

### **Director Precarious Workers: Erin Pottie**

A growing number of Canadian media workers are being hired on a casual basis. Although they perform the same tasks as their counterparts, they're forced to accept lower wages and less benefits. Through my work with CMG's National Executive Committee, I've given a voice to precarious workers across the country. Part of this work includes guiding people to their CMG staff representative and encouraging new employees to know their rights in the workplace. I've also been setting up a taskforce of people who are employed on a temporary basis. This group will provide regular feedback on issues affecting them and their futures. What I've heard is many temps are feeling burned out by stress and the uncertainty of their ever-changing schedules. Some have spent years trying to prove themselves on the pipe dream of becoming permanent. CBC casuals, in particular, are frustrated by being shuffled into new positions so management can avoid converting them to permanent status. They're also frustrated by Workday, a new software system that makes getting paid more complicated. Workers at the Canadian Press and TVO have raised an alarm as their employer moves toward having temporary workers replace full-time permanent positions. And across the country, our print colleagues have shared stories about contract work becoming the norm. Employers are turning to precarious work as a way of cutting costs and increasing their profits. Unfortunately, it comes at the expense of a young workforce that is struggling both emotionally and financially. I would like to invite anyone involved in this type of temporary employment to contact me to share your concerns. My email is [erinpottie@gmail.com](mailto:erinpottie@gmail.com)