

June 2, 2020

The Black Canadian Studies Association stands in unwavering solidarity with all those engaged in uprising against police violence, those working on the front lines during this COVID pandemic – including nurses, personal support workers, cleaners, janitorial staff, orderlies and nursing assistants who are now determined as essential service workers—and all who find themselves sheltered in place within precarious conditions. We acknowledge the entirety of and extensive nature of the work being done to fight for our freedom and keep us healthy in the process.

Over the past three months we have increasingly witnessed how COVID-19 is having greater negative impacts within Black communities across Canada, as is the case elsewhere. Historical health disparities have made [the impacts of COVID-19 even more devastating in our communities](#), and we join the call for provinces throughout the country to begin to collect disaggregated race-based data. We understand the importance of collecting this data, while we also understand the potential for this data to be used in ways that further harm our communities. We insist that Black scholars, researchers, health workers, epidemiologists and bio-satiations trained within critical race theory be the stewards of how the data is analyzed. We insist that this data be used to help facilitate the dismantling of systemic anti-Black racism as well as help disrupt the white supremacy of the health system. Finally, we insist that this data be housed in Black community networks.

There have been a number of calls by our members and others that police are NOT to be used in responding to this pandemic – that policing the pandemic will not help interrupt the spread of COVID-19. As [stated by our colleagues](#) “public health has historically been an extension of policing for Black people” and “the union of policing and public health leads to more Black people being arrested, detained and physically restrained in the name of public health protection.” We have seen and are continuing to see this play out across Canada as well as in the United States. Black and Indigenous people are disproportionately subjected to [surveillance](#), [police violence](#) and [incarceration](#) throughout this country. Indeed, a 2018 interim report by the Ontario Human Rights Commission, reports that Black people in Toronto are [nearly twenty times more likely than white people](#) to be killed by the police. To say that policing has never been a source of safety and security for Black peoples is a gross understatement. Members of our communities continue to be harmed and killed by the police on both sides of the border.

We call the name of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, 29 yrs. (Toronto, May 2020)

We call the name of George Floyd, 46 yrs. (Minneapolis, May 2020)

We call the name of Tony McDade, 38, (Tallahassee, May 2020)

We call the name of D’Andre Campbell, 26 (Brampton, ON, Apr. 2020)

We call the names of Eishia Hudson, 16 yrs., Jason Collins, 36 yrs. and Kevin Andrews, 22 yrs. (Indigenous people killed in three separate incidents Winnipeg, MB, within a day period in Apr. 2020)

We call the name of Everett Patrick (Lake Babine First Nation), 42 yrs. (Prince George, BC, Apr. 2020)

We call the name of Breonna Taylor, 26 yrs. (Louisville, KY, Mar. 2020)

We call the name of Randy Cochrane (Fisher River Cree Nation), 30yrs. (Winnipeg, Jul. 2019)

We call the name of Robin Fiddler, 34 yrs. (Waterhen Lake First Nation), 34 yrs. (Calgary, June 2019)

We call the name of Machuar Madut, 43 yrs. (Winnipeg, Feb. 2019)

We call the name of Greg Ritchie (Saugeen First Nation), 30 yrs. (Ottawa, Jan. 2019)

We call the name of Nicholas Gibbs, 23 yrs. (Montreal, Aug. 2018)

We call the name of Olando Brown, 32 yrs. (Barrie, ON, Jun. 2018)

We call the name of Josephine Pelletier (Cree Nation), 33 yrs. (Calgary, May 2018)

These names represent **some** of the publicly identified Black and Indigenous people murdered by police in the Canada **in the past two years**. They include just three of at least [475 Black people murdered by police in the U.S.](#) since 2018.

We demand justice for all those who have been harmed and [killed in encounters with police](#).

BLACK LIFE MATTERS. Black Women’s Lives Matter. Black Queer and Trans Lives Matter. Black Disabled Lives Matter. All Black Lives Matter.