

International Youth Day – Guest Speakers

August 11 – 12, 2014



Chris Cormier is an OPSEU Executive Board member and is the current Regional Vice President for Region 4. In 2005, he became a founding member of the newly created PYC where he was elected the youth representative for his region. He was also involved in creating the International Youth Day event as a forum for young workers to discuss their issues and to also examine succession planning

in order to keep the union strong and viable. He has sat on various other committees and sub-committees that include: Vice-Chair of the Ontario Public Service Enforcement and Renewal Committee (CERC), Vice-Chair of the Ministry of Education MERC (Ministry Employee Relations Committee) and the regional representative for OPS Bargaining. He is a firm believer that now, more than ever, unions are the solution to income inequality. He is also the first leader in OPSEU who is classified as a contingent contract worker and comes from a direct service OPS branch that comprises of 95% casual workers.

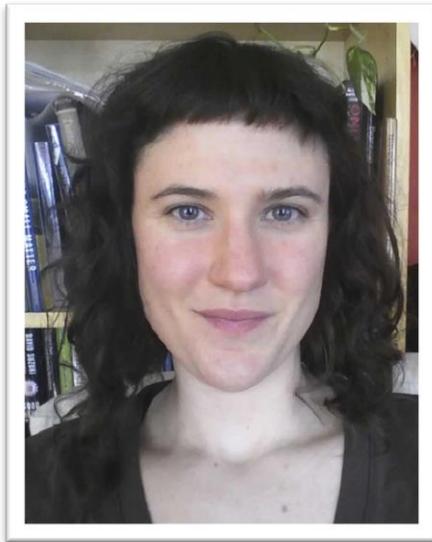


As a minimum wage and low wage worker, like many others, **Sareh Serajelahi** has struggled to get herself through post-secondary school. Last year she was part of a research project that examined the re-employment challenges for older racialized workers who lost their jobs due to an auto parts manufacturing factory closure. The resilience of these workers to survive in such difficult times has inspired her commitment towards advocating for progressive labour policies that protect all workers. Through her time spent at the Workers Action Centre as a placement student, her passion towards working with people who face employment challenges has grown. She is currently completing her Master's degree in Social Work at York University.

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John Anderson is currently the Head Organizer Toronto ACORN. Over the last decade, John has been instrumental in building ACORN offices in Toronto, Ottawa and in Metro Vancouver.



Nora Loreto is a writer, musician and activist based in Québec City. She is the author of *From Demonized to Organized: Building the New Union Movement*.

Nora has a BA in Public Administration, minors in Journalism, History and Politics from Ryerson University and a Master's of Education Foundations from the University of Saskatchewan.

Nora is on leave as an editor with the Canadian Association of Labour Media and has been recently published in Canadian Dimension and Briarpatch magazines. She regularly blogs for Rabble.ca and the Huffington Post and was the Editor-in-Chief of the Ryerson Free Press.