

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Monica Rusnak

This award is presented to individuals who have given meritorious service to education and/or the teaching profession at the provincial/territorial, national or international level. Following the 2024 CTF/FCE AGM adoption of a resolution to explore the creation of an award to honour contributions to advance labour rights, the Board of Directors amended the existing Special Recognition Award, such that, whenever possible, one of the up to three annual awards recognizes a member for meritorious service advancing labour rights.

Nominated by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)



Monica Rusnak began her teaching career with the Ontario North East District School Board in 1988, teaching across all divisions. She held numerous leadership roles in her local, including Vice-President, Chief Negotiator, Collective Bargaining Representative, and Chair of Political Action, Status of Women, and Social Justice and Equity Committees. From 2006 to 2017, Monica served as President of the Ontario North East local. In 2017, Monica was elected Vice-President of the ETFO. Since then, she has liaised with thirteen ETFO Standing Committees and served on the ETFO Humanity Fund board. Additionally, she held the position of Vice-President of the Ontario Federation of Labour and was a member of its Women's Advisory Committee.

Monica is recognized as a principled and positive leader, as well as a passionate role model for women in both the union and the teaching profession.