

LABOUR PLAYS A VALUABLE ROLE IN OUR HISTORY, ECONOMY AND FUTURE



This is a pivotal moment for the Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (Friends) and for our valued supporters, who are keenly aware of this one-of-a-kind museum's great potential to educate and inspire generations to come. It is a project that aspires to achieve something never done before, and that requires unprecedented effort.

As members of the Labour movement understand, trail blazing is an arduous task. A project as monumental as building Canada's first museum for human rights has certainly not been without challenges. At this juncture, the Museum is facing an increase in capital costs. Friends is working diligently to raise needed funds to complete building and exhibit construction, and educational programming that will engage visitors in meaningful dialogue around human rights issues and demonstrate the key message that injustice, inequality and inequity can be solved by action. Despite the hurdles, we are more determined than ever to meet our goal and remain 100% committed to opening the Museum so it can begin the important work of making our country and world a more peaceful and respectful place for all.

This issue shines a spotlight on some of the many Labour groups committed to telling Canada's human rights story through the Museum. Backed by the approval of their members, they have given their time and resources to this project, and their unwavering commitment is deeply appreciated. Stuart Murray, President and CEO of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights said, "Labour has been an important contributor in the development of Canada's first national Museum to be located outside of the National Capital Region – from early and continued support in fundraising efforts, to participation in our national public engagement efforts, to the many dedicated men and women working on our construction site and within our Museum every day."

This pride was echoed by Todd Craigen, PCL's Construction Manager for the Museum project, who stated, "PCL is a big supporter of trade unions in Manitoba. Our self-performed concrete structure crew made up of carpenters, labourers, as well as the structural steel ironworkers, mechanical contractors and electrical subcontractors are all union."

Museum visitors will not only learn from historical events such as the Winnipeg General Strike but will be challenged to remain vigilant and poised to take action to ensure the rights of all workers are protected. Many Labour milestones – pay equity, vacation, health care, the right to strike, the freedom to choose beneficiaries and much more – were battles hard fought and won by trade unions and are an important part of Canada's human rights story.

On behalf of Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, we applaud your meaningful efforts to date and thank you for your continued support in 2012 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dav Cvitkovic".

Dav Cvitkovic, Chief Executive Officer
Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights
www.friendsofcmhr.com

LABOUR: A NATURAL PARTNERSHIP

Canadian Auto Workers Union

“Labour, especially in these economic times, must have its priorities, but there can’t be a bigger priority than advocating for human rights,” says Ken Lewenza, President of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Union.

CAW, with an estimated 191,000 members representing every major sector including manufacturing and transportation, has contributed \$300,000 to Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.



**KEN LEWENZA, PRESIDENT
OF THE CANADIAN AUTO
WORKERS UNION**

“Each day we read about human rights violations and learn more about the need to advance human dignity from one country to another. If the Museum can be successful in raising the profile of human rights and making folks aware of the documented challenges and victories we have had locally, nationally and internationally – it’s good for the labour movement.”

Lewenza says that even to this day, the Union is fighting labour violations here at home, which only emphasizes the need for a national human rights museum.

“The issue of human rights is one we take very seriously. For example, we have taken on an employer in Ontario who utilized foreign workers. Even then, if foreign workers work within a collective bargaining agreement situation where it’s unionized, they are entitled to the same conditions as other workers. But in this case, they paid the workers differently, treated them differently and housed them differently. There were even allegations of abuse,” Lewenza says, adding that CAW used its resources to take the employer to court, where he was found guilty of assault.

“We have a saying in our union that labour rights are human rights – you can’t separate the two,” he says. “That’s why when we talk about educating people and establishing a culture of respecting human rights and what they stand for, the Museum is a natural partner for the CAW relative to what kind of vision we want for Canada.”

REMEMBERING OUR HUMAN RIGHTS HISTORY

Canadian Union of Public Employees



**FRIENDS’ NATIONAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR GAIL ASPER
WITH PAUL MOIST, PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN
UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND CMHR HUMAN
RIGHTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER**

The history of human rights, or in some cases, the lack thereof, is essential education for current and future generations, says Paul Moist, President of the 610,000-member strong Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which donated \$250,000 in support of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

“Trade unions have been in the forefront of broad human rights struggles and have fought politically for the expression of those rights and statutes,” Moist says. “Part of Canada’s history of human rights is Canada’s history of labour rights. Some of it is to be celebrated; some may not be as pleasant but it should not be forgotten as it is all important.”

Moist first became involved with the Museum in an advisory capacity during its inception stages.

“Labour was approached early on about Israel Asper’s vision for the Museum and it was obvious from the get-go how this project will make Canada a better place,” Moist says, emphasizing the importance of commemorating the victories as well as reflecting on times in history when the labour movement didn’t have the success it wanted.

“These stories are worth telling and retelling because history has a way of repeating itself. Workers in many countries still aspire to have the opportunities that we as Canadians have forged for ourselves. We tend to forget that some of the rights we take for granted haven’t been extended to even half the countries in the world,” he says.

“The Canadian Museum for Human Rights will teach us our own stories and in the process of doing that, we can in turn make a contribution to needed human rights discourse around the planet.”

LOCAL LABOUR BUILDS FROM THE GROUND UP

Manitoba Building and Construction Trades Council

Last May, the Manitoba Building & Construction Trades Council, a non-profit umbrella organization representing 14 building trade unions, presented a cheque for \$150,000 to Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

The donation, made at the Energy for Canada: Building Trade Unions Fueling Growth conference in Ottawa, was a contribution from both the Council and the Trades Hall Association of Winnipeg.

“We were pleased to make this donation to the Museum, which we see as being a worthwhile project for our community and for our entire country,” says Ron Stecy, Executive Director of the Manitoba Building & Construction Trades Council.

Stecy’s predecessor, David Martin, helmed the organization at the time the Council presented its gifts and in addition, helped facilitate a \$20,000 donation from the Allied Hydro Council of Manitoba.

The Manitoba Building & Construction Trades Council, representing over 6,000 members in the province’s construction industry, is also proud to have had its members working on the building site of the Museum over the past three years.

“Our country’s building and trades people have contributed so much to what Canada is today. The fact that close to 35 per cent of our working population belongs to organized labour says a lot about who we are and what we do,” Stecy says.

“The provincial labour movement participated in much of Manitoba’s history, including the 1919 General Strike,” he explains. “The building trades unions have worked toward ensuring safe workplaces, fair wages, pensions and health care benefits for workers in the construction industry. We are very proud of our history, and knowing that the Canadian Museum for Human Rights will be taking up our interests and helping to tell this story through their upcoming programs and exhibits means a great deal.”



THE MANITOBA BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL PRESENTED A CHEQUE TO FRIENDS IN OTTAWA LAST MAY.

RESPECT AND DIGNITY FOR ALL

United Food & Commercial Workers Union

For UFCW Local 832, the largest private sector union in Manitoba representing more than 15,000 workers, giving to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights is a natural extension of the union’s purpose.

“We’ve always fought for workers’ rights,” says UFCW Local 832 President Jeff Traeger. “When we have success at the bargaining table, those successes affect all workers.”

Traeger, the provincial representative on UFCW’s Human Rights Equity and Diversity Committee, explains that Manitoba was the first province to organize seasonal agricultural workers, and yet it is still an ongoing struggle to ensure fair treatment.

“By representing about 2,000 foreign workers through the Provincial Nominee Program, we are helping them as part of our most recent efforts to forward human rights,” he says. “We want to say to these people, ‘If you’re good enough to work in Canada, you’re good enough to be treated with the same rights as any Canadian worker.’ And because of what we, the provincial government and Manitobans have been able to achieve, once these workers get their landed immigrant status, they’re bringing their families here to live. Those are the kind of success stories we want to tell.”

In recognition of its efforts in breaking down the barriers that exist for members as well as to educate and embrace the evolving diversity of the province, UFCW Local 832 and its training centre were honoured to receive this year’s Human Rights Commitment Award of Manitoba.

Retired UFCW Local 832 President Robert Ziegler, who was instrumental in the contributions made from Local 832 and the national office for \$100,000 respectively, says supporting the Museum was an obvious decision.

“Not only does it match our primary goals of respect and dignity for workers, but we appreciate that the Museum will not be one-dimensional,” Ziegler says. “It is going to be constantly evolving – showing issues of the past as well as constantly updating personal stories of challenge and triumph. We want to be part of that.”



L-R: UFCW LOCAL 832 PRESIDENT JEFF TRAEGER, FORMER PRESIDENT ROBERT ZIEGLER, LOCAL 832’S EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIRECTOR HEATHER GRANT-JURY, AND GAIL ASPER.

GET INVOLVED



As Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights looks toward the future, the vision of a world where people take personal responsibility for the preservation and enhancement of human rights in Canada and around the world burns brighter than ever before. Much has been accomplished with our Labour sector partners, and much more remains to be done.

To every person, trade union, company or organization already involved in our exciting journey, profound gratitude is expressed. You are the ones who are transforming the vision into reality and we are grateful for your passionate involvement and generous contributions.

To those not yet involved, including other labour organizations, we can assure you there is plenty of room for you to join us at the table. Please pick up the phone, a cheque book or whatever else will enable you to become a partner. You will find a warm welcome awaits you.

To make a contribution, set up a workplace campaign to benefit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, or join our nationwide campaign team, please contact:

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CONTACT US

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WITH OUR GRATITUDE

We wish to recognize and thank the following groups for their generous support of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights totalling \$1,378,558:

Allied Hydro Council of Manitoba

British Columbia Government & Service Employees Union

Canadian Auto Workers Union

Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions

Canadian Union of Public Employees

Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada

CUPE Local 2330

CUPE Local 3873

CUPE Local 4593

CUPE Local 949

Manitoba Building and Construction Trades Council

Manitoba Federation of Labour

Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union

Manitoba Nurses Union

Manitoba Nurses Union Assiniboine Local

Manitoba Nurses Union Parkland Region Local

National Union of Public and General Employees

New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees

Ontario Public Service Employees Union

Public Service Alliance of Canada – Prairie Region

Saskatchewan Union of Nurses

Seven Oaks Nurses Union

The Alberta Teachers' Association

The Manitoba Teachers' Society

Trades Hall Association of Winnipeg

Union of Canadian Transportation Employees

Union of Environment Workers / Syndicat des travailleurs de l'environnement

United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg

United Food and Commercial Workers Canada Local 832

United Food and Commercial Workers Canada

Victoria Nurses Local 3

UNION **UFCW** LABEL
LOCAL **CANADA** 832