

Black Workers Initiative Council (BWIC) Newsletter Summer 2021

MISSION STATEMENT:

To educate CLASS regarding anti-Black racism. To empower and support Black employees and to ensure equitable outcomes.

BWIC Members:

Natasha Shakespeare (Float)

Natasha Weese (East/Condo)

Mae Baird (East/Condo)

BWIC Contact:

bwic@class.on.ca

Stand Up, Speak Up!

Over the summer, the Black Creek Community Health Care Workers of Local 5117 were on an unnecessary strike putting the workers through undue mental and financial stress.

The 70 mainly racialized workers were asking for the 1% wage increase that all public sector workers were to receive under Bill 124. Instead, their executive director left the negotiating table forcing them to strike for a livable wage and decent working conditions. They hired security guards to intimidate the workers who were peacefully protesting.

On July 14th, 2021, Natasha Weese and Natasha Shakespeare joined the protest on behalf of OPSEU Local 332 and the BWIC; standing in solidarity with Local 5117.

At the end of July, Local 5117 successfully ratified their collective agreement giving them a stronger voice and more respect.



A CALL TO ACTION!

This fall, OPSEU Local 332 (CLASS) will be holding its elections for executives and stewards. We are calling upon Black employees to run for any position to ensure equitable representation and have Black voices heard! The executive positions are, President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Being a Steward is an important position; you would represent your co-workers as a liaison between them and the union executive and be a resource for members.

For more information about training and what it means to be a Steward, please visit our Local 332 Facebook page and read Tristan's post from August 3rd, 2021.



SPOTLIGHT

Parents Against RACISM

SIMCOE COUNTY

Parents and allies who support each other and take action against racism in schools.

Find them @

Instagram: @parents_against_racism_simcoe

Facebook: Parents Against Racism Simcoe County

BWIC wants to hear from you!

Provide some feedback on today's newsletter for your chance to win a \$50 Walmart gift card!

The draw will be held on September 7th, 2021.