

**LYLA'S SPEECH GIVEN AT
OSSTF D21 OCTU'S ANNUAL PD EVENT
MARQUIS GARDENS (ANCASTER, ONTARIO)
FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020**

Good Morning! My name is Lyla Miklos and my pronouns are She & Her.

Currently I serve the members of OSSTF D21 OCTU as your Chief Negotiator.

My labour union activism came out of my social justice activism as a self-identified queer feminist.

In my former existence as a television broadcaster I joined my first union – CEP Local 723M.

I remember the first time I had to vote on ratifying our collective agreement, my queer feminist lens immediately caught language that wasn't inclusive for several of our members, so I made it my mission to ensure that our collective

agreement and constitution had language that DID include ALL of our members.

I continue to work with that mission statement in mind in my current role with OSSTF knowing that workers rights are human rights.

A couple of years ago I represented OSSTF on the Ontario Federation of Labour's Solidarity & Pride Committee working with Two Spirit and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual Plus union members on eradicating homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in our workplaces.

One special moment was riding on the OFL's float at the Toronto Pride Parade proudly waving my OSSTF flag and then joining CUPE Ontario's Post Parade Party where their out and gay Provincial President Fred Hahn taught me a new verse to the union anthem Solidarity Forever.

It went like this ...

We're the Queer, Trans and Non-Binary of every
workplace in our land.

We've fought for our whole lives and we sure
can take a stand.

When we raise our rainbow flag and shout: Life
is never bland!

Cuz we make the union strong.

Solidarity Forever!
Solidarity Forever!
Solidarity Forever!
For the union makes us strong!

EVERYBODY!

Solidarity Forever!
Solidarity Forever!
Solidarity Forever!
For the union makes us strong!