

Dear CUPE

What is the importance of a union? Both of my parents have belonged to unions for many years. My mom is a member of the CUPE 4784 and has worked as an EA for over 10 years. Over the years I've learned the value of belonging to a union. Having a union to help answer work related questions, to have someone to fight for the best interests of their members, to work hard for healthy working conditions and competitive wages. Having a union is like having a separate work family, knowing that there is support if needed, that someone will help you fight for equality and stand up for your rights. I believe that the role of a union is a huge part of the workplace running smoothly and that all the hard work that the executive puts in for its members is very much appreciated.

Being is very important to me because I want to give back to my communities and schools in every way I can, and I want to set a good example for the youth of the future. Over the past five years I've been involved in many things in the school and community. In school, I've played the sports of basketball, track and field, and volleyball all throughout junior high and high school. As I'm a senior for all of these sports this year, I've developed the assets of being a good leader and setting a good example for the other players on my team. I've been part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor program for three years now and I love every minute of it. I've had two mentees over the years who both love colouring and board games. Making a positive change in someone's life is truly why I love being a mentor. I'm on the graduation committee for the third year which takes lots of thought, time, and dedication. I've been a guest speaker for the youth during education week which was very exciting to me as I got to talk to the children about why it's so important to be involved in their school. I'm on the student council where I've been a social director, a grade 8 representative, a grade 9 representative, a fundraising coordinator, and I currently hold a two year term as the school treasure. Being on student council has helped me develop many leadership assets, as well as allowing me to be part of many opportunities that help me build on my leadership skills and abilities. I attended a Canadian Student Leadership Conference in 2017 in Waterloo, as well as many Saskatchewan Student Leadership Conferences over the past 4 years. My school had the opportunity to host a Saskatchewan Student Leadership Conference in 2018 where I was a spirit leader for other leaders in my province. Being a spirit leader really allowed me to go outside of the box with leadership, and allowed me to learn and listen to inspiring ideas that other schools have to bring back to my own. I currently hold the house colour captain for showing my leadership and school spirit in my school. I believe if students don't take charge and show school spirit in their school then the youth and other students won't either, which shows how important it is to set a good example and to be a positive leader in your school. In the community, I've been involved in softball and dance at our local ball diamonds and studio since I was 4. I've been currently volunteering my time at St Joseph's Catholic Church by fundraising, and volunteering my time at fundraisers for the less fortunate countries. I volunteer my time at local events and fundraisers such as working annual craft shows in my hometown or selling helping hands for Telemiracle at our local arena. Lastly, I've served my time by working at our local daycare for two years now which I'm very passionate about as I take part in children's learning and development. With becoming a leader from being involved in all that I am, I've become a people person. I know

how to work with others of all ages, I've learned to value other people's opinions, and I know how to be part of a team. This will most definitely help me in the future as I head to university to become a nurse. With choosing the career path I am, it's good to know how to work with people and how to develop positive relationships with all ages from elderly to children as well as being a positive leader for the ones around me. Not only will my involvement help me with my nursing career, but it will also help me as I hope to further my volunteerism in the school and community. I'm a strong believer of giving back to my school and community as I've had many opportunities to be involved with sports and activities personally, so my hopes and dreams of giving back include being a coach for the youth one day, being part of a Lioness Club, and overall being a great volunteer and contributor to the community and school. I want to have a voice, I want to be a positive influence for the youth of the future, and I want to make a change in my school, community, and in any place I can which is why I choose to be involved and committed.

I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing program at the University of Regina. I will be paying for my studies through student loans and scholarships. This scholarship would be very beneficial to furthering my education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Janell McDonell