

Dear CAPE members,

I am running for the CAPE EC (Economist-Sociologist) Director position because CAPE members deserve a leader who is collaborative, honest, and transparent. CAPE needs a leader who will put members first every time. I am that guy.

I have been working in the federal public service for 20 years, and I have taken on various policy roles at Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), and Employment and Social Development Canada. I currently work at the Pest Management Regulatory Agency as a Senior Policy Analyst.

My education has focused on public policy analysis as well as administration. I have both a Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration (from Carleton University) and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a specialization in Public Policy and Administration (from York University).

I currently serve as Vice President of Local 512 (Health Canada and PHAC). I am a member of the Health Portfolio Departmental Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee. From 2017 to 2020, I was an EC Executive Director on the CAPE National Executive Committee (NEC); I was a member of the Finance Sub Committee and Collective Bargaining Committee.

In 2020, I ran for CAPE President. A diverse set of 14 other CAPE members ran as part of my team for Executive Director positions. Unfortunately, it was determined that we were ineligible candidates. Despite various informal and formal appeals, our team as well as 13 other nominees lost the opportunity to participate in the CAPE 2020 election. Words cannot describe our disappointment.

My experience with CAPE has been invaluable. More than ever, I am convinced that CAPE has a vital role to fulfill both today and in the coming years. The public service is facing serious challenges, significant uncertainties, and inevitable change because of COVID-19, soaring deficits, economic decline, and the changing nature of our work, which leave many of us on precarious terms, some more than others (e.g., women, minorities, and people with disabilities.) Personally, I identify as neurodiverse, so I have some understanding of being and sometimes being treated differently. Strong leadership will be crucial if we want to prevail.

My experience with CAPE has also opened my eyes to some important internal issues, issues that must be resolved if CAPE is going to serve its members efficiently in the coming years.

As public servants we have a vital role in upholding fundamental Canadian values, rights and freedoms related to inclusiveness, respect, tolerance, and democracy. As Canadians, these values and various investments afforded to each of us is what enables us to participate in society as we do, is what has blessed many of us with a life of opportunity and has supported us each of us in reaching our full potential in life. It is what gives us pride and gratitude in calling ourselves Canadians. For many of us, myself included, this is also, what has enabled and motivated us to be public servants. We love Canada and, in our hearts, we choose a life of service to Canadians and Canada.

As a proud public servant, I believe that the work CAPE members do is important and merits recognition. Quality public servants like you deserve to be part of a union that operates with integrity, transparency, and accountability. They deserve leadership that puts them first and positions CAPE to respond to new and evolving member needs.

If elected, my priority as a CAPE Executive Director would be to promote and advance these same values in the workplace on behalf of each of us as CAPE members and Canadians.

If you elect me, my focus will be on member services, your needs, your interests, and your future. I will choose you every time. I will show you understanding, empathy and kindness. When speaking on your behalf, I will show strength and resolve in securing our future. I will transform CAPE into a service-based organization. I will foster, within the organization, a culture of integrity, accountability, inclusiveness, and respect. I will position all member groups for the future.

For those of you who hold the same values, beliefs, and priorities, please provide me your support, vote for me, and provide me this mandate to be a leader in your union.

Sincerely,

Anthony Coles

