



Pearl Sawyer

The “Pearl” Award

Pearl Sawyer grew up in Charlottetown, in a province not normally known as a labour hot-spot. She went directly from the University of Prince Edward Island to work at Canada Packers, where she quickly became a workplace activist and steward. She went on to become secretary-treasurer of the PEI Federation of Labour where she became active within the New Democratic Party. She moved to Ontario and became a member of the Ontario NDP executive. In 1982 Sawyer was hired as a Local 1000A organizer. From organizing she developed the stewards training program for the local as well as becoming the Local’s expert in matters relating to Worker’s Compensation and Health & Safety. She held the post of Executive Assistant to the President until 2000 when she was elected executive vice-president. Sawyer is currently the longest serving vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Labour where she co-chairs the Health and Safety and Workers’ Compensation Committees. She is a graduate of the Labour College of Canada, has served as a labour director on the board of the Institute for Work and Health as well as being a board member, representing workers, at the bipartite Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. To commemorate her role as a trailblazer for women’s rights in the union and workplace, UFCW Local 1000A established the Pearl Sawyer Award in 2005.



Purpose of the Award

The “*Pearl*” award was established in 2005 to recognize the valuable contributions of women members of UFCW Local 1000A with a proven track record of commitment and dedication to improving the working lives of women, in particular to women members of Local 1000A.

Pearl Sawyer was chosen as the first recipient of the award at the local’s women’s conference in November of 2005.

How is the recipient selected?

The provincial WIN committee will accept and review all applications for the “*Pearl*” award. Based on the applications, the committee will determine the recipient for the current year.

The award will be presented at the following years annual stewards conference. *Eg; the 2008 award will be presented at the 2009 conference.*

When is the deadline?

Completed applications must be received no later than May 14.

Who is eligible?

Applicants must be active bargaining unit women members of UFCW Canada Local 1000A. The application can be for a full-time or part-time worker.

The “Pearl” Award

Awarded For Contributions in Improving the Lives of Women

NOMINATION FORM

Please print clearly and complete in full

NOMINEE INFORMATION - The Candidate I am Nominating is:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt. No. _____

City /Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____ Workplace: _____

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt. No. _____

City /Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____ Workplace: _____

On a separate page, in your own words, describe why you believe this nominee is deserving of the “Pearl” award.
Some areas you **may** want to comment on are; **Some** examples of community involvement **may** be;

✓ *Does this person inspire you?*

✓ *Member or chair of school council.*

✓ *Is this person active in their local union?*

✓ *Respite for families with ill or disabled family member.*

✓ *Is this individual involved in community work?*

✓ *Driving cancer patients to appointments.*

Please send completed application to:

The “Pearl” Award
c/o Rehya Yazbek
UFCW Canada Local 1000A
70 Creditview Road
Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 9N4
Fax: 905.850.0839
Email: ryazbek@ufcw1000a.ca

