

Winter 2015-2016 - SPOTLIGHT



Bill Murnighan MIR'91 **Director of Research, Unifor**

Bill Murnighan, graduated from the MIR program in 1991, and is currently the Director of Research at Unifor, Canada's largest union in the private sector with 310,000 members in more than 20 sectors of the economy. Leading a team of six, Bill provides economic, financial and policy research in support of the union's negotiations, campaigns and government relations initiatives. Over the last seventeen years with the union, Bill has engaged in countless sets of negotiations in industries as diverse as auto, railways, mining, healthcare, aerospace, forestry, hotels, air traffic control and more. The role of representing members extends well beyond the bargaining table, and in his work has drawn him into wide-ranging initiatives and campaigns addressing labour law reform, seeking improvements to social programs, and several industrial and trade policy matters.

Bill joined the former Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) in 1998, and was appointed Research Director in 2012. The formation of Unifor in 2013, through the merger of the CAW and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers (CEP), brought new opportunities and dramatically expanded the scope of his work to include the telecommunications, media, forestry and energy sectors, among others. Prior to joining the union in 1998, he worked for five years as a Research Economist and Policy Advisor in the Ontario Ministry of Labour.

On reflection of his experience with the MIR program, Bill noted that "The multidisciplinary approach provided a solid grounding in collective bargaining, labour law, human resources practice, economics and labour history, and that really set the stage for my career in the labour movement, and my ability to manage a broad range of issues."