



## **CBTU Fact Sheet #3**

### **Political Empowerment**

Ever since 1200 card-carrying Black union members claimed their political independence in the 1972 presidential elections, CBTU has been a change-maker in the political arena.

- CBTU helped launch the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and TransAfrica, a progressive foreign policy advocate that monitored American policy and actions throughout the African diaspora.
- CBTU played an instrumental role in electing the first Black mayors in Chicago (Harold Washington) and New York (David Dinkins).
- CBTU recruited hundreds of union volunteers to propel the historic presidential campaigns of Rev. Jesse L. Jackson in 1984 and 1988.
- CBTU was the first major labor organization in 2007 to endorse Barack Obama for president. CBTU's endorsement gave Obama's campaign credibility in the labor community and opened the door for Obama to get support from other unions.
- A straw poll conducted by CBTU in 2019 was instrumental in galvanizing support for Kamala Harris to be named Joe Biden's vice presidential running mate in the 2020 elections. CBTU members expressed a strong preference for Harris, who made history becoming the first African American Vice President in history.

### **International Solidarity - Canadian Chapter of CBTU**

The plight and possibilities of Black workers transcend national borders and cultural differences. CBTU is revered around the world, from South Africa to Brazil to Canada.

- CBTU stamped its credentials as a real international voice for Black workers in 1996, when the Executive Council approved a chapter charter for Ontario, Canada.
- The CBTU Ontario Chapter consists of members from international and national unions residing mostly in Ontario but also Quebec and across Canada.
- Canadian CBTU members took part in global social justice protests that followed the killing of George Floyd, an African American man, by a Minneapolis police officer in 2020. They are also deeply involved in Canada's robust Black Lives Matter movement.