The PSAC BC Racially Visible Caucus and the Union of National Employees BC and Yukon invite you to

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

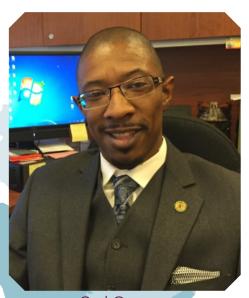with a series of posters, facts, and bookmarks that commemorate labour leaders.

Carl Gannon
National President
Union of Veterans Affairs Employees

Born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Carl has encountered his share of misfortune. Dropping out of high school in grade 10, Carl spent his teenage years as a misguided youth, who was in and out of trouble. Carl's early years were spent trying to find a purpose for his life while he struggled to find his way and place within society.

Eventually Carl was offered a position with the Department of Veterans' Affairs Canada as a Benefits Analyst and he finally found the purpose he has always searched for. The purpose was dual pronged and came in the form of genuinely helping veterans and their families and as a local union leader.

With Carl's election as National President of UVAE in 2014, history was made. Carl became the first Racially Visible component president in the almost 50-year history of the Public Service Alliance of Canada. At the time of his election, Carl was 33 years old, making him one of the youngest to ever hold this office and today is still considered a young worker.

As the President of UVAE, Carl has become one of the most recognizable voices with respect to issues facing Canadian Veterans and their families - and he is just getting started.

Carl Gannon

UNE SEN
The Union of National Employees

★ Racially Visible Caucus ★

PSAC AFPC BC Region
Human Rights

✂ **cut here for your black history bookmark!**

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

We asked Carl: What inspired you to be involved in the labour movement?

"There are several reasons that I felt compelled to get more active within our union but the most important is the fact that I have been fighting the good fight my entire life. I feel that we all have a role to play in improving the conditions for future generations, for my children and yours.

It does not take but a quick glance at the organization to see that there are not a lot of faces that look like mine among the leadership of our Union. We are supposed to be representative of our population but there is a disproportionate balance among decision makers. I never just wanted to see change, I wanted to be the change."

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