



## Special Recognition Award

This award recognizes members of CTF/FCE Member Organizations or Associate Organizations who have made major contributions to their provincial/territorial organization, the CTF/FCE, labour rights in education, and/or public education in general.

## Joel Duff (posthumously)

*Nominated by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO)*

Joel Duff dedicated his life's work to the defence and advancement of public education and labour rights across Canada. His career spanned education advocacy at every level—from pre-kindergarten through K–12 and into post-secondary education—and was grounded in the belief that a strong, accessible public education system is fundamental to a just and democratic society.

As Associate General Secretary of OSSTF/FEESO, Joel provided principled, strategic leadership during a period of significant challenge for publicly funded education. He strengthened organizing and mobilization efforts, supported members and local leaders, and ensured the Federation remained a credible, values-driven voice in defence of collective bargaining and public education.

Joel's impact extended nationally through his work with the Canadian Federation of Students, the Ontario Federation of Labour, the Canadian Labour Congress, and the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. Across these roles, he built bridges between sectors, advanced democratic unionism, and championed equity, inclusion, and solidarity.

Grounded in equity and social justice, Joel consistently centred marginalized voices and worked to ensure that union structures and advocacy reflected the lived realities of students, educators, and education workers.

Joel will be remembered as a principled leader, a generous mentor, and a deeply committed advocate for public education and labour rights. This award honours his enduring legacy and the profound impact of his contributions to education and labour movements in Canada.