

October 2015

TO ALL CUPE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

DECEMBER 1 – WORLD AIDS DAY

World AIDS Day, held each year since 1988 on December 1, raises awareness of the HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) epidemic, and the issues that surround HIV and AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). Most importantly, we mourn and honour those who have died of the disease.

In 2012, CUPE adopted an updated policy on HIV and AIDS. This World AIDS Day we launch the CUPE HIV and AIDS toolkit to support CUPE members and locals across the country to bring attention to the impact of the epidemic, and to take action by making a difference in your workplaces and communities. We can get involved across the country and around the globe.

The toolkit includes the new booklet “CUPE’s national policy on HIV and AIDS: A labour response to the epidemic”, to help promote discussion with our members and community about some of the issues and context surrounding HIV and AIDS. It includes the CUPE policy and suggestions about what members can do to make a difference. To help raise awareness, we have created a new HIV and AIDS poster that can be displayed in your locals, workplaces and at community events. The artwork was produced by local Ottawa artist, Andrea Stokes.

CUPE Health and Safety has produced an updated HIV and AIDS fact sheet that will provide members with basic information, and can be a good starting point to help build awareness and understanding. The HIV and AIDS bargaining checklist is a tool for local unions, bargaining committees, members and other activists, to support workers who are infected and were affected by HIV and AIDS.

This World AIDS Day, let us join together to take action and bring attention to the impact of HIV/AIDS. Together we can protect all workers, defend human and labour rights, and speak out for strong, healthy communities and workplaces.

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All materials can be downloaded or ordered online at cupe.ca/hiv-aids.

For more information please contact CUPE Equality Branch at equality@cupe.ca.

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer