

**2014 Bob Rosen Social Justice Award Recipient
Karen Kilbride**

Social Justice is at the heart of Karen's work within the union and within her life. As a member of the BCTF's Committee for Action on Social Justice Status of Women Action Group, Karen played a key role in focussing the committee's work on the issue of polygamy in Bountiful. She was a principal organizer of a regional social justice conference focusing on this issue in Creston and worked extensively on the issue of women in polygamous communities in the university women's club. Karen has played an important role in the BCTF feminist caucus, helping to keep feminist issues in the spotlight within the BCTF by providing a forum to discuss these issues at AGMs and RAs. As a BCTF liaison to the BC Federation of Labour's Women's Committee, Karen raised teachers' concerns with this organization and helped organize the BCTF's participation in the BC Fed's women's summer school. Within her own local, Surrey, Karen has worked hard to advance equality for women and girls through organizing a Grade 7 girls conference that has taken place for the past 15 years. Karen has also supported social justice at the international level through her work with Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, which helps secure human rights for Afghan women and girls, and Canadian Harambee, which supports girls in completing secondary school in Kenya and Tanzania. Generations of students and BCTF members have benefited from Karen's commitment to social justice

(Adapted from the awards presentation speech, BCTF AGM, March, 2014)