

Greetings Sisters and Brothers

CUPE Ontario's course of action over the next two years must be decided by the membership if we are to defend our jobs from the privatization agenda sweeping across the province. My belief in rank and file determination allows me to respectfully put forth my name for the position of CUPE Ontario president.

I am passionate about the advantages of the collective and believe that the healthy and democratic process of elections strengthens our Union. I am confident that I will help advance labour's cause by running and leading by example.

My campaign is not about slogans, it's about principals and a vision. It's about improving our democratic process so that all voices are heard, thereby strengthening the Union and empowering the members. It's about expanding our political action to ensure we are improving the working conditions and benefit packages of all Workers. It's about empowering the jurisdictions, recognizing the skills and strengths each sector brings to the collective of CUPE Ontario and how we can best utilize those skills for the advancement of all. It's about developing a way to hold all political parties accountable for their actions all the time, not just at elections. It's about ensuring that all leadership in our division has clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and the resources to fulfill those duties. My campaign is about ensuring that we imagine, discuss, and debate what our course of action will be. My commitment to you is that those discussions will be ongoing, and that member-based decisions be the basis for our clearly-defined mandate.

I have been an active CUPE member since 1986, and have been privileged to be President of Local 1334 Trades, Maintenance and Services Workers since 2001. As one of the senior serving women on the CUPE Ontario executive board, and in my capacity as chair of OUWCC, I have witnessed the success we have when our actions and campaigns are member-decided and member-driven.

I have championed social justice issues since I was a teenager, and I bring my ability to balance grassroots activism with a political agenda to this position. I believe in coalition building, even if that requires engaging in conflict resolution. Resolving problems does not mean there are winners and losers, it means, doing what is best for the collective, as decided by the collective.

As our local's spokesperson during our last 3 rounds of bargaining, and as a strong advocate for coordinated bargaining for the university sector, I know that we must take our political action beyond lobbying government, and demonstrate our political will at the bargaining table. We need to influence social policy and legislation at every level.

I bring my skills in coalition-building, mobilizing, and political action to the table in these elections. I am looking forward to the democratic process of elections and to speaking with you further about our shared vision for a strong CUPE Ontario.

If you would like to speak further on any of these issues call me at (519) 836-5470, email me at questions@sisterjanice.com, or come to the election forum at the convention. To volunteer, send words of support, or donate to the campaign, please visit www.sisterjanice.com.



Peace and solidarity,
Janice Folk-Dawson

Janice Folk-Dawson for President
sisterjanice.com

