in meeting the needs of the community. Some major responsibilities falling within the scope of voluntary social services are the fields of child support, family counselling, youth and seniors' activities, as well as social service program development.
8. It is the responsibility of organized labour to co-operate with other community groups in improving the quality and quantity of social services, while at the same time educating union members about available health and social services and how to use them.
9. Assistance in whatever form should be given on the basis of need, regardless of the cause of the need and without regard to gender, age, religion, or ethnic origin.
10. We believe that prevention of social problems is preferred over the best treatment of social ills.