



Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre's Statement on Anti-Black Racism

Davenport Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre stand with Black, Indigenous and People of Colour colleagues and community members, and their loved ones. We acknowledge the long-term and historical trauma that has been a part of the reality for Black people whose basic human rights have been denied for generations. At this moment, we are mindful of the events of the past few weeks and the toll it has taken on our Black colleagues and friends.

These tragedies emerge from long-standing dynamics of anti-Black racism and white privilege. We join with the Alliance for Healthier Communities' Black Health Committee, the Black Health Alliance, and Network for Advancement of Black Communities (NABC) in calling for faster action to confront white supremacy and address anti-Black racism through:

- Declaring racism as a public health crisis.
- Enhanced accountability infrastructure to address police brutality, police violence and harms to Black communities.
- A strengthened Anti-Racism Directorate with a clearly articulated, targeted and systemic anti-Black racism strategy.
- A provincial commitment to the allocation of protected funds to provide culturally appropriate health and wellbeing support within Black communities. A critical component of undoing anti-Black racism is working towards making Black life liveable.
- Culturally appropriate organizations given the support they need to continue providing these services.

We further call for a provincial commitment to immediately require the collection of race-based public health data across our province.

And we call upon the City of Toronto to take steps to divert resources currently dedicated to policing towards community-led programming and violence prevention strategies and supports that focus on building relationships and strengthening access to resources urgently needed in our communities.

We stand in solidarity and support with Black people, committed to disrupting cycles of violence. We refuse to make this an issue only Black people care about and act upon. This affects everyone, and it is everyone's business.

We will continue our efforts to make DPNCHC an inclusive organization. We acknowledge that tackling structural discrimination and advancing ongoing anti-oppression is an integral part of this work. We will be responsible and accountable to our clients and our community as we undertake to confront and change systems of oppression.

In solidarity,

Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood & Community Health Centre

June 5th 2020