



My name is Souie and I am a proud L'nu from Unama'ki (Cape Breton Island). I am living off-reserve and am humbled to be a visitor on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples. I am a 60's scoop toddler who is learning and reclaiming my cultural practices.

Welcome to new and returning members to our triannual caucus gathering. I have served the Indigenous caucus members as an Equity and Human Rights representative for three terms and feel there is still a need for a strong advocate to raise the voices and realize the ideas and visions of our caucus. With your support, I will continue to be a strong voice for all of you.

Examples of some key work areas we have momentum on and new work we need to keep moving forward is:

- Working with members of the new Advisory Committee to support the roll out of its new governing structure, functions, and advocacy role on Indigenous related causes.
- Continue the implementation of the 2019 Indigenous Roundtable recommendations including convening another gathering.
- Increase the number of members in our caucus so that no one is left out. That will include a member engagement plan and having more presence on the union web site.
- So that we can effectively increase member engagement, advocate to carry out a comprehensive audit of are Indigenous members. This would include information that will enable us to better organize.

We have a lot to be proud of however and have gained momentum that we need to keep! As a caucus we have achieved significant progress! While in this role, these are the most noteworthy:

- I worked in partnership with other members to create and establish a new advisory committee to ensure a higher number of Indigenous voices are included from across more geographic areas.
- To ensure members' input into the BCGEU's submission at the MMIW's National Enquiry, I helped organizing community engagements and advised the organizers and participated in the 2019 Indigenous Roundtable.
- Requested and helped draft support letters to be sent from our union on various Indigenous issues across Canada and worked with a team to pass key Indigenous related resolutions.
- Organized different cultural events for our members such as a Sacred Water Ceremony that was open to the public, included local First Nations leaders, other unions, and the governor general.

This role at times requires tight turn-around times that I can commit to. I work well independently and as a team and it is important to me that all members feel valued; relationships are sacred. I reflect on the seven sacred teachings and strive to bring forth these teaching as I go about my work. I also reflect on the many mentors that have been part of our circle and that I have learned so much from.

If I am selected as your representative, I bring a broad set of skills and years of volunteering, working and lived experience that includes mental health and addictions, the justice system as well as Indigenous youth and sports as a way to build healthy communities. In my job I work in the are of ending violence against Indigenous women with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and also have a strong background in the natural resource sectors.

I am the woman's helper in the Lodge, am part of the 13 Grandmother Moon community of women who meet every month I love to sew ribbon skirts since they are part of my traditional dress and am proud to put my regalia on for different occasions.



ALL MY RELATIONS