

My name is Marites Parman and I am the second youngest child born to a five-children family in the Western part of the Visayas, Philippines. Growing up, my family and I enjoyed spending time together through volunteering in our local community. We often served in our local church and helped with many grassroots initiatives that further supported the development of different community groups.

Back in the Philippines, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. There, I worked in a non-governmental organization in that field for two years before immigrating to Vancouver, Canada in 1995 with my family. Once there, I went back to school for my Health Care Aide Certificate in 1997, completely changing fields to provide a better life for my family. In 1998, I was hired on as a care aide at Renfrew Care Center and have been in this role until now. For two years, I have been the shop steward and was part of the bargaining committee, and I continue to work and advocate for the rights of my fellow healthcare professionals.

The pandemic brought much anxiety and uncertainty for all. Being able to advocate for my and my fellow colleagues' needs were of utmost importance, as all healthcare workers tirelessly cared for our clients and each other. Having one's needs heard and met are values that are important to me, which is why I enjoy the role of being a B.C. General Employees' Union (BCGEU) member.

I truly enjoy working in this field and look forward to working with my colleagues to promote a safe and inclusive environment where all healthcare professionals can succeed.