

Local 239 Elections
Joint Health and Safety Committee Positions – Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Penny Jacob

Position Nominated for: Chair of Joint Health and Safety

1. Why do you want this role?

I am passionate about fighting for health and safety for all workers. I feel that every worker deserves to feel safe and be safe when they come to work. I feel that prevention is crucial in preventing injuries and accidents, and want to be your advocate to identify hazards and to provide recommendations to keep you safe.

I am hard working, and am constantly looking for education and training to learn more to be better at whatever new challenge I take on.

- If you worry about being threatened or assaulted at work, I will be there for you!
- If you see hazards in your workplace that are not being fixed, and you fear that you will be injured, I will be there for you!
- If you have been injured at work, and feel that more should be done to prevent the same injury for yourself and other workers, I am there for you!

2. What makes you the best candidate for this role?

I have 5 years of experience in working on the HSN-Children's Treatment Centre JHSC, including success at bringing multiple safety improvements to fruition. I want to bring this experience to our whole paramedical group. I am JHSC certified, and have taken multiple courses/trainings on Joint Health and Safety.

I have a list of ideas to bring to the JHSC right away to start to improve safety for all our members.

I want to fight for all workers to make sure that we are all safe at work, no matter where you work, or what your job is. I strongly believe in prevention, and holding our employer accountable to ensure every worker is physically and psychologically safe at work.

3. What experience, knowledge, or skills would you bring to the table?

I am the JHSC Rep and Co-chair for the HSN-Children's Treatment Centre JHSC. Our committee formed in 2021 after we moved off-site, and I was able to assist in its development. This smaller committee allowed me to advocate for over 50 ONA-P members. I would like to bring this experience to our entire group!

I am a certified JHSC member, which is a 5 day intensive training program, and have been training for the Chair of Health and Safety position under the current Chair. I have also been a physiotherapist for over 30 years, so bring knowledge around ergonomics, lifting, etc

I have participated in several ONA Health and Safety Caucus training days, including the recent Health and Safety training put on by CUPE, which brought ONA and CUPE together to learn and discuss Health and Safety concerns about our employer. I also just completed "Health and Safety Level 2: Now That You Know". I will be taking "Power Up" training in November to learn how to be a better advocate for our members.

I have been a member of Region 1 Regional Political Action Committee (RPAC) for the last year and a half, and have recently become Co-Chair of this committee. I know that more public health care funding will help us be safer at work right away. As part of RPAC, I recently helped to organize the Sudbury Day of Action in July, and was able to work with members of 2 locals to get over 300 signatures on the petition to support safe staffing ratios and to stop privatization of health care. I am passionate about helping to raise our collective voice to fight for our Nursing and Health Care professionals. I am also an active member of my Local, attending and participating in BU and Local meetings.