



# Carpenters' District Council of Ontario

United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America

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## For immediate release!

Carpenters Union recognizes Black History Month, February 2022 with strong support across Ontario!

Workers in Canada deserve a safe equitable workplace, discrimination threatens the rich social fabric of our communities and country. The Carpenters Union commits to standing up for the rights and dignity of our members in all of our communities. Celebrating and recognizing Black History Month is a part of that.

Across Ontario, Canada and North America, the Carpenters Union has been a home for new immigrants from around the world and a leader in the workplace on workers' rights, working conditions and training/ skills development. Standing up for workers to challenge racism, sexism and unjust treatment is part and parcel of our core values.

This year, in order to send a message of solidarity with Workers of Colour the Carpenters District Council of Ontario is collaborating with the Carpenters National office to promote awareness of Black History Month on jobsites across Ontario.

### Quotes:

A statement from Canadian Vice President Jason Rowe is unequivocal in its clarity:

"February 2022 marks the 26<sup>th</sup> celebration of Black History Month in Canada. Yet, despite 26 years of recognizing the history combined with decades of effort, education and calls to action, systemic anti-Black racism continues to exist in our country. It lives prevalently in many sectors, including the construction industry. Sadly, and disturbingly, UBC members face discrimination and hateful acts of violence and crime to this day. And it needs to stop. Safety, diversity and inclusion are the number one priority for the UBC Canadian District and our goal is to protect our members by eliminating racism, discrimination and xenophobia of all forms. We, as a Union, will continue our fight to make a difference and address injustices because every worker deserves to be respected and have the right to a safe workplace. Although I recognize that Black History Month is a time to celebrate and honor the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present, it's also a stark reminder of the work we have yet to complete in our efforts to combat systemic racism"

District Vice President, Jason Rowe

And, on a provincial level Chris Campbell, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion representative of the CDCO backed up the statements by VP Rowe with these comments:

“On behalf of the membership, staff and leadership of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBCJA) happy Black History Month Canada! The diversity of our membership is one of our biggest attributes and proudest legacies.” “I am grateful to the Black leaders who went before us, and that built the structures upon which we stand today!”

The union is proud of its track record of challenging racism in all its forms on jobsites and in our communities and of our collaboration with Mayor John Tory’s office and the broader construction sector’s unions, employers and developers in crafting the “Toronto Declaration of Inclusive Workplace and Communities” which can be found on the City of Toronto website here: <http://www.constructiondeclaration.ca/>

The union was pleased that its staff and members joined with community members in the summer of 2020 to build awareness of and a challenge to anti-Black racism during a summer of public rallies, in this we joined with communities on a global level and were part of true social change. This year, in 2022, we look forward to improving the language on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion within the Carpenters Provincial Collective Agreement to be re-negotiated this spring. Messaging on celebrating and recognizing Black History Month 2022 will take place on all of the Unions social media platforms and be noted and discussed on construction jobsites across Ontario.

About the Carpenters District Council of Ontario (CDCO):

The Carpenters District Council of Ontario (CDCO) is comprised of 16 affiliated Local Unions, including 3,000 members of HOPE Local 2220 (primarily healthcare) as part of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners an international union of 500,000 members. In total across Ontario, we represent 30,000 women and men working in a wide range of skilled trades, including carpentry, drywall, resilient flooring, concrete formwork, millwork, underwater construction, scaffolding and a long list of other construction related work.

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