

Hello, my name is Tasha Rabinowitz. I use they/them pronouns, I live in K'jipuktuk, or Halifax, I'm an environmental scientist, and I've been at Stats for 5 years. I'm excited you're here today.

My priorities at the bargaining table are similar to yours: telework protections, wages that keep up with inflation, protection from overwork and contracting out, improved training access including official languages, AI protections, and workspaces and accommodations that work for people. I want us to have job security and flexibility, the ability to provide for ourselves and our families, and for each of us and our work to be respected. There is much to work on and I'm excited about what we can achieve together through open bargaining.

However, my personal priorities don't matter as much as my desire to create a structure for *you* to directly influence the bargaining process and have ownership over your own contract. Over the past years I have been building that infrastructure for two-way feedback. I have been doing member outreach, rebuilding a local where I live, increasing awareness and access to resources, and pushing members to engage in the union because at the end of the day, the union is *us*. *This* is our protection against the whims of the employer. My organizing work has contributed to doubled participation in union actions since October 2025, the creation of a joint Nova Scotian taskforce among federal unions, and to connecting members with representation. We still have a long way to go but I'm committed to continuing that work so that this contract reflects your priorities and is one you are willing to fight for.

This will be a difficult bargaining round. We are facing an employer who would rather save money by laying us off than by giving us remote work options. We are facing an employer who recently changed the rules of arbitration so an arbiter must consider Canada's fiscal position, potentially giving us a worse deal than comparable contracts. We are facing an employer that recently legally challenged PSAC's rights to bargain for telework at all (fortunately the employer lost that battle).

We cannot expect goodwill. The way we win is by standing together. Facing down a unified 99% of us at the table is much more compelling than facing only 20% of us. I'm committed to building that majority and representing it at the table. With that majority of participation, we can win whatever we will stand up for. There is precedent in other contracts for telework, protections against contracting out, and others.

In October 2022, the Business Council of Canada wrote a letter to the Treasury Board President urging her to recall federal workers to offices. They cited that federal workers should prop up downtown businesses and that workers couldn't engage properly with stakeholders unless in the office. We know those notions are false, but those businesses knew how to leverage their collective power to get what they wanted. Now it's our turn to do the same.

I'm not a collective bargaining expert, but I won't be alone. My job at the bargaining table is to work with you and our staff experts to build and defend proposals reflecting our deserved rights, and to reflect your voices in decisions made along the way.

I am the right person for this job. I have already begun organizing the membership to win on what matters to us and I am committed to seeing it through. I am ready to do this work with you, for myself and for all of us. What we do with our time and energy is all we have, and we deserve better.