



September 20, 2017

WE MUST SUPPORT CUBA LET'S GIVE GENEROUSLY!

Between September 7 and 10, 2017, Hurricane Irma devastated the East and North of Cuba. It's the first time a category 5 hurricane directly hits Cuba. With 300 km/h winds and torrential rains, the hurricane destroyed thousands of houses and public buildings, caused major flooding, severed communications, damaged roads, ruined crops and left thousands of Cubans homeless.

We are well acquainted with the determination and resilience of the Cuban people. We know they will rise to the task of rebuilding their country. Cubans have been through difficult times before, such as the *Special Period* in the '90s or the fight against the American embargo. **BUT WE CAN AND MUST SUPPORT THEM IN THIS STRUGGLE FOR RECONSTRUCTION.** Why? Cubans send more doctors to disaster zones around the world than the rest of the world combined. This poor country blockaded by the United States continues to be a selfless example of support and solidarity for people around the world in spite of great odds. They deserve our recognition and solidarity for their generous humanity.

A PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CUBAN PEOPLE

For decades now, CUPW has been maintaining a privileged relationship with the Cuban people. We send delegations to the May 1st celebrations and we encourage members to develop ties with our Sisters and Brothers from Cuba's national union of communications, computer and electronic workers (SNTCIE).

A year ago already, we launched a joint training project with the SNTCIE for postal workers in Camaguey and Ciego de Avila. These two regions were particularly hit hard by hurricane Irma.

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

All the groups that support the Cuban people are calling for financial support to help with the reconstruction of the country. **WE JOIN OUR VOICE TO THEIR CALL.** Isaac Saney, national spokesperson for the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC), of which CUPW is a member, said the following:

"While, we are confident that the Cuban people will overcome any challenges posed by Hurricane Irma, Cuba will, nevertheless, have to expend considerable resources, both immediate and long term, in order to overcome the havoc wreaked by Hurricane Irma. To assist Cuba in its immense efforts of recovery and reconstruction, the Canadian Network On Cuba (CNC) is launching the Hurricane Irma Relief & Reconstruction for Cuba Campaign."

*Donations to the Hurricane Irma Relief & Reconstruction for Cuba Campaign can be made by mailing cheques made out to the Canadian Network On Cuba to: **CNC Hurricane Relief, 56 Riverwood Terrace Bolton, ON L7E 1S4. Please write "CNC Hurricane Irma Relief Fund" on your cheque's memo line. All donations will be forwarded 100% directly to Cuba.***

Now is the time to clearly show the meaning of solidarity in action. **LET'S GIVE GENEROUSLY.**

Solidarity,



Dave Bleakney
2nd National Vice-President

