



## PRESS RELEASE

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Board and staff of Family Services of Peel takes a firm stand with Black communities and all other marginalized persons, as we bear witness to and process the devastating events of racism in our own nation and globally, that has always existed but is now being brought more to light. We strongly condemn all acts of racism and systemic racism.

No one is lesser than. No life is worth less than someone else's. No one should be pre-judged based on the colour of their skin. Yet it happens. Every day. It is not only in Minneapolis with George Floyd. It happens in our very own communities.

As those who have the power to impact lives, we have a responsibility and an obligation to bring these injustices to light. We need to engage in difficult conversations with our clients, supervisees, friends, neighbours, and families.

We love that we live in this wonderfully diverse Province of Ontario, but we are not ignorant of the fact that racism exists here. We are on the verge of a revolution, and are heartened by the peaceful protestors that have taken to the streets in the middle of a Pandemic. That makes a statement. A bold statement. A statement that says, we will not put up with this systemic racism anymore. And we shouldn't. We mustn't.



We work with people of all colours. We do not shy away from hard and uncomfortable conversations. We are advocates. We are allies. Let us remember that the work that we do makes a difference. We are part of the system and we can influence it in many ways. There is inequality in police brutality, inequality in healthcare, inequality in education, inequality in the workplace, and inequality in our judicial system. Change can come from one conversation. It can come from unlearning what we have learned in a subtle way.

We are committed to making any effort to co-create opportunities for further conversations on racial inequality, marginalized voices, and narratives. Our commitment will be reflected in the future planning of how we organize as an organization, our messaging, through conversations and webinars.

***"There is no room in our society for inequality and it is vital that we use our platforms, relationships, and training to enact change."***

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