

Human Rights Activist



**International Day
for Disabled Persons
on Dec. 3**

SEIU Local 1 Canada celebrates the skills, abilities, contributions and achievements of disabled people by promoting the positive image of this community. The Human Rights Committee raises awareness and advocates for reducing the barriers that physically challenged people face in their daily lives and their workplaces.

**Wanted: A
committee member**

SEIU Local 1 Canada is looking for members to serve on the Local's Human Rights Committee, especially a member who has knowledge about disabilities and can offer advice and insight on how Local 1 can help advance the interests of Ontarians who have a physical disability. If you or someone you know is interested in making a difference, please contact Barry Smith at 1-800-267-7348 ext. 3003.

Hamilton Pride 2009

Toronto isn't the only place where pride festivities take place. Thousands of people turned out to support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered rights Hamilton, Ontario. SEIU Local 1 Canada donated to Steeltown's Pride festival.

Financial Literacy

SEIU will be launching a campaign to help raise member's financial literacy and educate people about the risks of unmanageable debt and predatory lenders. Stay tuned for more updates.

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Thousands of people came to see world-renowned, and SEIU sponsored, hip-hop artist KRS-1.

Stop the Violence festival a smash!

Nearly 6,000 people from all across the GTA turned out for the Stop the Violence hip-hop festival on June 1-7 in Toronto.

Stop the Violence, sponsored by SEIU, combined hip-hop, entertainment, and education to motivate urban youth to avoid poverty and gangs and move towards gainful employment, education and inner personal strength.

The event kicked off with a press conference followed by rap-fests, breakdancing contests, graffiti art and other funky performances.

The next stop was City Hall where an interactive panel, which

included internationally-known hip-hop artist KRS-1, discussed problems and solutions affecting urban youth.

The event moved on to

Tropicana Square in Scarborough where KRS-1 spoke and performed for hundreds of enthusiastic youth, followed by performances from numerous rap artists.

"The young people who came to this event felt it helped

change and bring focus into their lives," said Dustin Hill, one of the event's organizers.

This hip hop festival will be back next year and it promises to be bigger and better than before.

“The young people who came to this event felt it helped change and bring focus into their lives.”

Dustin Hill
Stop the Violence

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Caribana was fun under the sun



NDP leader Jack Layton grooving to an African beat with SEIU at Caribana 2009.

What does NDP leader Jack Layton, Caribbean dancers and an African drum band all have in common? They all paid tribute to Canada's Caribbean and Afro-Canadian community with SEIU Local 1 Canada at the Caribana Parade on August 1, 2009.

Hundreds of SEIU members, along with their friends and family, came to the parade to march, dance, jump up and have fun under warm and sunny weather in Toronto.

The SEIU parade float featured an African drum band whose rhythmic beats could be heard many miles away. It gave the parade marchers good reason to dance from start to finish!

Mark your calendars for Caribana 2010 and join the action!

February is Black History Month

SEIU and the OFL are proposing to host an exhibition created by the City of Toronto during Black History Month in Feb. 2010.

The focus of the exhibits are:

In the Footsteps of the Black Victorians

Discover Black History in Toronto by taking a journey through parts of Old York where African-Canadians carved a community through struggle and triumph. Learn about Mary Ann Shadd Cary, the first Black female editor in North America, and William P. Hubbard, a 19th century Alderman and Toronto's Acting Mayor.

The Black Press in Canada West

The press was a forum for leadership in the black community. This exhibit explores some of the earliest publications in Ontario - their publishers, writers, and the significant contributions they made to the Black community and society as a whole. Black literature in the 19th-century wrote about the cruelty of slavery, inspiring flights for freedom, and the advancement of a free people.

SEIU healthcare workers are proud of Pride



SEIU marching in the Toronto Pride Parade on Yonge Street in June.

Despite the rainy weather, over a million people including SEIU members, friends, family, supporters and citizens took part in Toronto's Pride Parade on June 28 to celebrate and support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) rights.

"The SEIU Pride float is an important symbol showing our members and the public that SEIU is progressive, inclusive and fun,"

said lead organizer of SEIU's parade float Carey Derrick RPN.

Participants marched in the parade with semi-automatic squirt guns, and never hesitated to fire upon willing members of the crowd who needed to cool down.

All those who attended, both straight or gay, had a fantastic time.

SEIU's human rights committee is already making plans for Pride 2010.

Human Rights Committee Members

Carey Derrick
Gregory Garratt

Kenneth Haynes
Elizabeth (Beth) J. Loader

Elizabeth Sylvester-Lorray
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