



MARIE KELLY
SECRETARY-TREASURER
ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR
BIOGRAPHY

Marie Kelly was elected in 2009 as Secretary-Treasurer of the Ontario Federation of Labour. Marie came to the OFL after 20 years of distinguished and wide ranging activism within the United Steelworkers Union. She began as a staff lawyer for the Steelworkers before being asked to take on a leadership role within her Union.

Throughout her career, Marie has been involved in advancing the cause of workers' rights through litigation, collective bargaining, organizing, education, and developing strategies to lobby governments for change. She has extensive experience in major contract negotiations, bankruptcy law and corporate restructuring proceedings.

At the same time, Marie is perhaps proudest of her involvement at the grassroots level of the labour movement – mobilizing workers, both in their workplaces and in their communities, to stand up to corporate interests and to demand better from governments through whatever means were necessary.

Marie Kelly has led lobbies of governments that resulted in real legislative change for workers. But she also recognizes that there are times when we must demand change outside the strict letter of the law relying only on the solidarity and strength of working people to achieve necessary societal change. In the face of devastating workplace closures she led plant occupations that resulted in millions of dollars going into the pockets of her members. Whether working within our current systems of government or occupying a workplace, Queens Park or other cities in Ontario she always brings a wealth and diversity of experience, a tenacity of character and a deeply held working class perspective.

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