

February 06, 2020

I am writing to whole-heartedly endorse TeamUniteCLC: **Bea Bruske** for Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) President, **Lily Chang** for Secretary-Treasurer and **Siobhan Vipond** for CLC Executive Vice-President.

These strong and experienced union leaders are stepping up to run for top roles at the CLC at the right time and for the right reasons.

The United Steelworkers union continues to believe in the viability and strength of the CLC despite our challenges and differences in recent years.

Our movement is strongest when we work together. I know that Bea, Lily and Siobhan are motivated to rebuild the unity of our movement through mobilizing and engaging our grassroots membership.

As a proud and lifelong New Democrat, I am also eager to see our CLC go back to its roots in politics and be a steadfast and reliable partner with the only political party that is truly on the side of labour – the NDP.

I know that Bea, Lily and Siobhan share these values. Bea is a former NDP candidate and member of the executive board of the Manitoba NDP. Lily is long-time activist, executive member and Secretary Treasurer for 13 years for CUPE 79. And, Siobhan is currently serving as Treasurer for Alberta's NDP.

We know the value a strong CLC can bring to all workers – not just those with the benefits of union membership. We can mobilize together as a movement and make positive, progressive change for those who are marginalized and experiencing unfairness and injustice.

With declining union density in Canada, we need to reinvigorate from within to demonstrate the relevance and value of unions and the labour movement to attract more workers to join us, while at the same time advocating and winning changes federally and provincially that will make it easier for workers to join unions.

Bea is a seasoned negotiator and passionate trade unionist. She knows the power of being stronger together and has what it takes to get us there as a movement. She is passionate about advancing disability rights, connecting directly with members in their workplaces and advocating that workers' needs be reflected in government policy.

Lily has long been a strong mover and shaker in CUPE's largest local representing 20,000 municipal workers in Toronto, and an outstanding Secretary Treasurer.

Siobhan has a solid track record of activism on health and safety and women's equality. She's rallied our movement in Alberta against Jason Kenney's cuts. We need Siobhan at the CLC.

It's time to mend the divisions in the CLC. Bea Bruske, Lily Chang and Siobhan Vipond are strong leaders with a commitment to bring the CLC together. With consensus solutions and a commitment to fight for workers' rights we can engage the members of our movement and rebuild our solidarity.

In solidarity,

**Ken Neumann**  
USW National Director