



May 6, 2026

Megan Whitfield Bursary – Honouring a Legacy of Leadership and Justice

On the sixth anniversary of the passing of Megan Whitfield, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) is proud to continue her legacy through the Megan Whitfield Bursary. This initiative offers two annual bursaries of \$2,500 to support aspiring trade union activists in carrying forward the work Sister Whitfield dedicated her life to.

Sister Whitfield embodied the very best of the labour movement courage, determination, and an unwavering commitment to justice. A long-time postal worker and activist, she broke barriers throughout her life. Before joining CUPW, she made history as the first woman hired at the Regal Constellation Hotel, where she quickly stood up against workplace injustice by organizing and unionizing her department.

Within CUPW, she continued to lead with strength and vision. She became the first Black woman elected President of the Toronto Local, the largest local in the country. Deeply committed to human rights and anti-racism, she also served as a respected human rights investigator, advocating for fairness and accountability within the union and beyond.

The Megan Whitfield Bursary reflects her lifelong commitment to equity and social justice. It is awarded annually to CUPW members in good standing or their dependents from equity-seeking groups who are pursuing studies in Human Rights or Labour Studies at a public post-secondary institution in Canada. The bursary aims to reduce financial barriers and support the next generation of activists and labour leaders.

Sister Whitfield understood that systemic racism and sexism create additional barriers for many workers. As a Black trade unionist, she was a powerful advocate for an inclusive, anti-racist labour movement, one where all workers are treated with dignity and respect. Her legacy continues to inspire those committed to building a stronger, more equitable union.

Today, as workers across the country and around the world organize, mobilize, and stand together for fair treatment, we see the same spirit that Sister Whitfield brought to the movement. Her example reminds us that progress is driven by collective action and the courage to challenge injustice.

We honour her memory by continuing the fight for equality and justice. Because of Sister Whitfield's leadership and legacy, our movement is stronger.

For more information about the bursary and how to apply, please visit the CUPW website or contact your local union office.

In Solidarity,

Jan Simpson
National President

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