

Tackling Anti-Black Racism: McCarthy Tétrault Announces Partnerships for Impact

March 22, 2021. Toronto. McCarthy Tétrault is pleased to announce our ongoing commitment to tackling anti-Black racism in the legal profession. We are proud to be a signatory to the Black North Initiative Law Firm Pledge, and to announce \$200,000+ investment over five years to a number of Black-led organizations, including:

- Canadian Association of Black Lawyers (CABL)
- Black Law Student's Association (BLSA)
- Black Female Lawyers' Network (BFLN) (includes a commitment to the Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law, Judge Corinne Sparks Award)
- Black Future Lawyers (BFL) (in collaboration with 13 other leading law firms)

Dave Leonard, CEO of McCarthy Tétrault: "This investment goes beyond simply a financial commitment, and includes support in the form of *pro bono* advocacy, governance, fundraising, and continuing legal education. Our goal is to build meaningful, long-term relationships with our partners, and assist them with their plans to deepen and scale their organizations."

Nikki Gershbain, Chief Inclusion Officer, McCarthy Tétrault: "These community partnerships will complement several internal initiatives our Firm has created. This includes the work of our national Race Action Group and our Reconciliation Committee, our ground-breaking Black and Indigenous Summer Program for 1L law students, internal educational programs on structural and anti-Black racism, and our new mentorship pilot program – Mentorship Plus – for associates who identify as diverse."

Raphael Tachie, President of CABL: "The Canadian Association of Black Lawyers is excited to welcome McCarthy Tétrault as our Partner in Public Interest Advocacy and Capacity Building, and our Ally in Professional Development. Black communities are far too often unrepresented or under-represented in issues of major public concern. A strategic focus of CABL is to advocate for a more equitable, diverse and inclusive Canada and legal profession, and ensure that Black voices are heard on the issues that impact our communities. We look forward to working with McCarthy Tétrault to achieve these goals and appreciate the long-term investment the firm is making in our organization."

Kerry-Ann Cornwall, President, BLSA Canada: "BLSA Canada is thrilled to have McCarthy Tétrault as our National Law Firm partner. Their multi-year contribution and commitment to Black law students through our organization and respective BLSA chapters will help to sustain the support we aim to provide for Black law students. Through this partnership, BLSA Canada and our chapters will become a stronger, more viable organization that can focus its attention on advocacy and growth. We sincerely thank Nikki Gershbain and her team at McCarthy Tétrault! We look forward to all that we can do together."

About McCarthy Tétrault

McCarthy Tétrault LLP provides a broad range of legal services, advising on large and complex assignments for Canadian and international interests. The firm has substantial presence in Canada's major commercial centres as well as in New York City and London, UK.

Built on an integrated approach to the practice of law and delivery of innovative client services, the firm brings its legal talent, industry insight and practice experience to help clients achieve the results that are important to them.

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Questions regarding McCarthy Tétrault's award-winning Inclusion Now program, or our efforts to tackle anti-Black racism, can be directed to our Chief Inclusion Officer, Nikki Gershbain at ngershbain@mccarthy.ca, or Junior Sirivar, Litigation Partner and Chair of our Race Action Group at jsirivar@mccarthy.ca.

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