

Edith Johnston

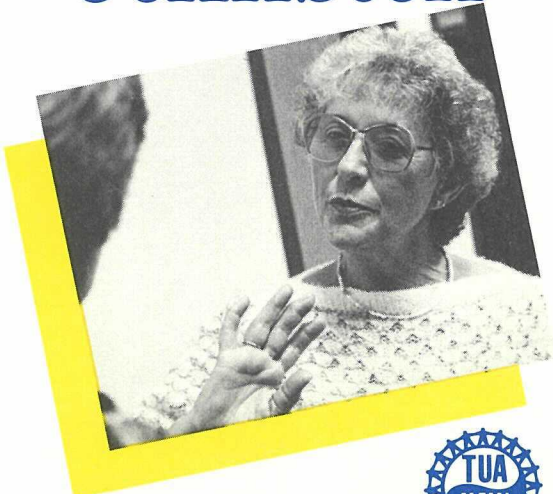
for
Vice-President



Edith Johnston
asks for your support.

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Edith
Johnston



“I got right into the union after I started working on the line at 3M. There are always ills and wrongs in the workplace, and I found that the union meant I could help right some of those wrongs.”

Edith Johnston has been an active trade unionist for more than 25 years. She served as an officer of her local, 4,000-member strong UAW Local 27 in London, Ont., for 17 years, nine years as financial secretary, before being appointed to the UAW's staff in 1976. She is a Labour College of Canada graduate.

“Women are workers, too, and they are entitled to full equality in the workplace and in our society. The trade union movement is the best ally women have in their fight to win their fair share.”

As women's co-ordinator of the UAW in Canada, Edith has fostered the growth of UAW women's committees across Canada as well as increasing the profile of women's issues within the union. She has given advice and counsel to women who want to become more active in the union.

Her experience with women's issues dates back to her days in Local 27 where she served on women's committees both in the local and on the labour council. She was chairperson of the Canadian UAW Women's Advisory Council and is presently staff liaison person with the Canadian UAW Council Women's Committee.

She has been active on both the OFL and CLC's women's committees since they were formed and has lobbied extensively for women's issues with all levels of government.

“As the average age of Canadians increases, retirees' issues become more and more important. In the labour movement, we'll be working even harder to win decent pensions, health care and housing for older adults.”

Edith Johnston also has the UAW staff responsibility for the union's 15,000 retirees in Canada. She works with the union's retirees' chapters and encourages these union pioneers to stay active in their locals and their communities. She is a board member of the CLC's Canada Wide Industrial Pension Plan (CWIPP).

“Working in the community not only builds allies for us, it's a way of speaking to and helping those workers and their families who don't have the benefit of a union.”

Edith Johnston believes that unionism doesn't end at the collective bargaining table or at the factory gate or office door. She has always played an active role in the community ever since her days in London when community projects were a major part of her tasks. She has been active on the Committee for Aging of the Ontario Council for Social Development and is a board member of the Canadian Council for Social Development. She is active in the Ontario Health Coalition and is president of the Ontario Coalition of Pension Reform. She takes an interest in international affairs and participates in Central American support work. A long-time New Democrat, she was the NDP candidate in London South in the 1975 provincial election.

Edith Johnston is an experienced trade unionist and an active and articulate spokesperson on a wide range of issues, from women to retirees' rights to the social and political issues facing us today. Her proven commitment and ability will make her an invaluable addition to the leadership ranks of the Ontario Federation of Labour.