



# **KAREN CARLE**

**for**

**COPE 491 President**

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Sisters & Brothers,

By way of introduction, my name is Karen Carle. It is with sincere thanks to the sisters that have put my name forward for the position of COPE 491 President and I am honored to let my name stand!

I am asking for your continued support for defending our rights and benefits. We must continue to ensure that our Employer follows these rights and hold them accountable when they do not. I believe that a mutual respect has been established and that strong gains have been made between COPE 491 and CUPE. I believe it is important for the President of the Union to develop a rapport with the Employer but always keep in mind that working together is largely a show of respect towards each other. I am proud that we are able to bargain in good faith, work together and, when need be, we can respectfully disagree.

I strive to continue to fight for the rights of ALL members and I believe wholeheartedly in our Union.

I am currently the incumbent in this position. I always fight for what's right for our Local. Prior to becoming President I was National Vice President and enjoyed being in that role. It is a tough job as Grievance Chair but we had some great successes at arbitration while I was in that position. Two of the memorable ones was the reinstatement of a member that was wrongfully terminated and the other was overtime for training. I have no problem challenging the Employer, providing arguments, researching and making things right for our members. I truly enjoy my time as an activist and love the challenge it provides.

As President I am an ex-officio member of all COPE 491 committees and currently sit on the following active committees:

- COPE 491 Grievance Committee
- COPE 491 Negotiating Committee
- COPE 491 Joint Employment Equity Committee
- COPE 491 Labour Management Committee
- COPE Ontario Executive Board – Vice President
- COPE Ontario Appeals Committee

With our members being spread across the country, it is a challenge to keep in touch. It is continuously a work in progress to improve the communication with you and to keep you informed on what is happening. The feedback has been positive and we will continue to strive for more! We need to do more!

On a personal note, for the past 14 years, I have been employed in the Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Area Office. I have lived here most of my life and have 2 grown children.

Prior to working for CUPE, I was actively involved as a CUPE member. I held the position of President for Local 4195 Saskatchewan Rivers School Division for three terms until I left their employment and came to work for CUPE. I also sat on the provincial Education Workers Steering Committee and on the CUPE SK Education Committee.

In closing, I am looking forward to using the knowledge that I have acquired while being a CUPE member and as a COPE member and continue to strive and to work for COPE 491. I feel the position of the COPE 491 President needs a person with Union experience, someone who has been on an executive, has hands on experience and is willing to commit the time and energy to lead this Union and to work as a team member with the executive. I have that experience and I am committed to our Union!

If you have anything specific you wish to discuss please feel free to contact me via email at [president.cope491@gmail.com](mailto:president.cope491@gmail.com)

I am asking for your confidence in me and your vote for this position. Thank you in advance for your continued support!

As always, in solidarity,

Karen