

**CUPE BC Workers of Colour Committee**  
**Report to Convention – April 2018**

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The Workers of Colour Committee has been instrumental in breaking down barriers within the labour movement and promoting behaviour that works towards eliminating racism and discrimination within our society.

This is a critical time as racism and hate crimes are escalating throughout Canada. There are currently more complaints of racism and hate crime than at any time since the 1990s when hate groups held public rallies and marches in the Lower Mainland and interior of B.C.

On behalf of the members, this last year we have continued to make gains for diversity and inclusiveness in our union and communities. Our fight on the issues of racial justice and equality in our union and society is far from over. We will continue to mobilize ourselves, our members and work together with our allies on all fronts. The committee continues to:

- Promote and defend the rights of all Workers of Colour.
- Work to improve the working conditions of Workers of Colour.
- Promote resources that advance employment equity and the rights and protections of Workers of Colour through collective bargaining.
- Work towards the elimination of anti-black racism and the elimination of all racism wherever and whenever it exists.
- Work to improve the understanding of the perspectives of Workers of Colour among CUPE members, employers and communities through education.

- Participate in coalitions, lobbies and other political organizing activities that promote and defend the human rights of Workers of Colour.
- Support and work in collaboration with other CUPE Committees and Working Groups to achieve common goals.
- We are very active in supporting, promoting and engaging Workers of Colour in our communities. Along with regular union activism such as supporting stewarding.
- We have devised a new campaign #CUPEBCIncludesMe. It is to showcase how CUPE BC supports members in advancing their skills, achieving their goals and educating members. We are hoping members will use the hashtag in all instagram posts in what they are doing as activists in racial equality.

Here is a short list of some of the activities members of the committee have attended:

Brenda Moores:

- Attended Vaisakhi in Vancouver
- Pacific Blue Cross picket support
- Vancouver anti-racism rally
- Pacific Blue Cross AGM
- Rallied against Culture Guard and anti-SOGI protestors
- Facilitated Human Rights workshop at CUPE Spring School
- CUPE National Convention - Toronto

Edward Parsotam

- Attended Vaisakhi in Surrey
- National Convention 2017 - Toronto

- Women's March - Vancouver
- Surrey Fusion Festival
- BC Fed Conference - Victoria
- CLC Conference - Toronto

#### Maria Ho

- On March 8, Maria attended events to celebrate International Women's Day, organized by UBC Equity & Inclusion Office.
- Maria will be attending the CUPE BC 2018 Convention and then be performing with her jazz quartet at the evening reception on April 18th at 9pm.
- In November 2017, Maria attended *Herstory in Focus: Celebrating Culture* held at The Vancouver Art Gallery to raise money for The Downtown Eastside Centre. *Herstory in Focus* included a fashion show performed by women of the Downtown Eastside Centre, a drumming performance by the Wildflower Women of Turtle Island, an address by long-time donor and supporter Cynthia Low, and an auction emceed by Global TV's Lynn Colliar. In February 2016, Maria donated socks to Brentwood Church for the *Footsore No More* program at First United Church at Hastings and Gore in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside to help the homeless with clean feet and dry socks.

#### Nick Angrignon

- United Way GenNext Cabinet (Co-Chair)
- CUPE National convention
- CLC National conference
- Vigil for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
- Successfully passed a constitutional amendment at the local level to restructure our executive board and add a diversity seat.

### Drew Parris

- Colten Bousche Rally at Vancouver Public Library
- CUPE National convention

### Alistair Maduray

- Worked for MELANIE Mark as Volunteer Co-Ordinator; helped to get her re-elected. Worked on George Heyman, George Chow and Ann Kang's campaigns door knocking and getting the vote out.
- Marched in rallies for our Aboriginal brothers and sisters.
- Supported our sisters at the Women's March.

### Michele Alexander

- Vigil for Missing & Murdered Women
- CUPE National Convention Toronto & Co-Chaired Racialized Workers caucuses daily
- Westcoast Leaf Breakfast
- Board member of National Congress of Black Women Foundation
- Helped plan & attended three events for Black History Month
- Member of City of Vancouver Diversity Committee
- Member of City of Vancouver Black History month committee
- Attended Black History Month event at City of Vancouver
- Pacific Blue Cross AGM
- Summer Institute for Union Women – Honolulu, HI
- CUPE Metro International Women's Day event

### Amir Bagheri

- CUPE National Convention Toronto
- Tricity Iranian New Year

This year the committee continues to maintain a webpage on the CUPE BC website, and actively posts links to Workers of Colour information, resources and cultural events. Please visit the webpage for more information. (See website link below).

- <http://www.cupe.bc.ca/committees/workersofcolour>

The Workers of Colour Committee would like to thank Paul Faoro (President), Trevor Davies (Secretary-Treasurer) and the CUPE BC Executive Board. In closing, we would also like to thank our dedicated staff rep Zoe Magnus, Cheryl Colbourne (Human Rights Representative) and Dan Gawthrop (Communications) for their guidance and support to the Committee. Last but not least – a special thanks and SHOUT OUT to the Administrative Assistants for their tireless work for all Committees - Darci Schmid, Shirley Loftus, Kristi Bounegru and Lori Watt. Huge thank you to Sharon Prescott for all her support for the Equity Night events along with all the things she does to make convention run smoothly.

Respectfully submitted:

Michele Alexander, Chair  
Alistair Maduray, Co-Chair  
Nicholas Angrignon  
Amir Bagheri  
Ravneet Dhillon  
Joyce Henley  
Maria Ho  
Nigel Martyres  
Brenda Moores  
Inder Pannu  
Drew Parris  
Edwards Parsotam  
Dan Gawthrop – Staff Advisor  
Zoe Magnus – Staff Advisor

April 2018

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