



BIOGRAPHY

CHRISTINE COLLINS

**Union of Canadian Transportation Employees
National President - 2008 to 2017
Life Member**

Social justice has always been a part of Christine Collins' life. As a student she was a member of organizations such as Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the Coalition of Concerned Students (CCS). From 1976 to 1981 she was an active member of the Ontario Public Services Employees Union (OPSEU) and was a leader during the 1980 Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology provincial strike. In 1981, she became a member of the Union of Canadian Transportation Employees/ Public Service Alliance of Canada when she started working at Transport Canada. She was elected to a local executive position at her first meeting and continued until her retirement to hold elected positions in her Union.

A strong advocate for members' rights, her career in the Union has included highlights such as elected Local President for 9 years as well as the UCTE National Human Rights Officer from 1990-1999. In 1999 she was elected to the UCTE National Executive as Regional Vice-President, Ontario as the first full-time female Officer. In 2005 Christine became the first woman National Vice-President and in 2008 was elected the first woman UCTE National President. Christine has also served as Vice-President on the Executive Board of the Ontario Federation of Labour for 6 years.

Christine is probably best known for her work on the Pay Equity Complaint against Treasury Board. As the Chair of the PSAC Pay Equity Action Committee for 11 years she organized and led rallies, demonstrations, occupations and was one of the key public speakers with the media as well as at meetings and public events. She received three awards for her work on Pay Equity including the NAC Woman of Courage award on behalf of the women of PSAC.

Although a private person, Christine is a strong community activist and over the last 30 years, has been involved in community and social justice issues such as the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre, Women's Place, Interval House, Take Back the Night organizing committee, International Women's Day Committee, the Anti-poverty coalition and the Coalition for a National Childcare. She continues to be active in social justice issues and the broader labour movement today.

