

2019 GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD

CHERYL STADNICHUK grew up in Guernsey, SK, and has been passionate about international and social justice issues since high school, where she raised money to attend a United Nations Association conference at Brandon University. In 1983, she was accepted into the Canada World Youth exchange program in Bolivia where she witnessed poverty, racism, class oppression and indigenous protests against land expropriation. While there she learned about colonialism and that the world didn't always resemble mock United Nations sessions.

Cheryl was one of the many Tools for Peace activists in the mid-80s who paired with farmers, church activists and health activists to conduct educational workshops around the province about Nicaragua. Cheryl then worked in Nicaragua with CUSO from 1989-1991.

Since 1996, Cheryl has been the researcher for CUPE Saskatchewan, and has been acting in an advisory role for their Global Justice Committee for most of the last 15 years. Over these years she has participated in, or coordinated many international solidarity tours and meetings connecting workers and human rights activists including supporting CUPE Local 974's (workers at the Saskatoon Community Clinic) solidarity



Cheryl (L) with Sandra Ramos, director of MEC centre for women

project with health care workers in Chile. More recently this has included arranging for Colombian human rights activist Berenice Celeyta to meet and speak with CUPE's Aboriginal Council about the struggles of indigenous people in Colombia who are fighting to protect their land and water from mining companies and paramilitary groups, and representing CUPE at a meeting with Global Affairs Canada and other unions, labour and human rights groups to discuss the Canadian government's assessment of human and labour rights in Colombia.

Her insightful analysis has made her an invaluable resource for Saskatchewan and Canadian trade unions and NGOs seeking to deepen their relationships and engagement with similar groups in the global south. Cheryl has one son, Tijash, who is studying to be a French teacher.