

# Jeremy Williams

803 Steward - 803 Member at Large - 2021 Executive Vice President Candidate

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**I recognize and acknowledge that I live, work, and learn on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the First Peoples. From coast to coast to coast, I acknowledge the ancestral and unceded territory of all the Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people of these lands. I thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose footsteps have marked this territory for centuries and pay my respects to their elders - past, present, and emerging.**

My name is Jeremy Williams, and I am a queer, recovered, invisibly disabled, passionate member of the BCGEU who is asking for your support for a seat on the Equity and Human Rights committee.

My advocacy for equity and human rights is a long and ongoing story that ranges from raising money for famine ravaged countries at the age 8, to protesting the gulf war at 16, fighting for queer representation in Surrey schools at 17, and advocating for victims rights at 20 after the murder of an indigenous family member. After a 20 year battle with addiction and mental health, I then emerged to reclaim the bullhorn to fight for trans rights, harm reduction, decriminalization, reconciliation, decolonization, MMIWGM2S, better access to mental health services, and workers rights and safety.

As the Vice President of the board of directors for the Association of Cooperative Counselling Therapists of Canada, myself and the board President have begun the process of decolonizing our organization and placing equity and diversity as a cornerstone pillar - a major milestone for our cooperative. As an 803 steward, and member at large, I have had the honour and privilege of supporting workers from all walks of life; including IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, and disabled members. To say that I have built a reputation for myself as a formidable force in negotiations would be a definite understatement.

A vote for me, is a vote for commitment, passion, and dedication to a cause that I have spent over 35 years fighting tirelessly for. And although I bring years of board and committee experience with me, I also bring an open mind, a steady hand, and an available heart. Thank you for taking this opportunity to get to know me a little better, and I look forward to representing and serving our membership on the Equity and Human Rights committee.

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