

CUPE Ontario remembers Karen Gottschalk-Millar, stands in solidarity against workplace violence

Thursday, July 30, 2020

To our union family,

We, CUPE Ontario, would like to extend our sincere condolences to OPSEU, Local 448, and the friends, family and colleagues of Karen Gottschalk-Millar. We are deeply saddened and shocked to learn about her tragic murder that occurred in her workplace at a Kemptville group home.

Over the past days, we've tenderly read heartfelt message from Karen's loved ones about her outstanding contributions and dedication as a Residential Counsellor for Pathways to Independence. Karen truly is the epitome of the care, compassion, and selflessness embodied in so many developmental service workers.

Karen's death is a solemn reminder of how precious and vulnerable life is, especially for frontline workers. Workplace violence such as this is horrendous, and the thought that it could happen so close to home is horrifying.

We want you to know that we are here for you. As a union family, we are together in the pursuit of justice and the health and safety for all workers. We are here to hold employers and governments accountable to the well-being of workers everywhere. We are here to mourn and grieve with you.

Together we will not rest until all workers feel safe at work.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Hahn".

Fred Hahn
President, CUPE Ontario

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carrie Lynn Poole-Cotnam".

Carrie Lynn Poole-Cotnam
Chair, Social Services Workers Coordinating Committee