

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Comrades:

I salute all my CUPW members for their very hard work in serving the public. I salute all frontline workers, many of who are women, and racialized people, who have been putting their lives and their health on the line every day in order to serve the public. I especially want to say thank you to those who keep us fed, who took care of our health, who take care of our children, and who deliver needed goods to us. It is we the workers, not the corporations who are ensuring that we get through this crisis.

On this Labour Day, we need to remind each other why we must continue to fight for our rights. Not only the rights of unionized workers, but everyone. The pandemic has exposed the Liberal Government negligence in addressing the public on the way to proceed in the most healthful and beneficial way. The corporations, capitalists, and the one percenters do not care about the health and safety of the workers but care only about their bottom line.

We must fight. We must be heard. We must insist that the post-pandemic recovery should be based on justice. We must have a just recovery in which people's health and well-being take precedence over profit; where our public services are bolstered to serve all the people and not the wealthy few. We build solidarity and equity across communities, generations, and borders; that we uphold Indigenous rights and work in partnership with Indigenous peoples. The colonial framework is solely responsible for the systemic racism that still exists today. It must be dismantled.

CUPW is still angered and dismayed at being legislated back to work twice. We were held hostage by a mediation process that took months. We will continue to fight for all unionized workers legitimate right to strike and bargain freely. A democratic system ensures that workers rights are respected. This did not happen. Let us also remember that our fight for dignity and respect produce results. After 20 years of struggle, CUPW finally got pay equity for the RSMC'S. The contingent of which is mostly women.

Capitalism is also responsible for the 'gig' economy. We fight against 'gig' economy because it is a means for corporations to quash workers and gain profits on the backs of the 'gig' workers. As an example we organized food couriers, this during the midst of the pandemic. The Ontario Labour Board awarded a decision that Foodora could unionize. This is a first in Canada and resulted in a \$3.46 million for these 'gig' workers.

CUPW is committed to helping non-unionized workers. In January 2020, we launched a Warehouse Workers' Centre in Peel. This was done to allow access to resources and information to workers.

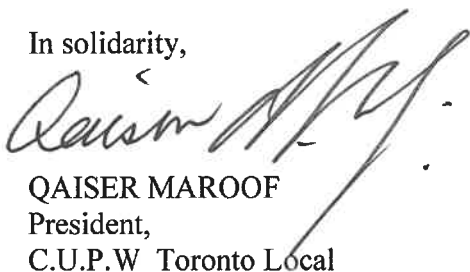
Climate change is happening and we all are struggling with time. But TIME is running out.

The past few months have clearly shown that Black people are targets for the Police in both Canada and the U.S. Several unarmed Black people have been murdered by police brutality and violence. This is also happening in Canada and in our own back yards. Our indigenous people have been the scapegoat since colonization. This systemic racism must be stopped

- We want to live next to each other;
- This Planet has room for everyone;
- A life free of oppression and economic slavery;
- A life free of hatred, racism and classism;
- Today, we all must unite against corporate profits and fight for all workers rights;
- Capital greed and profit has poisoned the human soul;
- Capital greed and profit has barricaded the world with hate;
- We need humanity more than machinery;
- We need strong and universal solidarity;
- We need to stop the system that allows workers to suffer as a result of colour, race, religion;
- We cannot lose hope;
- We must remember the boss always fears solidarity of workers;
- You, You the people, have the power;
- The Power to change the ruling class;
- The Power to change the system;
- The Power to make life free and beautiful for all of our sisters, brothers and comrades;
- The Power in the name of Freedom;
- The Power in the name of Democracy;
- We must use our power collectively;
- We must all Unite;
- Let us, the workers, become the ruling class; and
- Let us lead all to a just, fair and equitable society for all

**‘THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES’**

In solidarity,



QAISER MAROOF  
President,  
C.U.P.W Toronto Local

SEPTEMBER 22/20