



305 Milner Ave, Suite 801
Scarborough, ON M1B 3V4
Phone: 416-299-9739 • Fax: 416-299-3480
Web: cupe.on.ca E-mail: info@cupe.on.ca

February 1, 2011

Black History Month

On behalf of CUPE Ontario's 240,000 members, we are very pleased to extend greetings and solidarity to all members of the Racial Justice Committee, all of our Equality Committees, and to all racialized workers across Ontario at the beginning of Black History Month.

Last Sunday, Fred had the privilege of attending the annual Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) Brunch in Toronto along with CUPE Ontario Diversity Vice-President Veriline Howe and others, to kick off Black History Month. Our province truly benefits from the work this organization has done in advancing our collective understanding of the many contributions African-Canadians have made here within Ontario, and across Canada.

Now, 15 years after the Federal Government first declared February to be National Black History Month, it is fitting that the theme for this year's events is "African-Canadian Builders of Canada."

As a society, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to all African Canadians for their many contributions, most still unrecognized, towards building a better Ontario. We must also celebrate the commitment and activism of African Canadian CUPE members, who along with other racialized members and equality seekers in CUPE, have worked hard to ensure that the struggle for a more just and equitable society is at the heart of the work of our Union.

While we celebrate our activism and the achievements toward equality, our members know that there is still much work to be done, and that the struggle for equality continues, in our society, in our workplaces and in our union. We encourage you to share the resources provided along with this statement to learn more about Black History Month, connect with organizations such as the OBHS and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) and find out about Black History Month events taking place across Ontario.

We must continually renew our commitment to racial equality and justice, both externally and internally. CUPE Ontario is committed to the work of all of our activists toward racial justice, with leadership along with members of all of our equality committees. We know that our entire union looks forward to the events of this month as an opportunity for just such renewal, both personally and collectively for our entire Union.

On behalf of the CUPE Ontario Executive Board and CUPE Ontario Staff, we extend warmest best wishes for a Black History Month that celebrates every success and renews our energy to continue the struggle for equality in the future.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Hahn".

Fred Hahn
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candace Rennick".

Candace Rennick
Secretary Treasurer

Fred Hahn
President

ONE STRONG VOICE

Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer

Black History Month Resources

Ontario Black History Society

<http://www.blackhistorysociety.ca/>

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Ontario

<http://cbtu.ca/>

Invitation to the OFL/CBTU Exhibition Feb 24-25

<http://ofl.ca/uploads/misc/2011-BlackHistoryMonth-Invitation.pdf>

And Still I Rise—Worker Arts and Heritage Centre Black History Month Exhibit

<http://www.wahc-museum.ca/commgallery.php>

ec:cope491