

## YUFA Executive Officer Elections 2022-2024 Term

### Communications Officer

#### Candidate Statement: Thomas Klassen



YUFA is central in shaping our daily lives at the university and as a means to advance the needs of members individually and communally. Timely, relevant and two-way communication with members is essential for YUFA to fulfill its role and to flourish. It is with this perspective that I seek the position of Communications Officer.

I have served YUFA in a variety of positions including the Equity Committee, the Joint YUFA/Employer Sub-committee on the York Pension Plan, and the Dispute Resolution Committee. At present I am a member of the YUFA Retired Faculty and Librarians Benefits Trust Fund. I taught courses in the Faculty of Health and Schulich in addition to LA&PS gaining a broad perspective on the work of members and the role of YUFA.

Directly related to communications, I frequently write for *Academic Matters*, *University Affairs*, and other mass media. I played a major communications and policy role with Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) in regard to the elimination of mandatory retirement in Ontario. Prior to joining academia I had responsibility for drafting press releases and related documents.

Much of my scholarly work, both research and teaching, involves collaborative environments and projects that use new communications technology and strategies. Outside of York University I have served on the elected boards of co-operative organizations in the housing and food sectors. Currently I am a member of an adjudicative tribunal for the City of Toronto.

As Communications Officer I particularly will seek to ensure that:

- 1) special communication efforts are extended to new YUFA members, and to members who have a particular need for YUFA assistance and support;
- 2) a variety of channels are available to reach members, and for members to reach YUFA;
- 3) input is solicited from members on the effectiveness of existing communication-related functions; and
- 4) communication-related initiatives are coordinated with other unions at York.

*Thank you!*