

PROFILE

Jennifer Reid

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Jennifer Reid is the oldest of 5 children. Her father worked for the Government as the person responsible for looking after the people who were disadvantaged... poor, homeless, elderly, orphans, abused etc. Jennifer's sisters, brother and herself were taught at an early age to be aware that social justice was important. Growing up in Jamaica, people are aware of the politics at an early age and there are always discussions at the dinner table. Her parents had friends and associates who were involved in government at some of the higher levels and they were very politically aware.

Jennifer finished high school in Jamaica, but migrated to Canada in the 1960s. The political situation in Jamaica was undergoing changes and her mother felt the move to Canada would allow her children to have a better future.

Jennifer attended Ryerson and began looking for work. She signed up with Office Overload, an agency that provided temporary workers to organizations in Toronto. She then switched to night classes and started working full time in the days.

Jennifer then went to the Ministry of Health on an assignment and was offered a job there. She accepted and started full time in January 5, 1970 with the Ontario Health Insurance Plan as it was called at the time. Back then, the Ministry of Health was represented by the Civil Service Association. In 1975, Jennifer moved to London, Ontario with her husband and transferred to the Ministry of Revenue where she worked until 1998 when it divested and became Ontario Property Assessment Corporation and now Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

She became involved in the union on moving to London, going to the Regional Educations that were offered

along with attending some weeklong sessions in Port Elgin. Jennifer had started a family (4 boys) and as she became more involved in the Union, her children came along with her to various educational and union functions. The day cares offered by OPSEU were a god send when they started. She was a steward, secretary and then became local president of her Local 105 during the strike in 1996. She sat on the Employee Relations Committee and was part of the joint Committees that the NDP government started up when they were in power in the early 1990's. Jennifer sat on a Business Planning Committee representing the Union for the Assessment Division.



During the divestment process, she was elected to be on the team doing the Negotiations for the divestment. She then went on to become a part of our first bargaining team and was on this team from 1999 to 2005. Jennifer was the chair for the bargaining team in 2003. She chose not to run as she believed her family and she had given a lot to the union in the time she had spent travelling on the road and the hours put into

doing the various positions. During those years, her mother who has been a big help to her was getting older and had been diagnosed with a tumor and was not as strong. Her family dynamics was changing.

Jennifer also was the representative grievor for the Assessment Department in the Ministry of Finance when they did their first bargaining unit overhaul and formed the Office Administration Group with the component part being given points and the sum of the points were then used to place you on the wage grid. To get the courses needed to become an assessor, she went to evening classes at Fanshawe College and completed a number of Correspondence courses. She also completed a Diploma course with the University of British Columbia for her Real Estate Certificate.