

## CANDIDATE PROFILE

**NAME: LORNA BOWDEN**

**POSITION BEING SOUGHT: SECRETARY/TREASURER**

**LENGTH OF TIME WITHIN THE UNION: 34 years**

**UNION EXPERIENCE:** With over 19 years' experience in the Union, I have worn many different hats and held a variety of elected positions, namely as Trustee, Regional Director, Unit Chair/Co, Unit/Secretary, Chief Steward, and Shop Steward. A skilled harassment investigator with certification in Mental Health First Aid, my experiences representing members have ranged from assisting with accessing Supplementary Disability Benefits (SDB), Workers' Compensation (WCB), Accommodations and grievance handling. My experience is bolstered by community work, which is an important role to me. As Chair for Atlantic Unifor Black, Indigenous and Workers of Colour committee and Local 2289's Human Rights committee, I have sharpened my activism to be a better leader and voice for the people.

**WORK HISTORY:** Administrative Rep II, OHS provincial and policy committee

**COMMENTS: Sisters, Brothers and Siblings,** as Trustee, seeing the finances firsthand, I have been able to see the bigger picture, to see the state of our Local and to identify the need for more diligence. We are 501 members strong, but it is obvious that membership is declining. We need a fresh start, a fresh view on our finances to develop ways to save, engage with and grow our Local and represent our members. We do this through our by-laws, through the determination of an effective Executive Board, but mostly importantly, through the strength and perseverance of our members. As a Shop Steward, I have seen and continue to see how Bell treats their employees - SHAME. We can no longer ignore the need for assistance in mental health and inclusion, which comes with a price tag but a healthier, vibrant workplace and union worth, is. We all play a part to collaboratively work together and find ways to achieve savings for these vital initiatives. The role of Secretary-Treasurer is vital to the daily operations of your union, to stay connected with all members. An informed membership is a powerful membership. It is important that there is transparency in our finances. Rising costs do mean that there is a need to tighten belts, but there are ways to ensure that our union work continues and is reflective of what matters to you, the members. I have often said we are more than our Collective Agreements. As Secretary-Treasurer, allow me to bring your voice to all decision-making tables, to create financial room for growth, savings, new initiatives to build a union we all can stand up and be proud of.

Thank you for your consideration, much appreciation and thanks for your support!

In Solidarity.

Lorna Bowden

