

January 11, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Happy New Year to you and all the best for 2016. I wish you a Healthy and Prosperous year.

Last year, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists worked closely and in partnership with organizations like the Zero Gun Violence Program, the African Canadian Legal Clinic, and Black Lives Matter, Canadian Labour Congress and Jamaican Canadian Association on various projects like the second African Canadian Summit, The Freedom Train and The Traveling Sticks.

2015 was a year of firsts. We introduced 2 new sub-committees; our young workers - under 40 committee and our retirees' committee. We also held our first golf tournament in support of our scholarships and, thanks to you, it was a tremendous success. It allowed us to add a new post-secondary scholarship for a young woman.

2016 marks our 20<sup>th</sup> year, and we have a very exciting year ahead. We have already launched our new logo, we will double our efforts to influence policies that impact our communities, we will do whatever is necessary to grow the organization and ensure that we continue along a progressive path.

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support in making 2015 a success.

Your 2016 membership is now due. Please remember if you are planning to attend our International Convention, you must be a member in good standing. The 2016 membership must be paid no later than **March 31, 2016** if you want to be able to attend this year's International Convention in Washington DC, from Wednesday May, 25 2016 to Sunday May 30, 2016. Packages will be mailed out in early February to **paid up members**. ***Please send membership dues directly to the CBTU Ontario Chapter headquarters no later than March 31, 2016 and make sure the forms are complete with current information including an email address and current telephone number.*** If you have not already submitted an email address and full contact information, please do so by sending an email to [mcwalker64@hotmail.com](mailto:mcwalker64@hotmail.com), the Chapter's Membership Secretary. ***This way you can be updated with the latest information.***

The CBTU's mission is to encourage and support the full participation of Black workers and workers of colour in their Unions, as well as to organize and maximize our political influence with the labour movement and other stakeholders. It is critical that the Coalition plays a major role in educating and mobilizing members in order to create the type of workplace and society that we want and need for present and future generations.

There will be many opportunities for you to participate in the Ontario Chapter's activities throughout the year. This year we are determined to build this organization to be stronger and more influential than ever before.

Join one of our committees in 2016 and be a part of the change.

We encourage you to attend our meetings and events and keep in touch.

We look forward to communicating with you and please do not hesitate to pass on ideas, suggestions and comments.

**Our next General Membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2016, at 35 Siltan Rd., Vaughan – 6:30 pm.**

**Please RSVP to Yolanda McClean at [yolanda.mcclean@cupe4400.org](mailto:yolanda.mcclean@cupe4400.org) or call 416-885-6395 if you plan to attend.**

Peace and Solidarity,

CBTU Executive