



**CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN OF CANADA
LE CONGRES DES FEMMES NOIRES DU CANADA
TORONTO CHAPTER**



October 26, 1995

**Patsy Jordan
President**

**Fleurette Osborne
Vice-President**

**Chloe Callender
Ontario Representative
Congress of Black Women of Canada
P.O. Box 428
Scarborough Station "A"
Scarborough, Ontario
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Thank you for your letter dated July 20, 1995. The Congress of Black Women of Canada - Toronto Chapter sincerely apologizes for this delayed response. We have been engaging in fuller discussions on the issues of sexual identity, Lesbian and Bisexual women's participation and leadership in the organization, and the Anti-lesbophobia Subcommittee we proposed in our letter to you dated June 5, 1995.

We want to have broader and more substantive discussions within the Congress of Black Women of Canada about these issues. Following the lesbophobic incidents at the Biennial General Meeting in May 1994, the Toronto Chapter feels that your suggestion that a forum take place at the National Conference in 1996 is an excellent idea. We propose that sexual identity and anti-lesbophobia comprise the theme around which discussions are organized on the traditional Friday start of the Conference, as a way of providing an opportunity to include the most number of members in this necessary dialogue.

...2

Given the active involvement of community-based Lesbians in the general membership and the Executive Committee in the Toronto Chapter, previous Education Committee events that we have organized such as "Black Lesbians and Lesbophobia in the Black Community", and the commitment made by heterosexual women to identify and confront lesbophobia, the Toronto Chapter feels that it is in a unique position to provide leadership in its work with other Chapters and the National around issues of sexual identity and anti-lesbophobia.

It is critically important to any proposed process to address these issues that there is a commitment to on-going dialogue, support and participation in this shared work. Thus, the Toronto Chapter asks very directly, do all of the other Chapters in Ontario want to confront lesbophobia in our organization? Is this organization prepared to endorse, in principle, a plan to initiate this dialogue?

Our Education Committee members will be primarily involved in the Anti-lesbophobia Sub-Committee and you Patsy stated that you would join as well. But this organizational change activity, which represents a significant commitment of our organization and to Black women's communities, also requires the contributions of Fleurette Osborne, Chloe Callender, members of the Chapter hosting the 1996 Conference, and two representatives from each Ontario Chapter. We must also find ways to involve representatives from Chapters in other regions.

Given the tight timeframe between now and the Conference scheduled for May, a decision about this proposal should be made at the upcoming Ontario Regional Meeting on November 4, 1995. The Toronto Chapter is very excited about this work, and the opportunity to collaborate with the Ontario Region and the National. We hope that these suggestions are in keeping with some of the ideas already expressed and look forward to our meetings in the near future.

Sincerely,

**Adonica Huggins
Pamela Grant
Marjorie King
Education Committee**



CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN OF CANADA
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TORONTO CHAPTER



October 17, 1996

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Vice-President

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DELIVERED BY FACSIMILE (519) 884-5709

Dear Fleurette and Chloe:

Please find attached a copy of correspondence dated October 26, 1995, regarding the Toronto Chapter's request that the National and Ontario Region collaborate with us to organize an Anti-lesbophobia Sub-committee.

This letter was submitted by our late Past-President Barbara Isaac to the Ontario Regional Meeting held on November 4, 1995. While I understand that the idea was endorsed, there has not been any further action. Our Education Committee is prepared to proceed as soon as possible, especially since plans are already underway for the upcoming Biennial General Meeting and we felt that an anti-lesbophobia forum at this event would be an excellent idea.

I have left 15 copies of these two letters at the Regional office in the hope that this will facilitate at least a brief discussion about this matter at the next monthly meeting on Saturday October 19, 1996. I would appreciate receiving any related or other information that can be presented at the Toronto Chapter meeting, to be held 3:00 - 5:00p.m. the same day and at the same location. You or any other CBWC member who wishes is invited to attend.

Thank you both, and many others including Faye Cole, for your attendance at the visitation and funeral; donations to Osaze's trust fund, fundraiser and baby needs; sympathy cards and pictures; and the many other ways that members of the Ontario Region have demonstrated your love of our beloved Barbara Diane Isaac. The Toronto Chapter is among those who wish to organize a memorial and we will keep you informed of how you too may participate.


Adonica Huggins