

The Pearl Award

Purpose of the Award

Established in 2005, the Pearl Award is annually presented to a female member for assisting with initiatives for women, the labour movement and their community.

It is named after Local 1000A President Pearl Sawyer in recognition of her role as a trailblazer for women's rights in the union and the workplace. Sawyer was chosen as the first recipient of the award in 2005.

How is the recipient selected?

The provincial WIN committee accepts and reviews all nominations for the Pearl Award. Based on the nomination applications, the committee will determine the recipient for the current year. The award is presented at the annual Stewards' Conference.

When is the deadline?

Completed nomination forms must be received no later than May 14.

Who is eligible?

Women who work full-time or part-time and are members in good standing of UFCW Canada Local 1000A.



* Please see reverse for nomination form.

Pearl Sawyer grew up in Charlottetown PEI, a province not normally known as a labour hot-spot. She went directly from the University of Prince Edward Island to work at Canada Packers, where she quickly became a workplace



activist and steward. She went on to become secretary-treasurer of the PEI Federation of Labour where she became active within the New Democratic Party. She moved to Ontario and became a member of the Ontario NDP executive. In 1982, Sawyer was hired as a Local 1000A organizer. Once on staff, she developed the stewards training program for the local and became the local's expert in matters relating to Worker's Compensation and Health & Safety. She held the post of Executive Assistant to the President until 2000 when she was elected Executive Vice-President. In 2011, the local union's executive board unanimously elected Sawyer as Local 1000A President. Sawyer is currently the longest serving vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Labour where she co-chairs the Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation Committees. She is a graduate of the Labour College of Canada, has served as a labour director on the board of the Institute for Work and Health as well as being a board member, representing workers, at the bipartite Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.



The “Pearl” Award

Awarded For Contributions in Improving the Lives of Women

NOMINATION FORM

Please print clearly and complete in full

NOMINEE INFORMATION - The Candidate I am Nominating is:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt. No. _____

City /Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____ Workplace: _____

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt. No. _____

City /Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____ Workplace: _____

On a separate page, in your own words, describe why you believe this nominee is deserving of the “Pearl” award.

Some areas you **may** want to comment on are:

Some examples of community involvement **may** be:

- Does this person inspire you?
- Is this person active in their local union?
- Is this individual involved in community work?
- Member or chair of school council.
- Respite for families with ill family members.
- Driving patients with cancer to appointments.

Please send completed application to:

The “Pearl” Award
c/o Rehya Yazbek
UFCW Canada Local 1000A
70 Creditview Road
Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 9N4
Fax: 905.850.0839
Email: ryazbek@ufcw1000a.ca

