



CommunityWise Statement Regarding Black Lives Matter June 2, 2020

CommunityWise stands in solidarity with the Black members of our community—in particular, our African ethno-cultural Member groups, AROC’s Black Caucus, and our Black staff, board, practicum students, interns, members, and volunteers—who face the threat of anti-Black racism and its most violent manifestations every day. The examples of police brutality against Black individuals that are now flooding our screens are a continuation of a long history of violence against Black individuals and communities, in Canada and elsewhere. Some names to say and remember: Regis Korchinski-Paquet, Pierre Coriolan, Andrew Loku, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade. At CommunityWise, we believe Black Lives Matter.

We’ve learned that racism is best understood when we center the lives, voices, and concerns of those that are most impacted by racism—Black, Indigenous, and racialized folks—in our localized contexts and communities. But not everyone experiences racism the same way, so we formed racial caucuses within our Anti-Racist Organizational Change (AROC) Advisory Group as spaces for folks to talk about their experiences with those that share them. Our Black Caucus has been critical in our effort to better understand and address anti-Black racism. You can learn more about our experience with racial caucusing as an anti-racist tool in our [AROC resources](#).

In addition to this, we formed a Community of Care to support the Black, Indigenous, and racialized Members of our Advisory Group who are out in the community sharing their experiences and teaching people about racism, its impacts, and ways to be anti-racist. Right now, many of these folks and people just like them all over Canada and elsewhere are being called upon to explain this moment to the public. They are hurting and exhausted. We encourage whoever is reading this to take the time to do their own learning and unlearning.

Here are some links that can help you better understand the history and current reality of anti-Black racism in Canada, Alberta, and Calgary:

- Canada:
 - [Black Lives Matter Toronto](#)

- [Desmond Cole's "The Skin We're In", book and documentary](#)
- [Robyn Maynard's "Policing Black Lives", book](#)
- Alberta:
 - ['We are the roots': New documentary chronicles triumphs of Alberta's black pioneering families](#)
 - [Secret Alberta': New documentary brings Amber Valley back to life](#)
 - [Canada's racist geography and what we can do about it](#)
 - [Black people, aboriginal women over-represented in 'carding' police stops](#)
 - [Lethbridge police accused of 'racist' carding practices](#)
 - [School district apologizes, partly lifts mother's ban after dispute over black student's durag](#)
- Calgary:
 - Rocky Mountain Civil Liberties Association, ["Calgary Police data suggests Police Carding is Greatest in Diverse Neighbourhoods"](#)
 - [Calgary woman says she felt racially profiled at a Calgary Co-op](#)
 - [Parents meet with school officials over racism and bullying at Western Canada High](#)

We encourage you to follow and support local organizations that are committed to taking anti-racist action. Here are some that we've worked with:

- [Action Dignity](#)
- [Alberta Assembly of Social Workers](#)
- [Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies](#)
- [Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre](#)
- [Alberta Network of Immigrant Women](#)
- [Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation](#)
- [Coalitions Creating Equity](#)
- [The Unlearning Channel](#)
- [YYC Eritreans](#)
- [YYC Voices](#)

Thank you to those of you who have chosen to support our work with a donation. We rely on donations and grant funding to keep our anti-racism work a well-resourced priority. Late last year, [the Government of Alberta dropped their anti-racism granting stream](#). If you'd like to see nonprofits like ours and the ones mentioned above continue the long, hard work of addressing systemic racism here in Calgary and Alberta, [please contact your MLA](#) and tell them this is important to you.

Black Lives Matter.

CommunityWise Resource Centre

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