



June 8, 2020

## **Family Service Toronto & Campaign 2000 Anti-Black Racism Statement**

Family Service Toronto and Campaign 2000 are in solidarity with Black communities.

We are outraged by the continued systemic violence and police brutality against Black bodies and the hostile responses to protests opposing anti-Black racism and supporting civil liberties. We grieve with our Black and Indigenous colleagues and community members who are suffering.

We denounce all forms of anti-Black racism, colonialism and white supremacy. While the United States has been the focal point, we know these systems have a long history and deep roots in Canada where Black and Indigenous Peoples have long been denied their human rights.

George Floyd lost his life in a horrific manner at the hands of police when they were called in while he was shopping. In Toronto, Regis Korchinski-Paquet lost her life in police presence when they were responding to a wellness call by concerned family members.

As organizations working directly in the areas of mental health and poverty eradication, we know that Black and Indigenous communities have much worse health outcomes and exponentially higher rates of poverty\* than white Canadians and that this is both a result of and a strategy to maintain systemic oppression. We have a responsibility to ensure that our work in these areas contributes to ending anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, which cannot be done without critical self-reflection, education and dialogue.

We will learn from and work with Black and Indigenous community members, service users, educators, leaders, policy makers and organizations to ensure our prevention and intervention services are relevant and barrier-free. We will work with them to ground our research and develop policy solutions that dismantle systemic violence and colonialism and lead us towards true democracy, safety and inclusion.

We support [the calls from Black leaders and organizations to:](#)

- Declare anti-Black racism a public health crisis.
- Enhance accountability infrastructure to address police brutality, police violence and harms to Black communities.
- Strengthen the Toronto Anti-Racism Directorate with a clearly articulated, targeted and systemic anti-Black racism strategy.
- Demand the province of Ontario commit to the allocation of protected funds to provide culturally appropriate health and well-being support within Black communities. A critical component of undoing anti-Black racism is working towards making Black life livable. Culturally appropriate organizations must be given the support they need to continue providing these services.

We support the calls from the [Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants \(OCASI\) to:](#)

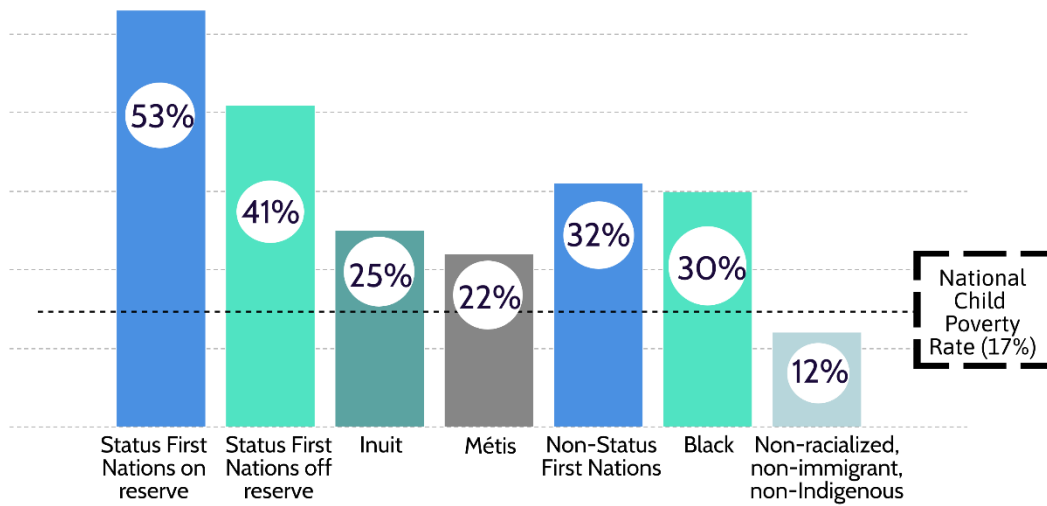
- Fully implement the recommendations of the [2017 Andrew Loku inquest](#).
- Fully implement the [2019 Ontario Human Rights Commission recommendations on ending racial profiling in law enforcement](#).
- Strengthen the [Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate](#) and the [Canada Anti-Racism Secretariat](#) with a clear mandate to end anti-Black racism.

We further call on the federal government to:

- Accelerate implementation of the recommendations from the [2017 United Nations Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent](#) on its Mission to Canada so Black communities and families can fully and equally participate in all aspects of society
- Accelerate implementation of the [94 Calls to Action](#) from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and recommendations from the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.
- Adopt the [231 Calls to Justice](#) to end genocide from the Final Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Under the leadership of Indigenous women and 2 Spirit People, immediately develop and fully resource a National Action Plan to end gender-based violence.

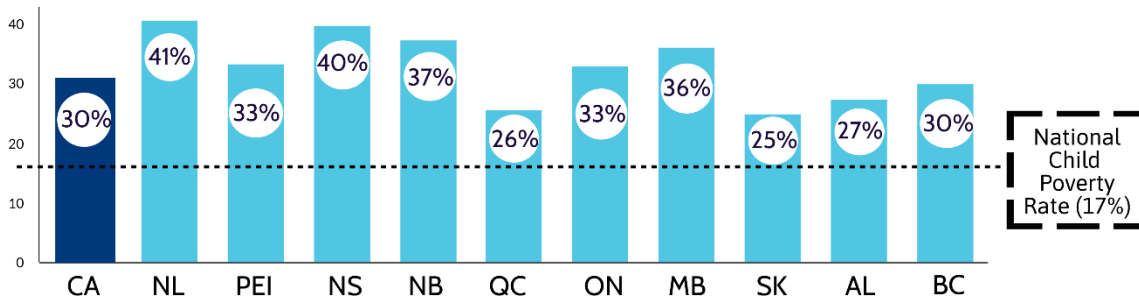
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**National Rates of Child Poverty for Black, Indigenous, and Non-Racialized, Non-Immigrant, Non-Indigenous Children**



Source for Indigenous child poverty rates: Statistics Canada, custom tabulation 2016 generously provided by Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.  
 Source for Black child poverty rate: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2016.

**National and Provincial Poverty Rates for Black Children**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2016.  
 NOTE: This data is not available for the Territories.