



Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now

Mr. Paul Moist, President
CUPE National
21 Florence Street
Ottawa, ON
K2P 0W6

September 23, 2005

Dear Brother Moist,

On behalf of all of the members of ACORN, I want to thank you and the members of CUPE for your generous support of the ACORN Hurricane Recovery and Rebuilding Fund.

It has been incredibly moving that so many people and organizations, from all walks of life, have reached out to support us as we struggle to recover from Hurricane Katrina. This has been a very difficult time for our organization and its members. As you know, ACORN's national headquarters are in New Orleans, and the 9,000-plus member families of Louisiana ACORN have long been at the forefront of efforts to win stronger neighborhoods and economic and social justice.

With the support of many friends, we have opened temporary national offices in Houston, Texas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. From these offices, and our local community organizing offices, our members and staff have been working ceaselessly to:

- gather together our displaced community members and work to help secure the housing, community services, and other relief they need;
- pressure local and federal officials for a major relief effort that meets the needs of all those who are coping with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina;
- Organize hurricane survivors to assure a voice for ordinary people in the recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

We have had a number of successes in this work already: re-uniting families and placing them in homes, establishing a food-card program in Houston, building a community-labor “Rebuild Our



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Region” coalition in Louisiana, assisting displaced homeowners with financial issues across the region.

This week, New Orleans ACORN leader Tanya Harris, currently a resident of a shelter outside of Baton Rouge, traveled to Washington D.C. to promote the “ACORN Hurricane Recovery Program” which calls for living wage jobs for local residents, quality affordable housing, and a voice for low income people in the rebuilding process. Town Hall meetings have been convened in dozens of cities across the country to promote this agenda.

ACORN members are proud both of our long record as a community partner of organized labor, and to count brothers and sisters from Toronto and Vancouver/Surrey as part of the ACORN family. The solidarity extended by CUPE to our members from Louisiana speaks to the possibilities for a movement for justice which crosses all borders.

Events continue to develop quickly, so please visit www.acorn.org to keep up with the latest news. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Maude Hurd
President, ACORN