



**Joint statement of the Adolescent Health Committee
and Adolescent Health Section of the Canadian Paediatric Society**

As a national group representing paediatricians, adolescent medicine specialists and other allied health care providers across Canada, we are dedicated to advocating for the health of diverse populations of youth, including Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC). We are saddened, horrified and angered at the racism and support for racism that we are witnessing in the world right now and also in Canada. Our hearts go out to the Black youth, families and communities so profoundly impacted by the recent loss of Black lives both in the United States and Canada.

We also know that this is not enough, and humbly acknowledge our privilege and power. In that privilege we refuse to be silent and complacent as this only serves to reinforce the conditions that continue to promote injustice and structural racism in our communities and institutions. We apologize for when we were silent.

As members of the Adolescent Health Committee and Adolescent Health Section of the Canadian Paediatric Society, we oppose hate and racism in all of its forms. Racism is a social determinant of health that undermines adolescent development and has a profound and lifelong impact on youth and their health status.

We acknowledge that we do not hold all the answers. What we do know is that the only way to find real answers is in listening to your voices and learning from you. Together we can initiate true change to the social conditions and structures that continue to lead to racial disparities for BIPOC youth in Canada.

As a group of dedicated health care providers, we want you to know that you matter. Black youth, with all of your hopes, thoughts, passions, and futures matter. Black lives matter.

Sincerely,

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