

Supplemental Biography for the BCGEU Bargaining Committee: Kathan Datta

Dear fellow Maxxam employees and BCGEU Staff:

My Name is Kathan Datta, and I work as a Lab Technician in the Food Residue department at Maxxam Analytics since October 2017. I have submitted a form to become a bargaining committee member at the next set of negotiations with Maxxam/BCGEU this March. Currently, there are no union stewards for Food Operations, so I would be privileged to help represent the interest of these departments, and Maxxam as a whole.

I graduated from BCIT's Chemical and Environmental Technology program in 2014. I then commenced work at Silliker/Mérieux NutriSciences from November 2014 to September 2017. During my first year of employment at Silliker, I worked as a Lab Assistant-1 in the Food Sample Prep, and Inorganics department. For the next two years, I worked as a Lab Assisant-2 in the Instrumental Food Chemistry department.

When I first started working at Silliker, I was not involved in union notices or developments. It was not until Silliker's own negotiations in August 2015, that I became more interested. I learnt then, that as a collective, we have the power to change our workplace; to discuss our rights amongst ourselves, and to vote to improve our work setting.

After Silliker's new collective agreement was drafted, I became more involved in meetings with both the BCGEU and Silliker Corporate HR. During these meetings, I discussed promotion pilot projects, training opportunities, compensation, and open communication between employers and employees.

At Maxxam, we are also fortunate to have a strong union agreement with the BCGEU that supports its members in various periods of employment. I would now appreciate the chance to contribute to advancing this collective agreement, our work environment and culture, and our personal development as union members.

With solidarity,

Kathan Datta