

Labour Report for United Way 2018 AGM

The Kingston and District Labour Council (KDLC) is a proud partner with the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (KFLA) United Way. The KDLC and KFLA United Way each work to improve the lives of people in this region.

Our federal organizations, 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.

United Way committees include many union activists who are proud to bring workers' perspectives and experiences to discussions. These committees guide fund distribution and address issues like food access and youth homelessness. Thank you to all!!

It has been a pleasure to work with the other United Way Board Directors. We have dealt with many issues that positively affect our community and the direction of our United Way. I continue to be impressed by how each Director collaborates to prioritize the needs and dignity of people. A large part of our United Way's success is thanks to the highly dedicated and welcoming United Way staff. Our community is in good hands.

The volunteers from Labour, including union locals, staff, and workplace campaigners, have again helped the United Way reach their 2017 goal. They understand that their volunteer efforts help their colleagues and their families. The 2017 KDLC President, Rej Bruneau, continues to be the Labour Representative on the Campaign Cabinet. Rej's strongly supports Labour's contributions to the United Way and his efforts are greatly appreciated. As President of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) / Union of National Defense Employees (UNDE) Local 641, he further shares his support of the United Way.

Our labour campaign began on Labour Day 2017. United Way participation in our parade and activities at McBurney Park has always been appreciated and has become a solid partnership. The Labour Day Committee members worked to make the event another great success. Thanks to a fabulous team.

It is difficult to believe that it has been more than a year since Darlene Medhurst retired as Director of Labour Community Services and Ryan Bol assumed the role. The change-over was seamless - a testament to the efforts and teamwork by both Ryan and Darlene. We are all very fortunate to have Ryan working for the United Way and Labour. He is organized, enthusiastic, and innovative; I rely on him greatly and thank him for his diligent work and kind prodding.

The highly acclaimed joint KDLC and United Way Labour Community Advocate Program will be offered in 2018. This Program highlights United Way Agency offerings which informs local Labour Leaders so that they are better able to refer colleagues to our many excellent community resources. Unions are encouraged to have members take this course; it increases our capacity to help each other.

We are partners, combining the efforts of more than three million CLC members with all those involved in the United Way. We know that solidarity and strength in numbers can affect great change that will continue to make our communities healthier.

Yours in solidarity,

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