

January 2010

TO ALL CUPE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

FEBRUARY – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every February, Canadians have celebrated Black History Month since 1995. It's a time when members of Black Communities can celebrate, promote the history and share the cultural heritage and the contributions made by Canadians of African Origin to our union, to our country and around the world. It is also a great time to learn about and appreciate how these contributions have enriched our society.

Creating awareness of the contributions made by Blacks to our society will help create role models for African Canadian youth and make them feel more affirmed. The broader Canadian community needs to know a history of Canada that includes all of the founding and pioneering experiences in order to work from reality, rather than perception alone. It is important to note that African Canadians as a people have roots in this country dating back to 1603.

In celebrating Black History Month this year, we again invite you to let us know what you, your local or division do to celebrate this Month and what it means to you. Your stories and activities will be used on CUPE's website to raise awareness and promote better understanding about the significance of this important month.

Please send us information about your activities, photographs and tell us what Black History Month means to you, your family and community. Send your stories to equality@cupe.ca.

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For further information and activities update around Black History Month celebrations please visit the following sites:

Black History at the City of Toronto Archives
www.toronto.ca/archives/blackhistory.htm

Canadian Black Heritage in the Third Millennium
<http://fcis.oise.utoronto.ca/~gpieters/blklinks.html>

Canadian Race Relations Foundation
www.crr.ca

Committee to Commemorate and Memorialize the Abolition of the Slave Trade (CMAST)
www.cmast.ca

Ontario Black History Society
www.blackhistorysociety.ca/

Toronto Public Library
www.tpl.toronto.on.ca

Toronto Cultural Centres
www.toronto.ca/culture/calendar.htm

The Underground Railroad Years
collections.ic.gc.ca

Voice Print Canada
www.voiceprintcanada.com

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
www.cbtu.ca

Thank you and have a Great Black History Month!

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CLAUDE GÉNÉREUX
National Secretary-Treasurer