

AUCE PROVINCIAL

March 12, 1981

File:
Charan Gill, President
B.C. Organisation to Fight Racism
c/o P.O. Box 2151
New Westminster, B.C.

Dear Mr. Gill:

I have been asked by the Provincial Executive of the Association of University and College Employees (AUCE) to convey to you our union's solid support for the B.C. Organisation to Fight Racism. The Executive recently unanimously passed a motion in support of the BCOFR.

We are extremely concerned with the increasing attacks on non-whites and the discriminatory actions of of Ku Klux Klan.

Our union represents clerical, technical, maintenance, library and teaching support staff at the University of B.C., Simon Fraser University, Capilano College and the College of New Caledonia in Prince George. Our Provincial Constitution and Local By-Laws state that "the objectives of the Provincial Association shall be to bring about fair wage standards and to assure uniform job classification with equal pay for work of equal value for all employees, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, ... colour, race, religious or political beliefs, national origin, ...". Our locals have also managed to negotiate strong personal rights clauses protecting the rights of all employees, or prospective employees, and that "there shall be no discrimination against (an employee ...) by reason of race, colour, creed, national origin ... in times of hiring, promotion, wages, discipline, dismissal or any other conditions of employment". But although we have such protective clauses (including another which gives employees a specific grievance avenue to fight racial or sexual harrassment or threats of physical violence) we realise that the words are not sufficient without concerted support for and involvement in an organisation such as BCOFR.

We have copies of your petition and we are duplicating more to be distributed on the campuses. Now that the B.C. Minister of Labour, Jack Heinrich, has appointed a lawyer, John McAlpine, to investigate the activities of the Ku Klux Klan in B.C. we may be able rely on Heinrich's office and the office of the Attorney-General to truly determine the extent of the Klan's activities in B.C. We agree with you that McAlpine's appointment is 'an important first step' and the least the lawyer should do is get out in the community and observe the problems first-hand.

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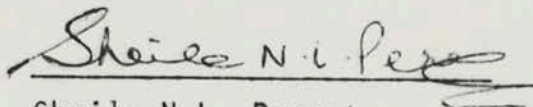
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We are interested in working with the BCOFR to fight racism and to educate people about the issue.

Please keep us informed about BCOFR activities and we will strive to actively participate in your organisation. At the moment we are unable to contribute financially, having just been on strike at our Prince George local, but you could let us know how we can help. If you publish a bulletin please put us on your mailing list.

Again, we are in full support of the BCOFR and you are free to use 'AUCE Provincial' as an endorser of your projects.

In Solidarity,



Sheila N.L. Perret
Secretary-Treasurer

for the AUCE Provincial Executive

684-2457

cc ALL AUCE Locals

Harry Rankin, Vancouver Alderman

Jack Heinrich, B.C. Minister of Labour

Allan Williams, B.C. Attorney-General

:snlp