

Our union is only as strong as its membership. I believe that, in these difficult and busy times, it is crucial to find effective ways to get information to and from members to build capacity.

Throughout my time in the Local, I've aimed to reach more members and help build up our community. My involvement with the Union started two years ago, when I was elected to the bargaining team for Unit 1. We successfully negotiated a Collective Agreement



offering better working conditions and significant increases in benefits to all our members. Following this, I was acclaimed last year as Vice-Chair of Unit 1 for 2018-2019. As part of my tenure, I've chaired multiple caucuses and committees of the Local to support member involvement and projects (Accessibility caucus, Mobilization committee and C.A.I.C.). I've worked on Orientations and created information sessions destined to inform our new and current members on their rights and benefits. I've liaised with the Employer on many employment concerns through various committees and groups to improve working conditions and ensure that the Collective Agreement is upheld correctly throughout the University (Labour Management Committee, Employment Equity Committee and Course Evaluation Working Group). Finally, I've worked with my colleagues on the Executive Committee, managing the internal affairs of the Local and focusing our efforts to fight back against Ford's Post-Secondary Education cuts. After a year in the position, I have a firm grasp on what needs to be done and where to focus our future efforts to.

In the year to come, my main goal is to strengthen our Union by increasing member awareness on our rights and benefits. I want members to be more informed and aware of ongoing events within the Local and in the general labour movement. To do so, I will help develop a stronger network of stewards and active members, empowering them to grow our community by planning trainings and workshops for these active members. I hope to revive many of our caucuses that have been dormant for some time. I will additionally reach out to members to establish priorities and a plan for our next round of bargaining. The next year will be a difficult one, as we need to start the preliminary work on bargaining under the Ford government. Starting as soon as possible gives us a stronger platform and better bargaining power.

I believe that I am the best candidate for the Vice-Chair of Unit 1 position, given my prior experience in the Union and plans for our Unit. As such, I am looking for your support and vote in the upcoming election! Please feel free to email me at jerben.rothschild@gmail.com for any questions you might have.