

# FYI



**PLEASE POST**

**Date:** February 14, 2018

**To:** All BCGEU Local 809 Members

**Re:** Elections for Local 809 Executive

The BCGEU is holding elections for the following positions of the Local 809 Executive. Candidate statements are attached for those candidates who provided them:

**Local Chairperson:**

Rachel Friedrich  
Melanie Mason  
Laurie Proudfoot

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson:**

Rachel Friedrich  
Melanie Mason  
Cindy McLaren

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson:**

Monika Find  
Rachel Friedrich

- Ballots are available from your stewards and contacts at the worksite. You may also vote at the Area Office at, **2316 Columbia Avenue, Castlegar.**

Ballots are due back to the BCGEU West Kootenay Area Office no later than **5:00 p.m. Friday, March 9, 2018.**

Once the election is complete, a bulletin will be sent advising members of the new Local 809 Executive.

Any questions should be referred to the Local Representative on the Area Balloting Committee. Contact the West Kootenay Area Office for contact number.

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## MONIKA FIND'S BIO

I have been a BCGEU member since 2002, starting in local 309 and then local 809. I have held the following positions:

JOSH rep  
Steward  
Local Member at Large  
Local 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Labour Council Delegate  
Strike Captain

At present I am still a JOSH rep, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair and Steward. I am proud to be a member of our Union and look forward to continuing to take a stand for our members and rights.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

My name is Rachel Friedrich and I presently work out of the Trail Mental Health & Substance Use office as an Outreach Support Worker, with previously held positions in Nelson and Castlegar. I have been employed full time with the Interior Health Authority for almost five years now, all while concurrently working on my Social Work degree at the University of Victoria, of which I am a few months away from completion. I reside in Castlegar as a single parent with my 10-year-old son Korbyn and our dog Rogue. I have held a position as Member-at-Large for Component 8 of the BCGEU on the Local Executive for the past two terms strictly to commence my activism with the BCGEU and to gain a more thorough and in depth understanding of our union, its structure, and how to efficiently and effectively support our members and interpret our collective agreements. More recently I applied for and was selected by the BCGEU as a Peer Educator, which involves the facilitation of a new pilot introductory course for newly elected, and returning job stewards.

Into my new position with the BCGEU, I bring with me eight years of union experience with the Late Industrial Wood and Allied Workers of Canada and the United Steelworkers Local 1-405, where I held Job Steward, Secretary, Trustee, and Safety Representative positions. I have also completed two years of a Leadership Development Apprenticeship program through the United Steelworkers, participated in Union Organizing, and was once a committee member on the British Columbia Federation of Labours Young Worker Occupational Health and Safety committee.

I wish to acknowledge to the membership that I accept my nomination out of my sincere passion for trade unionism and my desire to utilize my acquired skills, apply my personal creativity, create change, and encourage solidarity among our union's diverse membership. I look forward to representing and supporting the membership of Component 8 as your new Executive Chairperson both locally and provincially.

In Solidarity,

Rachel Friedrich





# Melanie Mason



I am asking the membership to support me for election to the position of Local Chairperson. Pledged to serve and contribute on our Local Executive, in any capacity, I have also applied for other positions.

I have served as a BCGEU Shop Steward since 2016, as a Member At Large on the Local Executive, and am a Union counsellor and an alternate on the OH&S Committee for both Kiro Wellness Centre and the Trail Mental Health Clubhouse. I value learning and engaging with fellow shop stewards to better support members.

A vote for me as a committed member of your executive means:

- timely responses;
- questions and/or concerns addressed to the best of my ability;
- relevant information obtained from any/all available sources.

I believe that my listening and interpersonal skills will be a benefit to the position of Local Chairperson. I am a professional, proven leader who is enthusiastic about representing fellow BCGEU brothers and sisters.

I arrived in the Kootenay's in 2004 from Kelowna, am married with two adult daughters and have two grandchildren.

My passion to encourage those around me and have a positive impact in and upon our community is demonstrated by both my employment and personal history. I have volunteered countless hours to the community as a peer counsellor, coached Minor Softball and also served as President of the West Kootenay Minor Softball Association. My employment background includes employment with Corrections as a Correctional Officer and now Mental Health & Substance Use. I am educated in Non-Verbal Communication which influences daily activities and interactions with members.

I look forward to your support and ask for your vote.

Melanie Mason

## **Bio for Cindy McLaren – Local 809**

Cindy has been a BCGEU member for the past 20 years joining in 1998. She has been a member employed by Interior Health since July 2000.

She completed Shop Steward Training on Dec 9, 2011 with additional education on May 9, 2016 completing Enhanced Steward Training.

She was a Member at Large on the Executive for Local 809 from Jan 1, 2011 – Feb 2, 2015 and was elected as Local 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair on Feb 12, 2015.

She completed the Local Officers Training on March 20, 2013 and May 13, 2016.

Her most recent training was for the Balloting Committee on Jan 29, 2018.

Cindy has successfully advocated and assisted Local 809 members with many collective agreement issues and grievances.

She is committed to continuing this work as a Shop Steward and as 1st Vice Chair if elected into this position again for another term.

Laurie Proudfoot is the current Local Chair for 809, and has been so since 2011. Laurie has also been a Steward since 2004, and has supported many local members in this role. Laurie is also the current 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice to Component 8, and takes her role very seriously. Laurie was voted to be part of the last bargaining committee, and was a strong advocate for Mental Health Workers to get the extra 2% wage increase.

Laurie has participated in all Conventions with the Canadian Labour of Congress, and the BC Federation of Labour.

Laurie has more recently fought for positions that were being taken away in our area, and all attempts from the employer to take away jobs were reversed. Laurie is concerned over the current state of Admin workers and the blending practices that are happening Province wide. Laurie has also aggressively lobbied the Employers Province wide about recruitment and retention of workers.

Laurie has always been concerned with the increase of violence in the workplace, and OH&S has always been a priority.

Laurie would like to remain on as Local Chair and encourages all members from 809 to exercise their right to vote. With bargaining fast approaching, Laurie has the experience is ready to bargain hard for a fair agreement, and we all know this is long overdue!