



Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH)

Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre

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The Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton - Message of Hope and Resilience

The last week of May 2020 was a difficult one as we were reminded of the continued existence of anti-Black racism both in Canada and the United States. The circumstances surrounding the death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet who died subsequent to a call to police for help; the horrific death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last week at the hands of police; the senseless civilian killing of unarmed 25-year-old, Ahmaud Arbery who was shot and killed in Georgia in February while out running, are all very traumatic for Black Canadians. We stand in solidarity with families, friends and the global community who are outraged about these persistent issues affecting Black people. We are saddened. We are weary. But we will keep hope alive that there is a brighter day ahead of us.

The Halton Regional Police Service has continued to make a concerted effort to mitigate bias, discrimination and racism amongst its ranks. Chief of Police, Stephen Tanner stands in solidarity with our community in the wake of recent incidents in the USA:

“Both as a chief of police and as a human being I am appalled and disgusted by the actions of the Minneapolis police officer which led to the death/murder of Mr. George Floyd. In my view he should be charged and convicted of murder and the other officers who did nothing to prevent it should also face serious criminal charges such as criminal negligence causing death.

The violence of this incident and the racism that was so clearly behind it must be stopped!! There is no part of this behaviour that is in any way acceptable in a modern civilized society where every single citizen deserves the same rights, freedoms, protection and safety.

Here in Halton we have built tremendously strong and positive relationships which will continue, and which will benefit all of us throughout this tumultuous time and far into the future.” -- Stephen Tanner, Chief of Police, Halton Regional Police Service

Coupled with the situation described above, the global COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many members of the Black community, especially with many Black people experiencing health disparities and lower socio-economic conditions.

In particular, we recognize that all Canadian frontline workers from multiple backgrounds have lost their lives to COVID-19, but there have been a disproportionate number of Black Ontario frontline workers who have died. Our thoughts are with every family, friend and community that has been impacted by COVID-19.

For over 40 years the CCAH has been focused on our four pillars: ***Education, Culture, Harmony*** and ***Community***.

We encourage everyone to become aware of the unconscious and conscious biases we may all have against others. Let's reflect on how we can bring positive change to our neighbourhoods and communities. The time for action is now!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

In response to the concerns of our members, the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCA) is hosting a free Zoom Virtual Town Hall on **Wednesday, June 17, 2020 from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.**

We would love to have you participate.

Conversations about issues impacting Black members within our community: What are the challenges within our local community and the society at large?

Everyone is at risk of contracting COVID-19. However, members of marginalized and equity-seeking groups have faced even greater COVID-19 challenges that have compounded during this current racial crisis. From poverty to racism, to the treatment of our most vulnerable people, let's reflect on how we can bring positive change to our neighbourhoods and communities.

Join the Canadian Association of Halton (CCA) for a conversation with community members and leaders to learn about steps being taken to ensure that a focus on human rights, diversity and inclusion, and equity remains a cornerstone of emerging policies, programs and practices.

Register for this complimentary event: <https://forms.gle/x3Csk2xqsv2xePjh9>

Registration is limited to 100 participants.