



Canadian Association of Black Lawyers (CABL)
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CABL's statement regarding events in the wake of the deaths of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, George Floyd and others

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The Canadian Association of Black Lawyers (CABL) is saddened and alarmed by the recent tragedies that have resulted in the loss of Black life both at home and abroad. CABL mourns the deaths of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, George Floyd, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery and condemns the violence that continues to be inflicted upon Black people in Canada and the United States. This includes the use of excessive and/or deadly force by law enforcement.

The events of the past few days have prompted strong reactions, both nationally and internationally, and CABL is encouraged to see crucial conversations taking place around these issues. However, CABL continues to be troubled by the prevalence of anti-Black racism that Black people encounter in their daily lives. The preventable losses of life that have played out on the nightly news and on social media serve as painful reminders of the violence that is continually inflicted upon Black bodies. CABL applauds those who protest peacefully against anti-Black racism and we stand in solidarity with those who demand justice.

CABL understands that these deaths are being investigated by the authorities. We join the call to demand that these investigations be conducted thoroughly and with the interests of justice in mind. Specifically, we call upon the authorities to uphold their obligation to ensure that laws are applied equally and equitably, including to police conduct. In doing so, we hope that justice may be served.

Investigations that flow from tragic events are not enough. We therefore call on police services to implement training and to devise strategies to address unconscious racial bias. We also recognize the need for and request the implementation of new strategies for the provision of services to members of our community living with mental illness.

We recognize that our communities are experiencing a tremendous amount of anger and pain right now. These events carry with them an immense emotional burden. During these difficult times, we remind our members to be mindful of their mental well-being, to speak comfortingly with one another, and to push for healing. CABL stands ready to assist its members with any assistance or resources it can provide.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAWYERS

Resources available to members and the community:

On June 9th, 2020 at 7 p.m., CABL will be hosting a webinar program with psychiatrist Dr. Araba Chintoh. This event is free and open to all. Registration can be accessed by visiting the CABL website or by clicking [here](#).

Additionally, we would like to remind all students and licensees that they can always take advantage of the Members Assistance Program provided by [Homewood Health](#). As well, our members and others from Black, racialized or 2SLGBTQ communities can access equitable, holistic mental health resources through [Across Boundaries](#).

The City of Toronto also maintains a list of anti-Black racism and mental health resources that members may find helpful. This list can be accessed through the City of Toronto [website](#).

[Race, Health and Happiness Podcast — Dr. Onye Nnorom, Physician & Professor at Dalla Lana School of Public Health & the Faculty of Medicine's Department Family & Community Medicine.](#)

Navigating professional life as a “racialized” person can be exhausting. Join Dr. O, a Public Health Physician Specialist in Toronto, as she interviews guests who are overcoming the obstacles of overt and institutionalized racism to achieve their professional goals while creating healthy and fulfilling lives. If you would like to learn about thriving in the face of adversity while staying well, this is the podcast for you.

For our members and allies looking to better understand the effects of anti-black racism, we also recommend revisiting the archived [webcast](#) for our 2019 Black History Month event:

[2019 – The Effects of Anti-Black Racism on Mental Health](#)

Dr. Kwame McKenzie, CEO of the Wellesley Institute, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, and Director of Health Equity at Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, provided the keynote address that explores the social determinants of health in the context of the Black community in Toronto and Canada. Dr. McKenzie, an internationally acclaimed expert in the area, specifically discusses the relationship between racial discrimination and significant adverse impacts on Black mental health.