

Friends,

I have decided to run for the Position of Secretary-Treasurer of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour at this year's convention.

My journey within organized labour started when I worked craft services on film sets in 1999 and being a permit member of IATSE. That experience opened my eyes to a world of solidarity and the power of collective bargaining.

In 2001 I entered into an electrical apprenticeship, thinking that the world of construction was entirely on of unionized labour. I soon learned that was not the case at all.

In 2004, as a third level apprentice electrician, I joined the IBEW local 2038 and earned my Red Seal qualification in 2006. In 2008, after an unsuccessful run for Executive Board in 2007 and some shuffling of the executive of the Board, I was appointed as a Member at Large. I have been on the Executive Board of 2038 ever since as Recording Secretary for a term, President for 3 terms and now as the Business Manager.

I was the full time organizer for local 2038 from 2012 to 2015 .

In 2019 I completed Canadian Labour College as part of Cohort one.

In 2022 I was part of the Governor General's Leadership conference as a member of the Prince Edward Island study group.

I am currently the Vice-Chair of the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission and a trustee for the benefits and pension plans of IBEW local 2038.

Since 2019 I have been a Vice-President on the SFL Executive Council representing the IBEW and I would welcome the opportunity to be more involved in the SFL.

As for the future, I plan to help tear down silos and build up co-operation between all unions and labour groups. Workers have suffered from the 40 year rise of neo-liberal policies. As unions, we have become too insular and we've forgotten the power of collective action. Having seen the results of the path we have trodden since Mulroney and Devine, Reagan and Thatcher, I believe the experiment has failed. But only for workers. The owners have done very well for themselves.

By working together, planning together, and standing together, we can build back the power we once held.