# Labour Report for United Way 2017 AGM

The Kingston and District Labour Council is a proud partner with the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (KFLA) United Way. Through this cooperation we are able to improve the lives of people in this region.

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and the United Way Centraide Canada (UWCC) share a common vision for prosperous communities. Together, we encourage workers and union leaders to get involved in United Way efforts so that our combined voices, networks and resources can make that vision real.

Thank you to all our union activists that sit on our United Way committees; these committees guide fund distribution and address issues like poverty and youth homelessness. Our Members bring workers' perspectives and experiences to these tables.

It has been a pleasure to work with the other United Way Board Directors. We have dealt with issues that are local and national in scope. I continue to be impressed by the efforts of each Director to prioritize the needs and dignity of people in their decision-making. The Board works well together to guide our United Way to address challenges and recognize success. Much of the success is thanks to the highly dedicated and welcoming United Way staff. Our community is in good hands.

The volunteers, union locals, staff and workplace campaigners from Labour have again helped the United Way reach their 2016 goal. They volunteer their efforts because they know that it helps their colleagues and their families. The President of the Kingston and District Labour Council, (KDLC), Rej Bruneau, is the Labour Representative on the Campaign Cabinet. Rej's encouragement and contributions to the United Way are greatly appreciated; especially since he has been very busy in his other role as President of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) / Union of National Defense Employees (UNDE) Local 641. Well done all!

Our labour campaign and celebration of KFLA United Way's 75$^{th}$ anniversary began at Labour Day 2016. United Way participation in our activities at McBurney Park and the parade are always appreciated. The hard work of the Labour Day Committee members helped make the parade and picnic another great success.

Darlene Medhurst retired as Director of Labour Community Services. Darlene was a stalwart advocate for Labour and the United Way. She kept us on track, motivated and involved.

When the advertisement went out, we were anxious as to who would fill the position. To our delight, Ryan Bol was hired. Ryan is from Kingston and is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE). He has already proven to be innovative and eager to help. Welcome Ryan, we look forward to working with you.

The joint KDLC and United Way Labour Community Advocate Program ran last year. This Program highlights agency offerings and informs our members so that they may refer colleagues to these excellent community resources. All Unions are encouraged to have members take this course so that each year our capacity to help our members increases.

We are partners, joining all those involved in the United Way and the over three million CLC members in building healthier communities. Remember solidarity and strength in numbers can affect great change to produce healthier communities.

Yours in solidarity,

Joan Jardin
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Second Vice President, Kingston & District Labour Council
United Way Board Member