

# CPA'S HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE IN PSYCHOLOGY COMMITTEE

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Dear Committee and Working Group Members,

We hope this Newsletter finds you looking forward to the weather getting warmer and more promising times. It might seem a bit unusual to be receiving the February Newsletter in March, but we decided to create the Newsletter as a retrospective of Black History Month. During Black History Month, the CPA and many other organizations highlighted the achievement of Black Canadians and African-Americans. Though it is extremely important to highlight these achievements we also need to recognize that anti-Black racism and discrimination happens year-long. We send you this Newsletter now as a reminder to both look back to acknowledge the history of slavery, racism and oppressive acts against Black Canadians but also to look forward to address systemic racism. Challenging systemic racism is all our responsibility as we do this important human rights work. Also, important is to be reminded of the strength and contributions of Black Psychologists.

During this tumultuous time in the world, with the atrocities we see in the news, it is essential we continue to be committed to Human Rights and Social Justice.

Warm regards,

Ada L. Sinacore, Ph.D. and Kerri Ritchie, Ph.D., C.Psych.

## FEBRUARY & FOREVER: CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH TODAY AND EVERY DAY

### Canadian Psychological Association

The CPA's Black Psychology Section featured several sessions with prominent Black scholars

- **Dr. Sonya Faber** and **Dr. Setorme Tsikata** on Modern Allyship and Black Mental Health (Feb 16)
- **Dr. Ismael Montana** presenting "The African Diaspora Origins of Pan-Africanism: Strengthening the Ties That Bound." (Feb 25)
- **Mr. Farid Abdulhamid** presenting "20th Anniversary of the African Union: Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward." (Feb 25)

The CPA spotlighted contemporary Black psychologists. Follow along [here](#) for a series of profiles of contemporary professionals doing tremendous work in the Black Psychology space that were spotlighted throughout the month of February.

## Canadian University Psychology Departments

Social science departments across Canada have hosted some excellent sessions on Anti-racism and Black Wellness. Some examples to check out include:

- [The University of Ottawa](#) Vulnerability, Trauma, Resilience, and Culture Research Lab held a panel on anti-racism and academic freedom with guest speakers **Dr. Cornel West** and **Dr. Myrna Lashley**
- For the Opening Ceremony of Black History Month, [McGill University](#) presented 'Diversity within Psychology' with Keynote Speaker Prof. James Jones, the Director of the Center for the Study of Diversity at the University of Delaware.
- The Harriet Tubman Institute at [York University](#) hosted a special panel series on the health and wellness of Black Canadians. Specific topics included Black knowledge and wellness, the relationship between health and disability, STEM and black wellness, and wellness among Black youth.
- The Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office at the [University of Toronto](#) hosted a number of sessions throughout the month of February, one being a keynote presentation and film screening exploring strategies, stories and resources to address anti-Black racism as it intersects with forms of gender-based discrimination with keynote speaker Moya Bailey, Associate Professor, School of Communication at Northwestern University
- **UPCOMING event:** The [University of Regina's Graduate Student's Association](#) is hosting "Anti-Racism 101: Community, Institutional, and Clinical Applications" with Lori Campbell, Dr. Alex L. Pieterse, and Hasan Hai on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1PM EST. You can register for the event [here](#).

## American Psychological Association

In October of 2021, the American Psychological Association issued an [apology](#) for longstanding contributions to systemic racism. To complement the apology, the APA Council of Representatives released a [resolution](#) on the role of psychology and APA in dismantling systemic racism against people of colour in the US.

## World Day of Social Justice

February 20<sup>th</sup> was World Day of Social Justice. This year, the theme was "Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment", which acknowledges COVID-19's contributions to the vulnerability of workers in the informal economy. As a means of addressing global poverty and broader societal inequities, the United Nations hope to use this theme to promote the need to transition informal workers and enterprises into formal economies.

## HRSJ WORKING GROUPS

Working Groups					
Homelessness, Poverty and Food Insecurity	Ableism and Accessibility	Climate Change	Decolonizing and Systemic Racism	Immigrant, Refugee, Ethno-cultural, and Racialized Peoples	Societal and Sexual Violence

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*“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”*

*- Martin Luther King, Jr*

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## IN THE NEWS

[‘Racism is very bad for your health’](#)

[Mental health supports often difficult to find for people of colour, advocates say](#)

[Calling out Aversive Racism in Academic Medicine](#)

[How Mamie and Kenneth Clark used dolls to overturn school segregation laws](#)

[Yale Study: Despite Taking Precautions, COVID-19 Pandemic Disproportionately Impacts People From Minoritized Backgrounds](#)

## DATES TO NOTE

March						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	1 Nutrition Month Music Therapy Awareness Month Zero Discrimination Day	2	3 World Wildlife Day	4	5
6 World Lymphedema Day	7	8 International Women’s Day	9	10	11 Canadian Women Physician’s Day	12
13	14 Brain Awareness Week World Glaucoma Week	15	16	17	18	19
20 First Day of Spring International Day of Happiness	21 World Down Syndrome Day	22 World Water Day	23	24 World Tuberculosis Day	25 Int’l Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic slave trade	26 Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness)
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

## CONTACT US

**CPA Human Rights and Social Justice in Psychology Committee**

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