

Merit Award for Outstanding Service citation
Award recipient: Keltie MacPhail
Written by: Ann Braithwaite

Hi everyone,

It is my immense pleasure to read the citations for two of tonight's three service award winners: Keltie MacPhail and Nia Phillips. I had the great pleasure—along with Kim Mears and Bill Whelan—of nominating them both for an FA service award, back before the strike began. My admiration for their commitment and 'service' only continued to grow during the subsequent 4 weeks.

When asked if they would "help out" with the Job Action Committee back before Christmas, neither Nia nor Keltie—nor I—had any idea what that would mean (I can say the same thing about the work of all the people on the JAC)! To say that they both stepped up (and up and up) in ways that are above and beyond what could or should be expected is a total understatement! I could not be more appreciative or, frankly, relieved, at what they did for months before our recent strike, as well as throughout those 26 days. And while my following comments are specific to their contributions around our recent job action, we also all know that people this committed to something are always also active in many other arenas. Their 'service' is wide-ranging, and their contributions to constant community building in the FA and at UPEI are lengthy.

1. Let me start telling you more a bit more about Keltie MacPhail.

Keltie is possibly the most organized person one could have had taking charge of pulling strike headquarters together for the months before and then during our strike. When I asked her if she would do this job, I remember – I'm sure she does too – saying something like 'I don't think it will be a lot of work'... ha! the things we didn't know! From organizing everything that HQ would need (a lot, it turned out!), to running so many errands and taking on most of the acquiring of equipment for HQ and the picket line bins (I can't imagine the number of trips she's made to the ReStore, Canadian Tire, the Dollar Store, Staples—no doubt I am missing many), to putting together the schedule and arranging all the shifts—and the jobs—that people working there and remotely would do, to meeting with electricians and plumbers, Keltie was there every step of the way, not just "doing" something, but always thinking three steps ahead about what we would need and then how to make sure that happened. On every Zoom meeting (and we had a lot), her lists seemed to get longer, and then, they are always done. Her imagination and reliability, the 10-12 hour days she put in during the strike, and the calmness and skill she brought to everything she did... made her indispensable to the success of our entire job action process. As chair of the JAC, I remain beyond impressed with how smoothly the whole HQ operation unfolded, and I know that we would have been a much less organized and efficient job action unit without her!

Keltie – thank you – for me, from all of us!