

November 2009

## TO ALL CUPE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

### WORLD AIDS DAY – DECEMBER 1

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

HIV and AIDS remain a catastrophic problem for millions of people worldwide, including in Canada. The number of Aboriginal people living with HIV and AIDS is growing at an alarming rate of 2.8 times higher than non-Aboriginal. Numbers are also up for Canadian women. CUPE recognizes that tackling HIV/AIDS requires the labour movement and civil society to continue to work for full equality of women, lesbians, gays, bisexual and trans people, racialized groups, and Aboriginal peoples here and globally as inequality is inextricably tied to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The truth is that HIV and AIDS can be defeated at home and abroad. CUPE remains committed to protect members living with HIV and AIDS, and those who work with those who live with HIV and AIDS. We are committed to continuing our international support to the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Canadian Labour Congress AIDS Fund.

Through the Strategic Directions Document passed at our recent national convention CUPE recommitted to assist in the fight to eliminate HIV and AIDS. This upcoming World AIDS Day requires that CUPE members, locals, divisions and all chartered organizations recommit to educate members about HIV and AIDS. We must develop local, provincial, national and international partnerships with AIDS organizations, negotiate anti-discrimination language as well as sick leave and health care benefits to protect members living with HIV and AIDS into our collective agreements. We also must contribute to an updated HIV and AIDS policy for the union and help with setting a work plan on HIV and AIDS to keep the union in the forefront in the fight.

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We urge CUPE members, staff, locals and divisions to participate in **World AIDS Day** events in your community. However the HIV and AIDS fight needs much more than one day of action. We urge that you support initiatives throughout the year. Proudly wear the red ribbon and take part in the walk in your community on December 1 and then commit to continuing to fight HIV and AIDS at your workplace, in your local and your community.

Please pass on information about your actions to fight HIV and AIDS. We would love to hear from you. Send the information to the Equality Branch at [cupe.ca/equality](http://cupe.ca/equality).

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST  
National President



CLAUDE GÉNÉREUX  
National Secretary-Treasurer