



VOTE *for* **Shelley Kowalchuk** for MAHCP President

My name is Shelley Kowalchuk, and I am running for the office of President of MAHCP. I believe that this position is more than just a job. Being union president comes with a tremendous amount of responsibility, primarily to its members. It is you, the members of the union who look to a president for leadership and support; strength and fairness; motivation and advice. I take this step of running for president very seriously,

A bit about myself...

I am a physiotherapist who has worked at HSC since 1997; I work with neuro and multi-trauma clients at the Rehab Hospital. Physio is my second career, with my first career in desktop publishing and writing advertising.

I have always been involved with social justice causes, even when I was in university in the early 1980's, and held various editorial positions at the university newspaper. As a budding journalist, it became second nature to ask questions and though my career trajectory changed to physiotherapy, I still question the status quo.

When I became a physiotherapist, I became a staff rep for our union, MGEU, and worked on Bargaining at that time. When our professional group (at HSC) joined MAHCP in 2002, I became an MAHCP staff rep a year later and soon after that, physiotherapy director.

As a member of Executive Council since 2005, I have been very active. I was a member of the Communication Committee for MAHCP and became its chair and Secretary for the union in June 2013. As part of this committee, I was a strong voice in hiring PR company Stratcom, who gave us tremendous tools to improve our communication strategy to the public; as chair, I helped to spearhead Bargaining Beats; promoted a letter-writing campaign during bargaining through the newsletter; helped create the postcards sent to the Minister of Health; and was one of the creators of the MAHCP Facebook page. As chair, I have organized members to join the Canadian Diabetes Runs for a number of years, and was an organizer for our inaugural Dragon Boat team last year.

**Learn more about me and my policies at
www.shelleyforprez.wordpress.com**

What Needs To Change - My Plan As President

*Learn more about me
and my platform at
shelleyforprez.wordpress.com
or email me at*

shelleyforprez@gmail.com

Communication

- Communication should not just be one-way. If you email me, **I will commit to contacting you back** when you have questions.
- I have a plan to **help LRO's contact members back** when they have questions about grievances and contract questions. I also believe we should set up MAHCP info tables at facilities to field questions from members.
- We need to make it easier for members to talk to us. **I will create an email called overworked@mahcp.ca**. Members can use this email as an adjunct to the workload measurement form that is on our website. With this email, members can quickly tell the union about issues with increased workloads, why they are happening and how it impacts them. I will also set up a system to take texts to allow members to contact the union quickly about workload issues. I want to make it as easy as possible to get this critical information to the union and it's stories such as this that gives us ammunition during bargaining.
- I believe the President should meet with members, whether in small groups or large. If departments want to meet with me, **they can call and I will come out to meet with them**. In the north, we can set up skype or other video-conferencing to make meetings happen.

Transparency

- Policies are always being developed but have never been accessible to members. **I will commit to having these policies put on the website** for members to access.
- **I will provide members with a brief summary of issues discussed at Executive Council**, so members know we are discussing their concerns.

Accountability

- **I will have quarterly grievance reports available to members**, and ensure these reports are provided at the Annual General Meeting or through the newsletter.

Lobbying

- With a new government, our lobbying will have to change - the new health minister needs to be educated about the work that we do and how important it is to be compensated for it. **I will talk to our Communications Officer to create a Virtual Tour of different departments in the facilities to take to the minister**. This, in addition to the information from our new communication tools, will give the minister insights into the critical workplace stresses we have today.

Bargaining

- We have finally finished bargaining for the 2014 contract and will soon start plans for the next round. I feel that we did a lot right prior to January this year - we sent postcards to the minister, held a successful strike vote in September and had informational pickets - and then once again we stepped back from the brink and squandered our resolve. **I strongly feel we have to review these decisions and plan a better response next round**.
- I also want to review the use of recruitment and retention groups that many of us have benefitted from time to time. Unfortunately the government has used this to divide us, and it succeeds well. Our union has said it wouldn't allow this again - and then it did. **I believe that in the next round we hold firm and get a fair living wage for ALL of us**.