**Parliamentary Procedures and Public Speaking**

**CLC Summer School – Port Elgin, Ontario**

**July 3 to 8, 2016**

Parliamentary Procedures and taught us how to run meetings smoothly – in accordance with parliamentary procedures. We learned the history of, and differences between Canadian and American parliamentary procedures, as well as the references we will need to conduct effective and concise meetings. We went over which organizations use which rules of order (Labour Councils, CLC, Provincial Federations of Labour, etc.) To me, the most important takeaway was how to conduct meetings in a structured manner that ensures that everyone’s voice is heard. We took away important tools which will allow us to be more effective as union leaders.

During the public speaking portion of the course, we learned a variety of public speaking techniques and were provided with the opportunity to practice these new techniques via a variety of role plays.

In addition to our course topic, we participated in plenary sessions. One such session was quite impactful. A message delivered by an aboriginal Sister about the importance of unity and preservation of our land.

Another plenary session addressed the lack of pension income (CPP/QPP/Private pensions, etc.) for many Canadians and the importance of lobbying governments to ensure that Canadians are not retiring into poverty after a lifetime of work.

I took my 2 boys with me, 3 and 6 years old. They took part in the fantastic one-site childcare program during the day, and we did a variety of activities in the evening such as attend the bond fire, the park, etc. Union work often takes me away from my family and it was nice for them to see firsthand why we volunteer our time for such an important cause.

Myself and my sisters from cope419 who attended the weeklong school made alliances within the labour movement.