

April 2010

## TO ALL CUPE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

### MAY IS ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH IN CANADA

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

May is Asian Heritage Month. The annual event is celebrated to acknowledge the long and rich history of Asian Canadians and their contributions to Canada. It is a cultural celebration to honour the legacy of Asian Canadians, who throughout history have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation we know today. Like African Heritage Month, Asian Heritage Month has its roots in the United States, where it has been observed since 1977. Toronto was the first Canadian city to participate, in 1993, though it was not officially declared a national observance until 2001. May 1 marks the beginning of a month-long national observance. Canada's vibrant cultural tapestry enriches the lives of its citizens every day. It is important for each of us to reflect this month on how cultural diversity strengthens our nation, and to celebrate Asian cultures and the contributions of Asian Canadians to our communities.

As our communities become more diverse, cross-cultural understanding is increasingly important – especially among our youth, our future leaders. Let us take this opportunity to educate ourselves and to participate or attend festivities honouring Asian Heritage this May. By celebrating Asian Heritage Month, CUPE hopes to raise awareness and to build solidarity among our members to strengthen our collective fight for social and economic justice.

Please take the opportunity to celebrate Asian Heritage Month with your family, friends, neighbours and co-workers. We invite you to let us know what you, your local or division will be doing to celebrate this Month and what it means to you. Please send us information about your activities, including photographs, and tell us what Asian Heritage means to you, your family and the community. Send them to [equality@cupe.ca](mailto:equality@cupe.ca). Your stories and activities will be used on CUPE's website to raise awareness. For the stories and other links, please visit [www.cupe.ca](http://www.cupe.ca).

Have a great Asian Heritage Month!

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST  
National President



CLAUDE GÉNÉREUX  
National Secretary-Treasurer

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PAUL MOIST – National President / Président national CLAUDE GÉNÉREUX – National Secretary-Treasurer / Secrétaire-trésorier national

DANIEL LÉGÈRE – LUCIE LEVASSEUR – BARRY O'NEILL – KEVIN REBECK – PATRICK (SID) RYAN – General Vice-Presidents / Vice-présidents généraux

