

2017 Bob Rosen Social Justice Award Recipient Judy Devries

Judy began her work in social justice as the chairperson of Langley's local Status of Women Committee. She also initiated the local Grade 7 Girls' Conference, which provided resources that supported Grade 7 girls by focusing on developing self-confidence, dealing with peer pressure, and skill-building to help these girls bridge the transition to high school more successfully. Her tireless work and understanding of the issues facing young women was instrumental in the success of this conference. At the provincial level, Judy was one of the organizers of the Raging Women Provincial Conference, which was organized by a coalition of women representing organizations and unions across BC. This conference brought together women who were engaged in the struggle for social justice and included strategic planning and discussions around government funding cuts, coalition building, and women's history and activism. Judy also participated in the BCTF Status of Women Conferences that were held annually and provided resources and workshops across a wide spectrum of women's issues. When the discrete BCTF Status of Women program was incorporated into the overarching Social Justice Program in 1998, Judy was one of the founding members of the Feminist Caucus, which was established to continue activist work on women's issues. In addition to co-chairing the caucus, Judy co-ordinated the group email program for the Feminist Caucus members and organized lunch meetings at RAs. These meetings served to build the role of women in the BCTF, and ensure that women's voices were heard and women's issues brought forward in every area of BCTF work. Judy was instrumental in how the presence of the Feminist Caucus was felt at the BCTF level, and the legacy of her work continues today with the still-active Feminist Caucus and the place it provides for women to talk to each other in a co-ordinated way.

As one of her colleagues put it: "Her contribution to social justice work of the BCTF and the LTA cannot be underestimated. She has given time, energy and selfless effort to the cause of women's rights." As a positive and organized leader, Judy has always demonstrated the ability to lead and follow through, and has been instrumental in ensuring that the BCTF continues to be a strong leader on social justice issues.

(Adapted from the awards presentation speech, BCTF AGM, March 2017)

2014 Bob Rosen Social Justice Award Recipient Karen Kilbride

Social Justice is at the heart of Karen's work within the union and within her life. As a member of the BCTF's Committee for Action on Social Justice Status of Women Action Group, Karen played a key role in focussing the committee's work on the issue of polygamy in Bountiful. She was a principal organizer of a regional social justice conference focusing on this issue in Creston and worked extensively on the issue of women in polygamous communities in the university women's club. Karen has played an important role in the BCTF feminist caucus, helping to keep feminist issues in the spotlight within the BCTF by providing a forum to discuss these issues at AGMs and RAs. As a BCTF liaison to the BC Federation of Labour's Women's Committee, Karen raised teachers' concerns with this organization and helped organize the BCTF's participation in the BC Fed's women's summer school. Within her own local, Surrey, Karen has worked hard to advance equality for women and girls through organizing a Grade 7 girls conference that has taken place for the past 15 years. Karen has also supported social justice at the international level through her work with Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, which helps secure human rights for Afghan women and girls, and Canadian Harambee, which supports girls in completing secondary school in Kenya and Tanzania. Generations of students and BCTF members have benefited from Karen's commitment to social justice

(Adapted from the awards presentation speech, BCTF AGM, March, 2014)

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