
LIFE MEMBERS – GOVERNMENT SERVICES UNION (GSU)

JIM WILLIAMS LOCAL 90002 2001

Jim's working life was proof of his dedication to the labour movement. Over the years, he was a Teamsters Local Shop Steward, a Steelworkers Local Vice-president, and Local President with the Canadian Union of Operating Engineers. Brother Williams passed away on November 6, 2001 and GSU named an annual Bursary in his honour.

In 1977, Brother Williams joined the PSAC where he held the positions of Shop Steward, GLT Strike Captain, and President of UPWE Local 90011 before his election as Regional Vice-president in 1993. He held this position until the Merger Convention in 1999 where he was again elected as RVP Atlantic. Jim actively participated in strikes with all four unions he has belonged to and during the 1991 PSAC strike; he led the "Flying Squad" that cruised St. John's, Nfld. to reinforce picket lines.

MICHAEL LAVERY LOCAL 80019 2002

Michael was extremely active with Union Activities as evidenced by serving as RVP for the Atlantic Region for over 25 years. Prior to that, he served as a Local Vice- President and President for 7 years. He took a wide selection of Union Courses and acted on several Committees including the GSU/UPWE Merger Committee in 1999.

Michael was viewed as the face of the Union to members in his area and was always willing and able to assist members with whatever concerns they had.

VALERIE DENESIUK LOCAL 50008 2002

Valerie was an active member and National Officer of Supply and Services Union and GSU for over twenty-three years. Prior to the 1999 Merger Convention, Valerie was the National President of the Supply and Services Union from 1993 – 1999.

During her term with the Supply and Services Union, Valerie played a leading role in establishing, developing and implementing support for Women in the Union including the PSAC Child Care Policy, Women's Conferences, Women's Committees and Sexual and Personal Harassment Policies.

Valerie's personal commitment to the labour movement, representing all our members during downsizing, strikes and collective bargaining is fully appreciated. Valerie was always working for a better day for all that remain.

NADINE LETHBRIDGE LOCAL 70019 2002

Nadine provided excellent service to members and Local Executives in her role as Regional Vice President. She worked especially hard with stressed out members in WFA and illness situations. She also had a passion for Health and Safety issues and played a significant role in re-establishing Local Health and Safety Committees.

She had success in convincing management of the Union's right to participate in Employee Orientation Sessions. She also served as a representative for Collective Bargaining and helped organize strike activities. She consistently provided guidance and advice to the Locals in her jurisdiction.

BONNIE ROBICHAUD LOCAL 70019 2008

Bonnie was a Union Activist who held a variety of positions with the Union spanning from 1977-2004. She was extremely active in Women's Committees which resulted in her receiving several awards including an Award from the National Action Committee on the Status of Women in 1985 which recognized her contribution to the improvement of the status of women in Canada.

Sister Robichaud's most well-known achievement is probably winning her sexual harassment case at the Supreme Court of Canada level in 1987. Her ground-breaking case has been printed in many books, articles and on television. It is also part of the curriculum in many Labour Studies courses.

This decision held the employer responsible for providing its employees with a workplace free of discrimination and harassment. She contributed her time and effort to helping her Brothers and Sisters facing similar problems in the workplace and has used her own personal experiences to educate others on sexual harassment. She made sexual harassment a national concern and became the voice for women facing similar experiences, and for oppressed people everywhere.

JEAN-PAUL FORTIN LOCAL 10060 2008

Jean-Paul has held a variety of positions with the Union from 1984 until 2008 at the local, regional and national level. He has shown significant Union leadership and always shared his time and advice to help advance Union causes. He played a significant role during the GSU/UPWE merger in 1999.

He has participated on bargaining groups, negotiating teams, health and safety committees, Quebec council, and many other committees and groups. He always displayed passion and caring for his members and would go above and beyond what was expected of him so he could provide as much support as possible.

PIERRE LABERGE LOCAL 10161 2008

Pierre began in the government in September 1975 as a cleaner. He joined the Union of Public Works Employees in Sherbrooke, Local 10015 in 1977 and subsequently became local director from 1979 to 1980. Over the next thirty years, Pierre held various executive positions from secretary treasurer, Local president and finally Regional Vice President for Quebec West from 1999 to 2008.

Involved in local, regional and national discussions on the merger of the Union of Public Works Employees and the Supply and Services Union, Pierre was a key participant at the 1999 Merger Convention of our new union, the GSU.

The organization and the fair representation of members were always a priority for Pierre. Throughout Pierre's tremendous thirty years of representation, involvement and training, with other unions and our employer, Pierre was always there to represent his membership.

JOHN JEDRASIK* LOCAL 70013 2008

John has been the face of the Union to his local for well over 30 years. He became a steward in 1979 and held various other positions until he became Local President in 1987, a role at which he remains and continues to support his members, (2015 and counting).

He has displayed his passion and leadership in various strike activities over the years and has always been a champion advocating for Members with Disabilities. He has attended many Conventions over the years where he has become affectionately known as "Mr. Convention." John has supported his members passionately throughout his career.

PHIL ROBINSON LOCAL 20008 2011

Phil has been an active supporter of union activism for more than 20 years. He has been a supporter of GSU since its founding by participating in many activities for the National Council. He was a member of several Bargaining Teams and has consistently worked hard for members in his local as well as across the country. The members and executive members under Phil's jurisdiction as an RVP have benefited from his knowledge, passion and experience.

MARK W. BRUNELL LOCAL 30401 2011

Mark became the first National President when GSU was founded in 1999, a position he held until his retirement in 2011. Prior to that, he held several other Union positions beginning in 1978 as a Local Secretary and was an RVP in 1984 and an NVP in 1987 with the National Component. In 1988, his work unit changed employers and he joined the Union of Public Works Employees where he became a Local President in 1988, an RVP in 1990, and NVP in 1993 until the GSU/UPWE merger of 1999.

As the President of GSU Mark participated in a variety of committees with the PSAC including the Technological Change Committee, the Appeals Review Committee, the Emergency Fund Committee, the Discipline Review Committee, the Merger Committee, the Board of PSAC Holdings Ltd., and the Standing Financial Committee which he also chaired.

He has represented Union members across the country and has consistently demonstrated strong leadership skills and a passion with his stance for equality and fairness in the workplace and within the Union.

DAVE THOMSON**LOCAL 00028****2016**

Brother Dave Thomson started his career with Public Works in 2000 working at the Burlington Lift Bridge and has maintained this work location throughout his career. In January of his first year, Dave was elected as President of the Local and served in that position until 2003 when he decided to step back and encourage others to up and run for Local President. Dave then served as the Secretary-Treasurer for two years, and then was elected as Vice-President of the Local. Dave was a big proponent of education for the members and he personally took many courses including Mental Health training and Mediation.

As the alternate for Brother Victor Austin, Dave was asked to replace him 2007 and was re-elected as RVP in 2008 and served in that position until 2017. Brother Dave was instrumental in working with the Ontario Locals in London and Kingston and getting members involved. Dave sat on numerous internal GSU committees and played a major role in the regional committees in the department.

JACK GALE**LOCAL 20001****2017**

Jack Gale started work at the Esquimalt Graving Dock in October of 1983 and attended his first Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November of that year. By 1985 he was Vice-President of the Local and from 1988 - 1993 he was Local President. From 1994 through 2002 Brother Gale served as Regional Vice-President for the Pacific region after which he stepped back and took a two-year hiatus. In 2004 Brother Gale was once again involved with his Local and through 2007 he served as secretary- treasurer /area council representative of the Local. In 2008, he was re-elected as Regional Vice-President of the Pacific Region and at the 2011 and the 2014 GSU Triennial Conventions he was elected as National Vice-President of Government Services Union (GSU).

Brother Gale has always been responsive to his members at the graving dock and on a wider field as Regional Vice-President for the Pacific or as the National Vice- President. Ever since joining Public Works, Brother Gale was interested in the Health and Safety aspect of the workplace and took numerous training courses. As the National Vice- President, one of his portfolios became Health and Safety at the National level and he was very active with the file at both Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) and Shared Services Canada (SSC).

At the component level Brother Gale was part of or chaired many different committees including the bargaining, finance, by-laws and structure committees. Whether Brother Gale was on a Component committee, PSAC bargaining team, or a Consultation Committee with the department, he was passionate, fully engaged and a valuable contributor. Brother Gale is most proud of his contribution with regards to Work Force Adjustment (WFA), at the Local; Regional and National levels.

BILL WALSH**LOCAL 90011****2018**

Brother Bill Walsh has been a long-standing member of GSU and an integral part of the national council, holding the RVP position for Newfoundland and Labrador for more than 25 years. Brother Walsh has always show exemplary support to our members and his commitment to our union has allow for GSU to raise awareness and resolve issues that

affect our members.

He has had numerous appointments with PSAC at the NL regional office and worked collaboratively with other bodies within the labor movement bring attention to the issues our members face including fighting for social justice.

Bill always has taken the time to mentor and lead his members from the local executive through to the national council.

SUE BOONE*

LOCAL 00027

2023

Sister Sue Boone has offered many years of dedication to the labour movement, and most importantly, to all GSU members, always making herself available, providing support and guidance on all workplace issues. At no time have her challenges hampered or slowed her down, whether is by showing up on the picket and demonstration lines or GSU and PSAC activities.

Within GSU, she has held the position of Local President for Local 00027 and Regional Vice-President for the Ontario region. In addition to her involvement with GSU, she was also a strong advocate for members with disabilities, as a representative since 2008 for the Ontario Regional and Chair of the Members with Disabilities Action Committee (MDAC) since 2020.

RANDY HOWARD

LOCAL 60018

2023

Brother Howard has served as an executive member of his GSU Local 60018 as Shop Steward in 2006 and got elected as Local President in 2008. He was then elected in 2014 as Regional Vice- President for New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island; He was responsible for members in the Accounting, Banking, Compensation Branches in PSPC, serving four (4) years.

He was elected National President of GSU from 2017-2022, this was a first-time achievement for a member from Local 60018. As GSU National President Brother Howard worked through unprecedented times when the world was hit with Covid, everything switched to virtual overnight. He remained focused and determined to keep the best interests of his sisters and brothers a priority.

LINDA HARDING

LOCAL 20008

2025

Linda Harding has been a committed advocate for workers' rights and workplace safety for over a decade, holding multiple leadership roles in the Government Services Union (GSU) and the broader labour movement.

Her union journey began in Local 90031, where she served as Secretary and later as President. She then led Local 20008 as Vice-President and President for over a decade. At the regional level, Linda served as GSU Regional Vice-President for the Pacific Region from 2014 to 2023 and briefly as Acting GSU National Vice-President, Equity.

She was active on the BC Regional Council (2017–2021), chaired the BRUSH Committee (2019–2023), and was Health and Safety Coordinator for the region (2021–2023). Linda also contributed to the BC Vancouver Regional Women's Conference in 2022.

Throughout her service, Linda has been a strong voice for equity, health and safety, and workers' rights at both the local and national levels.

**Members who have passed away.*