

PROFILE

MARY ING

MARY ING was born in Tillsonburg, Ontario. An arranged marriage brought Mary's Mom to Canada. Mary's role model while growing up was her mom who guided her by example. Honour, hard work, equity, dedication, commitment and loyalty, importance of making a greater difference in the lives of others was a part of the values that Mary's Mom taught to her by her actions as a single mom who taught herself English, ran her own restaurant, supported her family in Hong Kong, and sponsored local sports teams and charity groups.

Mary and her brother were the only Asian kids in their school where both learned to deal with adversity and how to overcome racial obstacles. Mary graduated in 1982 Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute 1982. While at school she served as Secretary-General of United Nations Club, participated on many school teams, and ran fundraising campaigns all while working in her mom's restaurant.

Working in her mom's restaurant Mary organized her first labour campaign where she fought for equal wages; using a picket sign made from a place mat scotch taped to a chopstick she went on strike. Mary wanted equal treatment with the older, more experienced staff and equal wages for equivalent responsibility. In essence she wanted to be paid the same as my big brother since she was doing the same work. Mary won the wage increase she was seeking and some extra play time.

Mary graduated from Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology Program 1985. After graduation, Mary did her Clinical Year and worked as a laboratory technician at Stratford General Hospital. Mary then moved to the Victoria Hospital, London in the Biochemistry Laboratory in October 1985 (now London Health Sciences Centre). She joined OPSEU Local 106 in June 1986 when I became full time. In 2005 she led a successful organizing drive to bring the casual/ part timers into the bargaining unit.

As an active member of Local 106, Mary has served as Co-chair of the Joint Health and Safety Committee where she represented over 8000 workers at London Health Sciences Centre. Mary also served as steward and

Vice- President of her local which represents over 600 members at London Health Sciences Centre, St. Josephs Health Care and Alexandra Hospital. Mary has always worked to bring a strong voice forward for her co-workers and strived to work in cooperation with all 4 unions at the workplace (ONA, COPE and CAW). Mary has always been there to encourage the non union/non management members to "organize" themselves and to assist them in fighting for their rights.

Within the region and the union as a whole Mary has been an activist serving in various capacities which include:

- Constitution Committee Representative for Region 1 for 2 terms.
- Region 1 Mobilizer for the Keep Your Promises Campaign, the Hospital Professionals Division's Day of Action and Save Ontario Services campaign 1992.
- Political Action Committee Member focussing on the Provincial Elections 2003.
- Hospital Professionals Central Bargaining Team Member.
- Member of the London and District Labour Council.
- Region 1 Human Right Committee Vice-Chair and organized the regional Human Rights conference.
- Member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Equity.
- Delegate to Canadian Labour Congress, Nation Union of Public and General Employees, Ontario Federation of Labour.
- Ontario Federation of Labour education — the Occupational Disability Response Team weeklong courses including Medical Orientation and Return to Work.



On the home front, Mary was married in 1990 and she had a son, Mathew, in 1995. Mary is active in the community serving as an Executive member of Mathew's school's parent association and even more recently as the Costumes Head with the Original Kids Theatre Company. Mathew is active in his mom's labour fights having participated in many demonstrations, and events.

Mary was elected to the Executive Board of OPSEU in March 2005 for region 1.