Sonny Day

Candidate for President

YUSA Member since 2004

Nominated by: Sharrieffa Sattaur

Hi YUSA Members,

I'd like to thank Sharrieffa for nominating me and please see my candidate statement below.

Bargaining

We are now underway with bargaining the Unit 1 collective agreement and as president I have been deeply involved in all facets of bargaining and am acting as the union's chief spokesperson. I've been involved in creating all of our proposals and I feel it's important that I see this job through as we continue to meet at the bargaining table with the employer. I have been on the negotiating team for previous rounds of bargaining for both the Unit 1 and Unit 2 collective agreements. I'm proud that, in the last round of Unit 1 bargaining that I was involved in, our team was able to bargain the highest wage increases that I'm aware of for any unionized university support staff in Ontario at that time.

Organization of the YUSA Office

The YUSA office has had the same overall structure for many years and over the years roles have been added and grown organically. I believe we need to do a "big picture" review of the roles in the YUSA office to ensure we the skills, capabilities, and organizational structure that we need to achieve our objectives. Many unions have different structures than ours with staff dedicated to communications, campaigns, organizing, labour relations, IT, data analysis, etc. I have often felt that our capacity is constrained as officers often juggle multiple roles and functions that require time away from core duties of the job. We are also often inundated with day-to-day requests such that important project work is delayed. This needs to be addressed and if I'm re-elected I will support a review of the organization of the office with recommendations for action to be presented to the YUSA Executive Board.

Equity

I strongly feel that it's important that we continue to advance the work we have begun on equity, diversity, and inclusion both in the union and at the university. The first year that I was elected president of YUSA in 2019 was also the first year that the union provided equity training to our executive board. We subsequently expanded and offered that training to every union official in the following years. I'm also very proud that while I have been president we have, for the first time, created an Equity Committee. It's great to see the energy and new faces that have gotten involved in the union due to these efforts. Work on equity, diversity and inclusion is something that must be continual and happen at all levels of the organization and I am committed to continuing that work.

COVID-19

Throughout the pandemic the union has strongly advocated for members. At the beginning of the pandemic I remember going building to building to check in with members and as we moved to working off site I sent frequent (sometimes daily) status updates as to what was happening and our members' rights. We've been successful getting the employer to improve certain language in the working from home policies, in allowing extended access to laptops for certain workers, in halting a proposed early return to paid parking, and in intervening in dozens and dozens of individual situations regarding accommodations, temporary assignments of duties, health and safety etc.

As we transition now to returning back to campus we have also been supporting members with health and safety and accommodation requests and we have been successful in advocating for the employer to increase to the number of days members can work from home. Our next fight will be to preserve working from home provisions even after this pandemic is over which is something that I'm strongly committed to and have been working with our bargaining team on.

Experience

Doing this job well requires an incredible breadth of knowledge. In this role I've negotiated several collective agreements with this employer, worked with the bookkeeper and treasurer in regards to all aspects of the union's finances, represented members in hundreds of meetings both disciplinary and non-disciplinary, negotiated settlements in over a hundred mediations or arbitrations, been involved in overseeing the job evaluation system through the Joint Job Evaluation Committee, represented the union at the Health and Safety Executive Council and advocated for health and safety issues an assisted many members with accommodation issues, participated in revising our constitution, etc.

I will admit that, even with having years of experience as a member of the executive board, serving on a number of committees and as a steward and having worked in the union office full-time for two years before starting in the role of president, it was still an incredible learning curve to step into that role. Given that I now have had three years in the role as president, I feel that the knowledge and experience I have makes me uniquely qualified among the current candidates for president, and I believe I am the right person to see us through this current round of bargaining.

In Solidarity,

Sonny Day

Jenn Ferdinands

FOR PRESIDENT

Nominated By: Rosanna Chowdhury

I'm Jenn (she/her), and I've been a **part of YusApuY for 17 years.** Working across campus in roles from Cleaner at York Apartments, Operations Specialist at the Schulich Executive Education Centre (SEEC) and serving on equity committees at both a Faculty and YusApuY, **I've experienced employment at York from several lenses** – currently, Alumni Officer at the Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change. As a woman of Sri Lankan descent, mother of a mixed child, and daughter of aging immigrant parents, **I recognize that our members face varied, intersectional, and changing issues.** As an employee and union member, I believe **you deserve to be informed, heard, and served with respect** so that you feel empowered.

It's time to transform YusApuY with leadership that: reflects the diversity of its members, focuses on your development, and keeps **your voice at the forefront. I commit to leveraging** my relationship management skills and **strategic connections with stakeholders internal and external to York,** to negotiate with tact **and achieve high-impact results for positive change. YOU are the reason I'm running for President**, because **I believe "it is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live,"** and I'm confident that **I will actively listen to your needs** and collaboratively provide you with **leadership that exceeds your expectations**. My commitment is to **put YOU back in YusApuY**.

If elected, I will **stand with you** by involving you in strategic planning, I will be **responsible to you** through transparent communication, and I will **empower you** with knowledge about your rights so that you **leverage your power through the collective**.

STANDING WITH YOU

RESPONSIBLE TO YOU

EMPOWERING YOU

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

- **Chair, YusApuY Equity Committee:** hosted **11 events**, **engaging 300+ members** & sent **9 e-communications** (see **May** & **October** reports)
  - **improved communication** with members
  - brought a **lens of equity, diversity and inclusion to Executive Board (EB) meetings**
  - **advocated for open dialogue** between members and the EB, eg: YusApuY 101
- **Co-chair, Alumni Community of Practice – YorkU:** Co-leading a cross-campus network of colleagues to develop best practices in alumni relations
- **Learn more about my** leadership experience & qualifications by visiting **my LinkedIn Profile**

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Providing member education & development
- Advocating for remote work policies
- Exploring sliding scale salaries
- Embedding principles of EDI into operations and practices

LET'S CONNECT...I'D LOVE MEET YOU!

- E: jsferdin@yorku.ca
- W: united-for-change.com
- Virtual Chat: Schedule here

> *"I have found Jennifer to be, simply, the epitome of professionalism and proficiency…she has a tremendous sense of customer loyalty and seems willing and able to 'move mountains' to serve the needs of her client groups."*
> ***Facilitator, SEEC***

Learn more about me at:
linkedin.com/in/jenn-ferdinands

As YusApuY's ultimate stakeholder, **you should have a say in the strategic direction of this organization.** Now more than ever **we cannot settle for the status quo, be passive, or complacent.** The time for empowerment is here. If elected as your President, **I'll add value** to you **by listening to your needs** and **empowering you to inform the leadership and legacy of YusApuY**.

PUTTING YOU BACK IN YUSAPUY

VOTE NOV. 9 - NOV. 12

More at: united-for-change.com

NOTHING CHANGES, IF NOTHING CHANGES
CHOOSE TO PUT THE YOU BACK IN YUSAPUY

SANDRA BELL
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE 2022

To YusApuY Membership,

I write to you today, to ask you to elect me as President. For those that don't know me, I'd like to tell you a little bit about myself. I have two grown children, four grandchildren and a little Havanese dog named Rosco. I ride a Honda Shadow Spirit 750 and enjoy the open road! I joined York University in 1987, and for over 30 years, I have administered and coordinated an academic unit. Thank you, Mike Belanger, for your continued support and nomination.

I am very concerned for the future direction of our organization. I'm concerned the recent changes to the Constitution give more discretion and power to the Executive Board and less to the membership. Increasingly, we are given less opportunity to be heard and the narrative is carefully controlled. Our leadership can no longer continue to rely on outdated past practices that are proving harmful to our members and eroding the core values of our Union. I am prepared to work with a like-minded Executive Board to enact positive change.

What qualifies me to be President? My extensive administrative experience makes me uniquely qualified. I have more than three decades of experience supervising staff, working with budgets, accounts payables, program scheduling, and student advising. I understand the challenges of working with faculty, students, and senior administrators. YusApuy members working in the academic units comprise the largest group, and as one myself, I understand first-hand the unique situations they face daily.

Additionally, I was elected President in 2016, 1st Vice-President in 2015 and 2014. I've done these jobs before. I have successfully managed the YUSA office and fostered a healthy and inclusive workspace. I have been an active union member for the last 16 years. In 2005, I joined the Job Evaluation Rating Team, then steward, then Co-chair of the Job-E committee. I was an Executive Board member from 2010 to 2016. Although I am no longer an active rater, my knowledge is extensive, and members regularly reach out to me for support and guidance as they work through our job evaluation system. I was on the 2014 Bargaining Team, and in 2016 was Chief Spokesperson for Unit 2 bargaining. We wrote, presented, and negotiated many of the non-monetary proposals. One of our bargaining highlights in 2016 was achieving a university-wide job posting protocol for our Unit 2 members. Job postings are now accessible to the entire membership, making the hiring process more transparent and equitable. We handed over the Unit 2 bargaining to the newly elected officers in December 2016; Three years later, in 2019, the collective agreement was finally ratified.

Additionally, I have formal dispute resolution training; Levels 1 and 2 *WSIB Claims and Appeals;* Level 4 *WSIB Return to Work;* Officer Diversity Training; Psychosocial Training (Scheduled November 4, 2021). I am certified to recognize potential mental health issues and how to seek assistance for others. I'm also a Certified Worker Member of the Schulich Joint Health and Safety Committee.

During my presidency, I implemented a training program for the stewards and devised a manageable rotation that allowed for a fair, equitable and reasonable distribution of all stewards' assignments. Five years later, we have 47 stewards, many of whom are underutilized, and the full-time officers' schedules continue to be filled with back-to-back meetings that could be more appropriately handled by stewards. One of my first objectives will be to reinstate a comprehensive training plan for our stewards and get them working on your behalf.

I have been calling for positive change, since 2016. The Constitutional Protest following the 2017 elections was intended to be a shot across the bow to demonstrate how the organization lacked clarity in policy and procedure and our governing documents were perilously out-of-date. Our goal was to fix the problem and now we have an at-arm's-length and transparent elections policy.

I have included excerpts from my previous statements to demonstrate my commitment to the membership and to positive change.

Excerpts from my 2020 statement

- *"To ensure that our bargaining process becomes more transparent and member centric, I will not support an agreement that prevents the bargaining team from communicating with you."*

- *"I would also support an Equity Officer's position to ensure systemic racism is addressed in all committees and Executive Board work."*
- *"Other than the Executive Board, Bargaining is the only ad hoc committee with Glendon representation. I would advocate for a Glendon representative elected by Glendon members on all committees. I will spend more time with the Glendon community to foster inclusion and address concerns quickly."*
- *"Communication and transparency go hand in hand. Showing you what's going on is as important as telling you. Greater accessibility to the Executive Board is one of the methods I would initiate to increase transparency and accountability and empower the membership to have a voice in their Union."*
- *"It's not for the Executive Board or me to decide what's in your best interest. It's your constitutional right to have a role in the decision-making process."*
- *"Working from home and a compressed workweek are emerging issues for us. These topics merit an in-depth conversation as we head into bargaining."*

Excerpts from my 2019 statement

- *"…it is imperative that every action the President takes should be in the best interest of the membership. Since the President acts under the authority of the Executive Board, it's as equally important that the Executive Board's decisions and directions are also in the best interest of the membership." "Constitutionally [Article 6 Section 2 (a)], "the Executive Board is responsible to the membership for the general supervision, management and conduct of the Union's business…" This is important!"*
- *"…open Executive Board meetings and more frequent General Membership meetings will allow for open forum dialogue, give our members the opportunity to raise concerns and bring motions forward for change. This is how grassroots, independent unions work!"*
- *"Going forward I will make it a priority to examine not only past practices but also the "archived" policy manual to ensure that we get "best practices". Best practices must also include our Unit 2 members. Our governing documents are so outdated, that at the yearly planning session, I would like to revise the format of the sessions and facilitate a project-based approach to achieve these goals. There is so much work to do! I am a visionary… and this only scrapes the surface."*

Excerpts from my 2018 Statement

- *"As I look back over last year's statement, I see that my vision for Union revitalization is still very relevant and I'm eager to implement initiatives to support and engage our members as we move into 2018."*
- *"I strongly believe in transparency, and if elected as president, I would push for constitutional change that would open Executive Board meetings to the membership and hold monthly general meetings where the Executive Board would report directly to the membership." This allows for open forum dialogue, gives our members the opportunity to raise concerns and bring motions forward for change. This is how grassroots, independent unions work. The current system is broken and needs to be fixed."*
- *"I would propose to offer regular sessions to educate our members not just about job evaluation, but also their collective agreement rights as well as their constitutional rights."*
- *"I have a strong sense of justice and fair play and I will not sit quietly while our members are being treated unjustly. I will speak up and defend our members -- always."*
- *"Also in 2016, we envisioned expanding the roles of our stewards through continued training."*
- *"Our bargaining team and stewards cannot be idle. We need to start mobilizing long before we give notice to bargain. If we want to make greater gains than we did in 2014, we must be prepared and know exactly what our members want and what they're willing to do to get it!"*

In trust and solidarity,

Sandra Bell

WANDA HOLLINGSHEAD
Candidate for 1st Vice President

My name is Wanda Hollingshead and I am running for re-election for the position of 1st Vice President of the York University Staff Association. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Zanita Shamselarijani for nominating me for this position.

I was elected 1st Vice President for the past three years and I have taken this responsibility very seriously. In my October report, I outlined in detail many of my accomplishments. I have continued to provide my strength and knowledge in all aspects of the Job Evaluation System, which includes writing appeal rationales, sitting on the Labour Management - Joint Job Evaluation Committee; participating as a member of the Benchmark Committee and being available for clarification and guidance when issues arise in the rating room.

If re-elected as 1st Vice President, I will continue to be transparent, forward thinking, communicative and fiscally responsible. I have worked hard to ensure that members feel supported when they meet with me as their YusApuY representative. As an active YusApuY official, I have connected with YusApuY members on a variety of issues, representing members in 7.07 and 11.01 meetings, attendance management meetings, return to work and accommodation meetings, harassment investigations, mediations and arbitrations, grievance meetings, and job closure meetings. I care about YusApuY and its membership and I hope it shows through the work and efforts I have put in over the past 19 years.

During my 34 years with YusApuy, my involvement with the union has been extensive.

- was elected and have been serving as your 1st Vice President for 2019, 2020 and 2021
- was elected to and served as your 2nd Vice President for 2018
- have been a member of the Executive Board since 2003
- have been an active steward since 2006
- sat on the Grievance Committee for six years and was the Chair of the Committee for four of those years
- was elected as the Treasurer in 2013
- have actively participated on the Bargaining Committee since 2003. I helped successfully negotiate the 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014 and 2018 Unit 1 Collective Agreements. I am currently involved in the 2021 bargaining process
- was a member of the bargaining committee that completed negotiations and ratification of the Unit 2 Collective Agreement in 2019
- have been an active Job Evaluation Rater since 2005 and was the Chair of the Committee in 2016 and 2017
- have been a Certified Worker Member of the YusApuY Joint Health and Safety Committee since February 2016.
- currently sit on four additional joint committees with the Employer – the Joint Job Evaluation Committee, the Joint Training Committee the Joint Benchmark Committee and the Joint Workplace Accommodation Committee.
- represent YusApuY on the Parking and Transportation Advisory Council and the Cross-

Campus Alliance (an all-union group from York's campuses that meets to discuss issues and challenges that affect our entire community)

- am a delegate of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council and the Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU)

As you know we are currently bargaining a new collective agreement with the employer. This is a difficult round of bargaining for YusApuY, especially in the context of an ongoing pandemic and the 1% public sector wage restraint, imposed by Doug Ford and his PC government. Bill 124 will significantly impact our ability to get substantial salary and compensation increases, however, it also presents us with an opportunity to deal with important non-monetary article improvements. While we are hopeful for an expeditious resolution to bargaining, this process will most likely continue into 2022. It is important to have individuals equipped with the necessary skills and experience to successfully undertake this responsibility. My involvement in bargaining, for the past 19 years, will be an invaluable asset during these ongoing negotiations.

It has been a privilege to have been elected by the membership into the role of 1st Vice President for the past three years and one that I have taken very seriously. It would be a great honour to continue to work on behalf of the membership in the capacity of 1st Vice President in 2022. I hope you will validate my efforts with your vote in this election.

In Solidarity,

Wanda Hollingshead

Paula Gowdie Rose

For **First Vice President**

Nominated By: Debby Sinera Mohamed

Experienced, Qualified, Relatable…

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. -Barack Obama

PUTTING YOU BACK IN YUSAPUY

Committed to YUSAPUY Members

- *Putting **YOU** back in YUSAPUY*
- *Attentive and responsive to YOUR concerns*
- *Service to Members*
- *Representation*
- *Build capacity*
- *Inclusion*
- *Open Communications*

Organizational development

- *Involve Members in co-creating the transformation of the organization*

Collaborative leadership

- *Work with the YUSAPUY Executive Board, Union Officials, Members*
- *Build collegial alliances and connections*

24 Years of Service to YUSAPUY Members

- Job Evaluation Rater, YUSAPUY Job Evaluation Committee
- YUSAPUY Decent and Stable Work Campaign
- YUSAPUY Executive Board
- YUSAPUY Unit 1 Bargaining Committee
- Union Steward
- YUSAPUY Grievance Committee
- YUSAPUY Joint Workplace Accommodation Committee
- Joint Disability Support Program Committee
- YUSAPUY Joint Ergonomics Committee
- YUSAPUY Health and Safety Committee
- YUSAPUY Joint Health and Safety Committee
- Schulich Joint Health and Safety Committee
- All Unions Health and Safety Committee
- York Community Safety Council; Sub-Committee: Safety Audit Standing Committee

STANDING WITH YOU

RESPONSIBLE TO YOU

EMPOWERING YOU

For almost a quarter of a century I have dedicated myself to working with, serving and supporting YUSAPUY Members with integrity and advancing the organization as an inclusive community within the larger York University community. As your First Vice President, my commitment remains steadfast for building the capacity of YUSAPUY Members in the workplace, including understanding your experiences with the job evaluation process, supporting you through this and other workplace processes and advocating for equitable changes.

As Your First Vice President, I commit to:

- ***Standing with YOU!***
- ***Being responsible to YOU!***
- ***Empowering YOU!***

Elect representatives who reflect the YUSAPUY Membership and who understand the significance of this organization and the experiences and concerns of its members. Elect representatives whose primary interest is FOR the YUSAPUY membership.

A little about me… Pronouns: she/her

Black Woman, sister, mother, spouse, worker, volunteer.

Most importantly, a Human Being! *Subjected to the same experiences as YOU, my peers, living and learning in community with others around me. A student of life and lifelong learning; currently in the process of completing a graduate degree. Employed at York University since 1991. A workplace advocate and volunteer for YUSAPUY since April 1997 (twenty-four (24) years) in various capacities, supporting and building the capacity of Members, advocating for Members, influencing change to policies, procedures and practices at York University and within YUSAPUY.*

*Let's talk….*Email: mailto:pgowdieyork@gmail.com

VOTE NOV. 9 TO NOV. 12

Nothing Changes, if NOTHING Changes! CHOOSE TO put YOU back in YUSAPUY

LEARN MORE

Breanne Whitwell – Candidate for Second Vice-President

I'd like to start by thanking my nominator, Lillian Heinson, and the many members who've expressed their support to me. I've been a proud YusApuY member since 2011, coming into the union through an exclusion grievance process retroactive to October 2008, and a part of the York University community since 2006. As your incumbent Second Vice-President, working on your behalf is a sincere privilege. This work is challenging. Physically, on account of the long hours and lack of work/life balance that comes with serving our roughly 1,800 members. Mentally, due to the diverse and unique issues we confront. And emotionally, given the very real consequences at stake when helping people through incredibly challenging times, like a job closure or an illness. It's also extremely rewarding to make a positive impact, and that desire to make helpful contributions, one member at a time, sustains me in my most challenging days in the union office.

There's much that's been accomplished over the past three years (I invite you to review the reports I've respectfully submitted to the membership as Second VP since 2019) and there is so much more yet to do. I want to continue to work in the union office, in part to continue to advocate for and represent members whose individual grievances I've supported since coming into the union office full time nearly three years ago, as well as policy grievances on issues such as the job posting process, and the exclusion of management positions that we believe ought to be within our union. Likewise, I want to see key initiatives that are underway through to completion. These initiatives, in my view, are critical to ensuring a thriving union going forward. Projects such as the Executive Board Manual/Orientation and onboarding resources, the redevelopment of our website, and the significant policy development work that requires dedicated time and energy. As an ex-officio committee member and active participant in our bargaining preparations, I want to continue to work alongside the 2021 and 2022 Bargaining Committee to negotiate a collective agreement for each of our two Units that we can all be proud of – that improve all of our members' entitlements and advances all of our interests.

I'd like to see our union membership more engaged in broader labour issues by growing our participation in the events and initiatives of the Confederation of Canadian Unions and the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, to create more opportunities for more members to get involved in issues that matter to us all. Many unions have a Political Action Committee to provide a place for members to organize and participate in events and initiatives such as the 'Phone Zap' for Paid Sick Days for All that I organized earlier this year. This issue and others affect working people across the province, as well as within our diverse membership. A Political Action Committee would cultivate a space for Unit 1 members to advocate for changes that would be in service of our colleagues in Unit 2, a place for solidarity-building and action. This year, the YusApuY Executive Board committed to developing language that will expand the Constitution to enshrine the Equity Committee as a standing committee of the union. I will ensure that language is brought to the membership to be ratified and implemented. The Equity Committee has been a fantastic addition to the life of our union and their work has only just begun. I will also advocate for the incorporation of a Social Committee, with a clear mandate to organize and execute a series of social events for members whose interests are less political yet no less important in a thriving union community. Feeling connected to your union doesn't always have to be over a picket line or a protest, it can be within a picnic or an a cappella singing group.

One of my goals is and has always been to cultivate positive, meaningful connections between members and 'the union', one relationship at a time and one issue at a time. We are all the union. I hope that those who've reached out to me for help resolving an issue over the past three years have felt reassured that the union is safe place to go to seek out advise and assistance that is supportive and non-judgemental. My style of dispute resolution when assisting members with an issue with management is not adversarial, but fierce advocacy. Over the last three years as your Second Vice-President, I've had the privilege of representing many members in all sorts of meetings with management, including non-disciplinary meetings such as 7.07s, disciplinary 11.01 meetings, Return to Work and Work Accommodation Plan meetings, grievance Step 2 meetings, mediations and arbitrations. I've represented the membership in Labour Management meetings where we advocate for change and question management policies; meetings with the President of the University to share the perspectives of staff; in Joint Job Evaluation meetings to support the First VP in bringing forward issues from within the rating room and with our job evaluation system; and in Joint Training Program Committee meetings to advocate for training, personal and professional development opportunities that will have an impact. This is work that I love to do on your behalf and in your service.

Prior to coming into the union office, I was a steward for several years, a committed job evaluation rater, and Chair of the Constitution and Policy Committee for four years or so. This volunteer work was alongside my full-time role as a Research Officer in the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Graduate Studies. My experience at York providing research administration and support to faculty (and prior, students) spanned more than 12 years. Over my years volunteering with YusApuY, I spearheaded and worked alongside other members of the Executive Board to expand our documentation with the introduction of Terms of Reference for Committees and overhaul and expand our Elections Policy, among other important work. These experiences provided me with a broad general understanding of the University, our union and some of the union's core business. Even with my years of volunteering with YusApuY and sitting on the Executive Board, entering the union office was like the saying goes: "out of the frying pan and into the fire".

I hope you'll let me stay a little longer in that fire. It would be my sincere pleasure and a privilege to continue to work in your service. I'm dedicated to working with and for the membership to achieve the best possible working conditions, restore a sense of work-life balance that seems lost after 18 months of a pandemic, and pursue respect and fair treatment for all YusApuY members in the workplace. As I take a step back and reflect on my time in the union office, I am committed to thorough and thoughtful planning and decision making, with a reasoned yet human approach to solving problems. I want to continue to build relationships within our union and among the labour movement as your Second Vice-President. I'm stated before and will again that this is a time for solidarity and for learning from the past while looking to the future with optimism and positivity to ensure that our union grows stronger. It's been an honour to work on behalf of the membership. I hope you'll allow me to continue to participate in the leadership of YusApuY as your Second Vice-President.

Sincerely,

Breanne Whitwell (candidate for Second Vice-President)

Nikolaos Markakis

FOR SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Nominated By: Margaret (Margo) Barreto

PUTTING YOU BACK IN YUSAPUY

My name is Nikolaos Markakis, but everyone knows me as Niko. I am a first generation Canadian who comes form Greek immigrant parents. I am a Queer man, son, brother, partner, artist, worker, and volunteer.

I first joined YusApuY as a Unit 2 YUTA employee from Sep. 2013 - May 2014 and rejoined Unit two in Aug. of 2019. In Nov. of 2019 I joined Unit 1 as a UPA in the School of Administrative Studies and am currently the Petitions Information Assistant in the office of the Dean, LA&PS.

As your Second Vice President, my commitment to **YOU**, the membership, is to **stand with you** by consulting with members and involving you in the strategic planning process. I commit to being **responsible to you** by promising an open line of communication with our members and reinforcing an open-door policy for YusApuY. I plan to **empower you** by creating a trusting environment where **ALL** members voices are heard and supporting the membership to reclaim your power through YusApuY.

Over the past year as an Executive Board member, it has been my mission to constantly ensure an EDI lens was used during all YusApuY initiatives. One way I accomplished this is by my involvement in amending the Elections Policy to include more equitable language and a fairer practice during our elections process. With my 11 years experience working on boards, I have played a vital role and been consistently involved in drafting and amending each organizations constitution and policy as well as being a liaison for the organization to external bodies.

I have a passion for working for the people and hope to serve our membership as the next Second Vice President of YusApuY.

STANDING WITH YOU

RESPONSIBLE TO YOU

EMPOWERING YOU

More about me...

Pronouns: he/him
I have an MFA in dance and had a 5-year professional career as a dance artist, educator, and administrator, where I founded a collective and managed a dance company before returning to work at York. Over the past 11 years I have held various executive board positions on pan-national, national, provincial and community boards, councils, and organizations.

Let's talk,
Email: markakisniko@gmail.com

Leadership Experience

- Chair - Communication Committee, YusApuY
- Board Advisor - Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists/East Chapter
- President - Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists/East Chapter
- Secretary - Cretan Association of Toronto 'Knossos'
- Managing Producer - Proartedanza Performance Inc.
- Secretary - Audit Committee, Cretan Association of Toronto 'Knossos'
- Vice President - Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists/East Chapter
- President - Winters Alumni Network
- East Coast Vice President - PanCretan Youth Association of America
- Co-Chair - Dance Student Graduate Association
- Chair - Absinthe Pub Management Board
- Cultural Chair - PanCretan Youth Association of America
- Speaker - Winters College Council

Want to know more?
Check out my Linkedin: linkedin.com/in/nikomarkakis/

VOTE NOV. 9 TO NOV. 12

More at: www.united-for-change.com

NOTHING CHANGES, IF NOTHING CHANGES
CHOOSE TO PUT THE YOU BACK IN YUSAPUY