

Lily Chang

Secretary-Treasurer

Canadian Labour Congress

Ottawa, Ontario

Lily Chang was elected secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) at the 29th Constitutional Convention in 2021. She is the first worker of East Asian descent elected to office at CLC. As CLC's secretary-treasurer, Chang oversees the organization's finances, guides the work of the Human Rights Department (including Indigenous and Disability Rights working groups), and represents CLC at the International Labour Organization. After obtaining a psychology degree from the University of Toronto, Chang started her career as a social services caseworker. She saw firsthand how inequality and racism were linked to poverty. The disparities Chang saw and the cuts to education affecting her children fueled her interest in labour work. She spent over three decades advocating for members at CUPE Local 79 and 13 years as the local's treasurer. While in that role, Chang led the acquisition of a building in downtown Toronto, solidifying the fiscal foundation of the organization. She also served as executive board member of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, chairing the Municipal Committee.