



*Because everyone deserves to
live a productive and happy life.*

**A Message on Anti-Black Racism
from the Executive Director of Free For All Foundation**

June 3, 2020

Anti-Black racism is prejudice, attitudes, beliefs, stereotyping or discrimination that is directed at Black people of African descent and is rooted in their history and experience of enslavement and colonization. The reality is that Anti-Black Racism is deeply embedded in Canadian institutions, policies and practices, to the point that it is a part of our systems. Although slavery has been over for many years, Black people remain chained by the heavy shackles of inequality and injustice.

Free For All Foundation has been serving the needs of Black male and female youth for more than 20 years through programs and services such as mentoring, counselling, skills development and leadership training. Throughout the years we have heard their cries. We have listened to their stories about being stereotyped, judged and feared in their own communities because of the colour of their skin.

We say enough is enough.

Our young Black men must be able to walk, play, work, learn and thrive in their communities. We need our young Black men alive to be fathers, husbands and productive citizens in society. They deserve protection of their basic human rights and it is up to all of us to work together to identify and actively dismantle systemic Anti-Black Racism.

Consider the following facts about Anti-Black Racism in Canada:

- Slavery was practiced for 206 years
- The last segregated school was closed in 1983
- A Black person earns 75.6 cents for every dollar earned by a non-racialized person.
- The unemployment rate of Black individuals with a graduate degree is 13.4%, higher than the rate for non-Black high school drop outs at 12%.

What YOU can DO:

- **Understand and acknowledge that Anti-Black Racism exists** and do the work to explore how you may contribute to the problem and what you can do stop it.
- **Educate yourself and become aware of the gaps in your knowledge.** Take responsibility to begin broadening your awareness of the issue and how it manifests in our society.
- **Speak Up and Speak Out against Anti-Black Racism.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Green", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Green
Executive Director
Free For All Foundation