

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON HATE CRIMES

WHEREAS there have been several serious hate crimes committed against Canadians, including several serious crimes committed against Jewish people and institutions, and the targeting of Muslims; and

WHEREAS a recent pilot survey by Statistics Canada confirms that hate crimes are of serious and growing concern in Canada with 5 per cent of Canadians indicating they are worried or very worried about becoming the victim of a crime because of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and/or language; and

WHEREAS many of the hate crimes experienced are violent, with Gays and Lesbians being almost twice as likely as other victims to suffer an injury; and

WHEREAS Canada is becoming an increasingly diverse population with the visible minority population growing almost six times faster than the total Canadian population and that this diversity is reflected in CUPE's membership; and

WHEREAS CUPE must play a more significant and proactive role in ensuring that all our members and all Canadians can live and work without fear of hate or persecution regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and/or language;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CUPE leaders speak out against all general and specific hate crimes whenever and wherever they occur and send a clear signal that our union is opposed to all forms of hate crimes and will take actions against same wherever and whenever they occur; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the issue of hate crimes and the factors surrounding hate crimes be addressed in all of CUPE's education programs and workshops, and in CUPE's publications, with a view to increasing the awareness of all our members about the extent and nature of the problem and with a view to encouraging individual and local union action to oppose and prevent hate crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution on hate crimes be communicated to major national organizations representing groups of Canadians who Statistics Canada has identified as being at risk, and that we offer these organizations our solidarity and assistance in dealing with the growing problem of hate crimes.