

CANDIDATE FOR EC-LoP VICE-PRESIDENT – NICK GIANNAKOULIS

Background

I am 43 years-old, and I am originally from Winnipeg, but have lived in Ottawa and Gatineau for the past 20 years. I am married and I have a 12 year-old son and 8 year-old daughter.

I have been employed in the federal Public Service for almost 20 years, where I have worked primarily at Health Canada (HC) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC); and for the past 15 years I have worked at the EC-7 level, where I have occupied various policy, advisory, operational and strategic positions. I hold an M.A. in Public Administration and Policy Studies.

I am active with the Western Quebec School Board, where I am a Parent Commissioner, and I volunteer on various local school committees. I also sit on local community associations, and advocacy boards.

CAPE Related Experience

I have been an active member involved in CAPE for the past 15 years, initially in the HC/PHAC CAPE Local 512 as a Steward, then as Vice-President, and currently as President for the past five years. I am very active in our second largest Local with approximately 1850 ECs across the health portfolio, engaging directly in member issues, as well as a representative on all Labour-Management Consultation Committees.

I am the current incumbent EC/LoP Vice-President on the National Executive Committee (NEC), and a member of the following NEC Sub-Committees: Finance (Chair); Constitution and By-Laws, Human Resources; Education; Communications; Mobilization and Job Action; and Workplace Health and Wellness. I also sit on the Local Leadership and Presidents' Councils, and have previously served on the Elections and Resolutions Sub-Committee. I was privileged to be able to represent our members on CAPE's previous Collective Bargaining Committees and Teams.

I am also a core member of CAPE's Executive management team since 2014, where I serve the interests of CAPE, as an agent of CAPE the employer, liaising with our internal Employees' Staff Union (ESU), representing our members' interests.

All of the above functions, I have been serving as a non-remunerated volunteer, on behalf of our members.

CAPE Policy Direction

While I am proud to be engaged in CAPE and have worked hard to represent the interests of our members, I am disappointed that CAPE does not currently have the political direction to address our members' needs in terms of representation and

mobilization. We have seen increased demands for member representation, namely on harassment, accommodation, performance management and other employment and labour relation matters; and we need to better support our members when they find themselves in difficult circumstances. This will require substantive effort in order to renew and modernize CAPE's Constitution and By-Laws, to be able to further give voice to our members' concerns. In addition, we need to focus on operational fora to better support and improve the working conditions of our national CAPE office staff, alleviating workload pressures, and hiring additional Labour Relation Officers, so that our staff are kept safe and empowered to vehemently defend our members' interests.

As always, I am passionate about ensuring that CAPE remains a strong, progressive, member led professional Association, providing high quality service to our members and strong collective agreements. We need to better empower, engage and strengthen our Locals, while providing professional nation-wide service to our membership.

Why I Am Running for the National Executive 2018-2020

As some of you may remember, I was one of the founding members of the progressive CAPE STAND-UP (CSU) Caucus in 2014 and on the SLATE of candidates that ran for the 2015-2017 NEC. While this was a progressive and well-intentioned ideological platform, the exercise has proven to be catastrophic for both our Association and our members, not to mention the adverse toll it has had on our 35 staff that we employ at our national CAPE office, that serve our members. As such, I resigned from the SLATE in early 2016, and I have spent the last two years trying to sustain our Association, and maintain a semblance of support and resources for our members.

We are currently at the lowest point ever, in our 48 year history, since we split from PIPSC in 1969. The Association is currently embroiled in severe and unprecedented internal chaos. We are currently buried in many internal processes that have paralysed our Association, and we unfortunately have limited capacity to protect and represent our members' interests in this environment, and my focus for 2018 will be to reverse this situation, under a new NEC. I am running again, so that we can turn our Association around, with a new political, non-partisan post-SLATE direction, to start serving our members again.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (613)316-9923 or nqiannakoulis@acep-cape.ca, to voice your concerns.