My name is Joanne Azevedo and I’m running for [CUPE 3903](https://href.li/?http://3903.cupe.ca) Treasurer.

I’m a third-year PhD candidate in Social Work at York. Before starting my PhD, I worked in frontline social work for over two decades, and have been a trade union activist throughout my working life. During that time, I held numerous union positions, including one as Chief Steward, one as Chairperson of the Political Action Committee, and one as picket captain while on strike. These experiences have given me extensive knowledge about the labour movement and how an effective trade union functions.

Over the past year as Treasurer, I have demonstrated a genuine commitment to democracy, accountability and transparency. Whenever members have had questions about my work, I have responded immediately and openly, and have always challenged decisions that were contrary to our bylaws or not good financial practices. The Treasurer must do this without hesitation – in order to safeguard the resources of our local.

During my term, I conducted the time-consuming research that was necessary to challenge [CUPE National](https://href.li/?http://cupe.ca)’s request for money that had been paid years ago. I also did the tasks required to complete our first-ever external audit. I continued the work of the last two treasurers, growing our strike fund to a healthy level. All these initiatives contribute toward the improvement of our local’s finances.

In addition, I have attended CUPE training for treasurers, and Preparation for Bargaining. I have worked tirelessly to facilitate our local’s participation in conventions, conferences and trainings because I believe that attendance at these events makes our local stronger. At the recent conference of the [Ontario University Workers Coordinating Committee](https://href.li/?http://www.cupe.on.ca/s36/university), I was elected to represent workers from our campus.

Based on my successful record as this year’s Treasurer, I hope you will vote for me in the upcoming by-election.