

Joe Ahrens

Bio

Joe Ahrens' professional labour relations career spans four decades. With a degree in Labour Relations from the University of Manitoba, he has extensively practiced labour relations in the private, public and government-related sectors, federally, provincially and municipally throughout much of Canada.

Most recently, Joe was employed with the United Nurses of Alberta where he was responsible for negotiations, arbitration, essential services, and membership representation. Previously, he worked for the United Food & Commercial Workers (Manitoba); Union of Northern Workers (N.W.T.); TransAlta Employees' Association (Alberta); and the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon). In 2011, he was seconded to the position of Chief Negotiations Officer of the Professional Institute, responsible for the overall management and direction of Canada-wide collective bargaining functions for the 60,000 member Professional Institute.

Supplementing his expertise in negotiations, Joe has attained all levels of certification in Alternate Dispute Resolution.

In addition, Joe has taken a leadership role in Essential Services. In Manitoba, he led the health care sector to a permanent solution. In Saskatchewan, Joe assisted the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour in their successful Supreme Court application. In Alberta, in addition to being appointed the UNA Staff Lead on Essential Services, Joe participated on expert panels sponsored by the Lancaster House and the Province of Alberta.

In February 2020, Joe opened Fair Bargain Inc., a firm offering expertise in all areas of labour relations. Its goal is to offer a sophisticated and professional level of expertise to smaller organizations where availability is slim or is extremely expensive. Through Fair Bargain, Joe is able to provide tailored excellence to meet the particular needs of every client on a timely basis.