



"Whatever its imperfections, in Cuba the poor have not been held in contempt; they have been empowered. Which is different from being made wealthy in a capitalist sense, and more lasting. A healthy body, a well trained mind, a sense of solidarity with one's people is harder to lose than a million dollars and offers more security. This empowerment of the poor: literacy, good health, adequate housing, freedom from ignorance, is the work of everyone of conscience Cuba has led the way, and is an object lesson to us."

—Alice Walker

History and Mission






Ottawa-Cuba Connections was established in 1993 to promote closer ties between the peoples of Canada and Cuba. We acknowledge the gains of the Cuban revolution in many areas, including health, culture, women's rights, democracy and education. We denounce the US economic blockade against Cuba, an illegal and immoral policy that causes the Cuban people severe economic hardship. OCC is a founding member of a cross-Canada Cuba Solidarity organization, the Canadian Network on Cuba, working with individuals and Cuba solidarity groups across Canada and around the world who share our goals.

Our Work and Activities

As a group, we endeavour to:

- Facilitate social, cultural and educational exchanges between Canadians and Cubans
- Raise material assistance for the people of Cuba
- Inform Canadians about Cuba
- Work to improve trade and development assistance relations between Canada and Cuba and to end the US blockade.

Our Campaigns and Political Activities

		 <p>FREE THE FIVE! Jailed for fighting terrorism.</p>		
<p>Cuba, sí! Bloquéo, no! OCC engages in many small campaigns that help fight the blockade!</p>	<p>The Ernesto Che Guevara Work Brigade Volunteer, visit Cuba and make a difference!</p>	<p>Free the Five! Jailed for fighting terrorism. Learn more about their struggle and raise your voice in their defense!</p>	<p>Pastors for Peace Support the Caravan and take a stand against the blockade!</p>	<p>Cuba for Haiti Help Cuba help Haiti. Make a donation that goes directly to aiding Haitian recovery.</p>

OCC cooperates with groups and individuals across Canada, in Cuba, and around the world who share our goals. Our activities in the past few years have included:

Material Aid to Cuba

- Participating in several Pastors for Peace Caravans
- Collecting toys for hospitals and day cares
- donating new and second-hand computers
- sending medicines and powdered milk
- hurricane relief

Cultural Events

- Talk (with music) by Cuban jazz drummer Gilberto Valdés.
- Ottawa film premier of: *Hello Hemingway*, *Strawberries and Chocolate*, and *Fidel*
- Concerts and dances with Cuban musicians
- Book launch of Paul Carr's *My Malecon*
- Book launch of *The Dissidents* by Rosa Miriam Elizalde

Educational Exchanges

- Carleton University/University of Havana Student Exchange
- Carleton University Cuba Solidarity Day

What Can You Do?

- Collect badly needed school and medical supplies for Cuba
- Let your government know you oppose the U.S. blockade
- Participate in fund-raising
- Come to one of our meetings and learn more about Cuba
- Join Ottawa-Cuba Connections!

Speaker Series

- Basilio Gutierrez, Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples
- Alicia Gonzalez and Alicia Campos, Federation of Cuban Women
- Arnold August, Author of *Democracy in Cuba and the 1997-8 Elections*
- Professor Hal Klepak, Royal Military College
- Rev Lucius Walker, Pastors for Peace
- Josephina Vidal, N.A. Director, Cuban Foreign Ministry
- Susan Babbitt, Queen's University: "Che Guevara and the Philosophical Foundations of the Cuban Revolution"
- Dr. Aleida Guevara March (Che's daughter)
- Irma Gonzáles, daughter of René Gonzáles of the Cuban Five
- Enrique Oltuski, Cuban Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Merchant Marines
- H. E. Ambassador Teresita Vicente
- H. E. Ambassador Ernesto Senti
- H. E. Ambassador Carlos Fernandez de Cossio
- Manuel Montero, Cuban Trade Union Central
- Luis Herrera, Cuban Centre for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering
- Elena Alvarez, Cuban National Institute for Economic Research

Join OCC Today!

Waged: \$20/year Unwaged: \$XX/year

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____