

# Human Rights Activist



## SEIU LOCAL 1 CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

SEIU Local 1 Canada's Human Rights Committee monitors human rights abuses in our communities and generates human rights campaigns on issues like equality, diversity, discrimination and sexual orientation. The committee is focused on eliminating four areas of discrimination. They are:

**Racial & ethnic discrimination.** Racism is an unfortunate reality in Canada. It cannot continue to exist in one of the most multicultural and peaceful nations in the world. SEIU will invest resources into events and campaigns that foster ethnic and racial self-esteem.

**Prejudice against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people (GLBT).** GLBT communities have been asserting themselves in every culture throughout the world. SEIU supports activities and cultural events that reduce negative stereotypes about the GLBT community.

**Lack of access for the disabled.** People with disabilities make big contributions when given the chance. SEIU calls upon business, government and non-profit organizations to give disabled people the keys to succeed at home, at work and in the public square.

**Economic Rights.** No one living in a country as wealthy as Canada should be living in poverty. Yet millions of hard-working Canadians can barely make ends meet. The committee supports efforts to improve the standard of living for those who are living in poverty.

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## SEIU sponsors hip-hop festival

SEIU Local 1 Canada is helping change the face of youth culture by sponsoring the Stop the Violence hip-hop cultural festival in Toronto this summer.

The focus of this festival will be how popular youth culture, such as music, fashion and art, can be used as a constructive tool to promote education and opportunity among Canada's youth.

This event will feature dynamic guest speakers, interactive forums, performance arts competitions, music, videos, a fashion and trade show, and prominent guest speakers

including KRS-One.

KRS-One is a popular hip-hop artist who has led the charge to change the face of hip-hop music from gangs and drugs to rhyming about literacy, poverty and employment. The festival finale will feature a concert performance by KRS-One.

This hip-hop festival will be held on June 1-7, 2009 in numerous locations throughout Toronto including Dundas Square, Nathan Phillips Square, Jane and Finch intersection and other locations throughout the city.

## Be Purple and Proud.

March with SEIU with all your colours for Toronto's Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28.

Call 905-660-1800



[www.seiulocal1.org](http://www.seiulocal1.org)

# Pride celebrations are about peoples' rights

Some SEIU members ask why SEIU Local 1 Canada takes part in celebrations like Pride.

"Labour unions, like SEIU, have a rich history of opposing discrimination against women, racial and cultural groups and the disabled," said Barry Smith, director of communications and marketing for SEIU Local 1 Canada. "Sexual orientation is no different. Fighting for all people's rights is what unions are all about."

**“ The Steelworkers, OPSEU, CUPE and many other unions march in Pride. ”**

Marching in the Pride parade is a great opportunity to showcase SEIU in the health care field to over a million people in just one day. That's also why leading corporate brands



SEIU's Mother Nature in the Toronto Pride Parade. More than a million onlookers come out to the parade.

like TD Canada Trust, Pizza Pizza, Air Canada, CTV, IKEA, Labatt Blue, and HP support Pride. SEIU will be also be joined by sisters and brothers in the Steelworkers, OPSEU, CUPE and many other unions that also march in Pride.

SEIU members are encouraged to turn out for Pride this year. If you would like to have some summer fun and march in Pride with your sisters and brothers, please call 905-660-1800 or send an email to [info@seiulocal1.org](mailto:info@seiulocal1.org).

# Supporting cultural diversity: SEIU goes Calypso



SEIU Members revelling in the summer weather in Caribana 2008.

Reggae. Roti. The calypso. These are just some of the sights and sounds people experience when they take part in the Caribana

Parade with SEIU. The Caribana Festival celebrates Caribbean culture and the Afro-North American experience.

**“ Supporting Caribana builds bridges with the Caribbean community ”**

"SEIU takes part in the Caribana Parade to acknowledge how Afro-Canadians have helped make Canada the country it is today," said Barry Smith, director of communications and marketing for SEIU Local 1 Canada. "It also demonstrates SEIU's determination to fight for dignity and justice of all of Canada's diverse cultural groups."

But the best part about Caribana is that everyone has a great time. If you would like to march with SEIU in the Caribana Parade on August 1 please call 905-660-1800 or send an email to [info@seiulocal1.org](mailto:info@seiulocal1.org).

**Celebrate Caribana on August 1 with SEIU and have Fun! Fun! Fun!**  
Call: 905-660-1800



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