

STEELWORKERS HUMANITY FUND UPDATE

JUNE 2025



YOUNG STEELWORKERS FROM CANADA AND THE U.S. BUILD TIES WITH ALLIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Participants visit a steel wire manufacturer outside Mexico City.

Young Steelworkers activists from Canada and the U.S. recently participated in the Global Union Youth Exchange in Mexico City, where they built leadership skills and shared experiences with counterparts from Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Turkey.

The youth exchange program attracted young members from all USW Canadian Districts and Districts 4 and 12 in the U.S., as well as activists from the Los Mineros union and the Authentic Labour Front (FAT) of Mexico, metal workers' unions from Chile and Colombia, and the call centre workers' union of Turkey.

The intensive, week-long exchange, co-hosted by the Steelworkers Humanity Fund and Los Mineros, featured a mix of discussions and interactive workshops on organizing, collective bargaining, leadership skills and strengthening unions through greater member involvement and gender equity. Participants delivered presentations on their experiences as union activists and workers. This enabled comparisons of how economic globalization and differences in legal systems and political contexts affect workers around the world. Participants also visited factories in the Mexico

City area, where workers are members of Los Mineros, to learn about health and safety issues.

"We built strong solidarity and learned from one another, realizing that the challenges we face in Canada are the same as those faced in Mexico, Chile, Colombia, the U.S. and Turkey," said exchange participant Sharif Ali, a USW Local 3950 member from District 6.

Learning about realities faced by workers and unions in other countries also enabled participants to reflect further on their own experiences. Workers from the Global South face more difficult living and working conditions and greater challenges to organizing. Yet, Canadian members also learned of examples where labour rights abroad are stronger.

"Workers in Canada are often legislated out of our right to strike, which eliminates one of our biggest sources of leverage and strength. I'm more passionate than ever about the importance of political activism to ensure that our rights as workers are not only maintained but improved," said Jori Lacey, a member of USW Local 207 in District 3. "Many of us work for companies

"I came here hoping to make friends, but I never imagined I would find a family. These precious connections show that the world needs more exchanges like this. It's time to strengthen international solidarity and build a more united future together," Gravel-Bourgeois said.

The image shows three individuals in a room with a wooden floor and a white wall. A Mexican flag is on a stand to the left. A man in a black t-shirt and hat stands on the far left. A man in a dark jacket stands in the center, holding a large sheet of paper. A woman in a black top and olive pants stands on the right, also holding the paper. The paper has handwritten notes in four columns:

Plz Family	John?	John?	Memorable
Did not a representation the new black what this change	1. US Other levels	2. By Hanks 1. US	
2. How would this change the new black what this change	3. What would this change the new black what this change	2. By the end of the year	2. US
3. US support the new black what this change	4. US support the new black what this change	3. By the end of the year (Hanks of US)	



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