

The PSAC BC Racially Visible Caucus and the Union of National Employees BC and Yukon invite you to

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

with a series of posters, facts, and bookmarks that commemorate labour leaders.

Warren Lester Williams President Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 15

I started my working life as a waiter for Canadian National Railway. My Grandfather Carl Williams had been a sleeping car porter for Canadian Pacific Railways and was not happy that I chose to get a job on the railway. He gave me a very simple bit of advice. He said: "Son I don't want you working for the railway it's a very racist place so always remember this. Do your job to the best of your ability and you'll do a better job than most."

I grew up with a strong belief in fairness, equality and pride in service and to never let others dictate who or what you are.

I have long since stopped working for the railway shortly after being chosen to be one of the chefs during Queen Beatrix's Royal visit. I started working with youth, and for the last 16 years I have worked as an aboriginal enhancement worker at Britannia Secondary in Vancouver. It was during this time that I got seriously involved in the labor movement.

My journey is credit to my grandfather and uncles who inspired me to take a similar path as a trade unionist.

I have held positions with CUPE Local 15 as chief steward, bargaining chair, sector representative, and with thanks to the support of my membership, now hold my current role as President of CUPE Local 15.



Warren Lester Williams



* Racially Visible Caucus *



✂ cut here for your black history bookmark!

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We asked Warren:
What inspired you to be involved in the labour movement?

"Service has a different meaning depending on who you talk to.

For me as a public service employee it means using my knowledge and skills to provide needed services to the citizens of Vancouver.

To me that is an oft unspoken truth that our governments don't want you to hear.

They want you to get lost in anti-union rhetoric which is why I'm a dedicated trade unionist: so the truth is not lost in the politics."

