

ABOUT THE CBTU

## DEFINED BY EQUALITY, ROOTED IN UNITY.

SINCE 1996, a group of trade unionists have been advocating within their unions and central labour bodies to put issues of racism and discrimination (in the workplace and unions) higher on labour's agenda. During this period, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists was established and a concerted effort was made for affirmative action seats for racial minorities on the CLC and OFL boards.

At the 1987 OFL Convention, delegates elected Brother Herman Stewart of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union as the first person of colour to the provincial labour organization.

Following this success, the Coalition redoubled its efforts to force change at the national level. At the 1990 CLC Convention in Montreal, Brother Dory Smith challenged the slate and ended up with over a thousand votes.

The following convention, the CLC was considering one seat for a visible minority, but the Coalition by this time had been advocating for two seats. As part of its lobbying efforts, the Coalition made a button - ONE + ONE = 2. This button was given to anyone who had the courage to wear it. By the end of this Convention, two visible minorities were on the CLC Board.

It should be noted that the Coalition had not limited its efforts to seats on the Boards of the CLC and OFL, but was raising the under-representation of blacks and racial minorities on the staff of unions as well. To highlight the systemic exclusion, the Coalition began a report card on the hiring practices of unions.

In November 1995, the Coalition decided it was time to seek affiliation to the parent organization and applied for a chapter charter in January 1996. CBTU, an organization with about 44 chapters across the United States, approved the application at its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention in Miami Beach, Florida in May 1996.

CBTU will sustain its efforts to raise issues of concern to black workers and workers of colour in unions across Canada.

We will also build the participation of workers of colour in their unions by attracting new members.



WWW.CBTU.CA

**CBTU WILL** work within the framework of the trade union movement to advocate for black trade unionists and create a vehicle for advancing the inclusion of workers of African-descent in all spheres of our society;

**CBTU WILL** challenge public policies based upon right wing ideologies that seek to undermine workers rights and perpetuate a culture of white supremacy including conservative "right-to-work" policies; contracting-out practices; back-to-work legislation and all other forms of attacks on Labour and workers of colour;

**CBTU WILL** challenge systemic forms of racism within the Labour Movement itself by promoting access and opening doors for black workers and workers of colour within their Unions.



**CBTU offers a wide variety of committees for dedicated members who wish to get more involved. Are you interested in joining a committee?**

Please check off the committees you're most interested in from the list below.

- By-Law Committee
- Leadership Committee
- Political Action Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Women's Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Men's Committee
- Resolutions/Constitution Committee
- Social Committee
- Youth Committee





**CBTU ONTARIO CHAPTER  
MEMBERSHIP  
PACKAGE**



### ONTARIO CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you wish to become a member, please check one of the boxes and make a cheque or money order payable to:

*COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS*

- International Officer \$155.00
- Staff \$80.00
- Rank and File \$35.00
- Retirees \$20.00
- Information Only \$25.00

**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

UNION AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TODAY'S DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK ONE**

- I would like to join CBTU
- I am renewing my membership
- Please note my change of address

**PLEASE MAIL TO**

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
Ontario/Canada Chapter  
c/o Yolanda McClean (President)  
1482 Bathurst Street, Suite 200  
Toronto, ON M5P 3H1

**A MEMBERSHIP CYCLE SPANS FROM JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> TO DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> OF EACH YEAR**

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