Victoria Forum

Black Opportunity Fund

Land Acknowledgement

BLACK OPPORTUNITY FUND

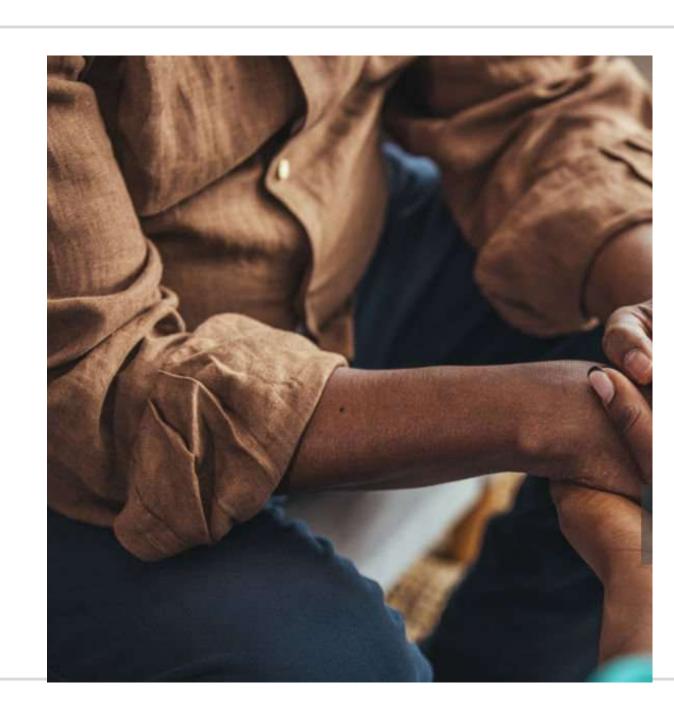
HEALTH WORKING GROUP TOWNHALL SERIES REPORT



OVERVIEW

BLACK OPPORTUNITY FUND

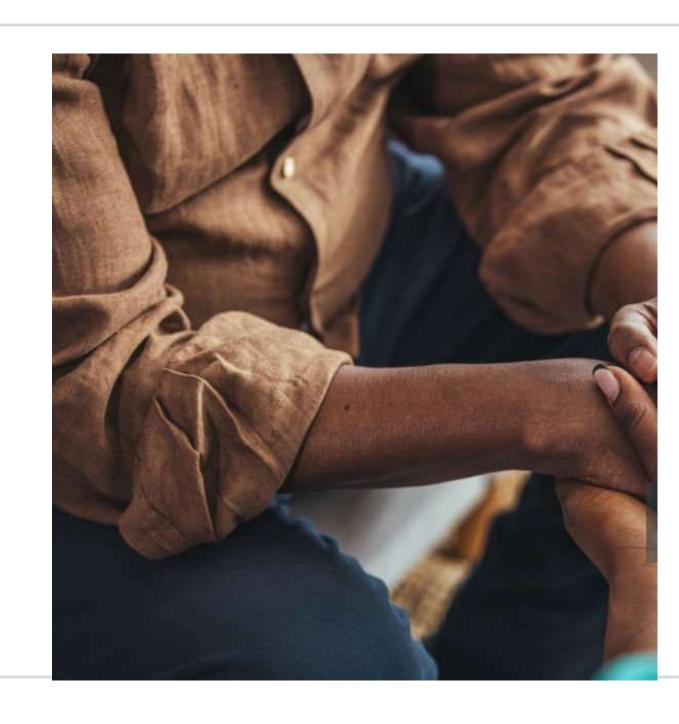
- Registered charity (Founded in 2020)
- Supports Black communities by challenging anti-Black racism in two ways:
- 1.By delivering sustainable and needs-informed capital streams, managed by Black people for the benefit of Black communities
- 2. Work nationally to strengthen collective actions by Black organizations and leaders



FOCUS AREAS

BLACK OPPORTUNITY FUND

- EDUCATION
- HEALTH
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- ARTS & CULTURE
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE



HEALTH WORKING GROUP(HWG)

Team Members:

- Craig Wellington (CEO of the Black Opportunity Fund)
- Dr. Ato Sekyi-Otu, an Orthopaedic surgeon at the William Osler Health System
- Dr. Oluwabukola Salami, professor at the Cumming School of Medicine,

University of Calgary



- The Black population accounts for 4.3% of Canada's total population and 16.1% of the racialized population (Statistics Canada, 2021).
- This population is more prone to diseases compared to their white counterparts (Statistics Canada, 2023).
- There exists a paucity of up-to-date data on health inequalities and the causal factors among the Black population.

01

Identify the health issues affecting Black individuals in Canada.



Improve policies and health services to focus on the health concerns impacting Black populations in Canada

03

Feedback from members of the Black communities on how stakeholders can mitigate health inequities.





NATIONAL BLACK HEALTH STRATEGY

- A Series of four national town halls
- Three out of the four town halls have occurred.
- Establishment of a foundational framework
- Community engagement of the Black Population



- Development of national strategy and policy for Black Health in Canada.
- Implementation

SESSION 1: PRIORITIES FOR BLACK HEALTH SERVICES AND POLICIES: BARRIERS, ISSUES AND GAPS

- Date: March 21, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Eastern Standard Time, held virtually on Zoom.100 attendees; 287 people listed as registrants.
- Objective: Identify and discuss the major health issues affecting Black individuals in Canada.
- A one-hour panel presentation and discussion.
- Question: "What are the major issues in Black people's health and what priority policies and services are needed to address this?".
- Breakout rooms in English and French.

PANELISTS

- Senator Rosemary Moodie, Chair of the African Canadian Senators Group, and professor of Paediatrics at the University of Toronto.
- Dr Bukola Salami, RN, MN, PhD, Professor, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary
- Dr. Jude Mary Cénat, Ph.D, Associate Professor, School of Psychology, University of Ottawa.
- Dr. Edouard Kouassi, BPharm, PhD,
- Dionne Sinclair, Vice President of Clinical Operations and Chief Nursing Executive at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
- Valérie Gazemar, Ralliement of Haitian Nurses in Montreal

FINDINGS (THEMES)

- Addressing Racism
- Specialized programs

 tailored to the needs of

 adult population
- Chronic disease management

- Mental health
- Culturally
 appropriate health
 services
- Inter-professional collaboration

- Increased access to family practitioners
- Training programs for health care professionals.

SESSION 2: MODELS OF SUCCESS

- Date: May 16, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Eastern Standard Time, held virtually on Zoom. 179 individuals registered for the session.
- **Objective:** The bring to light the current roles of Black health organizations in addressing health issues affecting the Canadian Black population.
- Question: "What are key considerations in integrating these promising practices into a National Black Health Strategy?".
- Translation in English and French.

PANELISTS (Session 2):

First Segment: moderated by Dr. Bukola Salami

- Ms. Sharon Davis Murdoch, Co-President and Director, Health Association of African Canadians (HAAC)
- Reverend Debbie Simmonds, Executive Director, Health Association of African Canadians
- Liz Arnason, Founder, Ase Community Foundation for Black Canadians with Disabilities
- Brieanne Olibris, Executive Council as Director of Student Affairs, Black Medical Students Association of Canada (BMSAC).

Second Segment: moderated by Dr. Ato Sekyi-Otu

- Ms. Angela Carter, Advisor, Strategic Initiatives, Lead for the Black Health & Social Services Hub, Roots Community Services.
- Dee Adekugbe, Founder and Executive Director of Ruth House.
- Mr. Anthony Henry, President, The Walnut Foundation.

FINDINGS

 Significant contributions of various organizations in advancing the health of Black communities across Canada.

 Initiatives and organizations: mental health of Black men and youth.

A follow-up Survey with quotes from town hall participants



QUOTE

"Great content. Dedicated professionals...So great to hear the amazing work being done across the country in support of Black Health."

SESSION 3:CAPITALIZING ON BLACK PEOPLES' STRENGTHS, BLACK HEALTH LEADERS AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO IMPROVE HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY

Date: July 18, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Eastern Standard Time, held virtually on Zoom. A two-hour session with a total of 202 attendees. Audience interaction utilizing the MentiMeter platform.

OBJECTIVES:

- To bring to light the current strengths and capacities within the Black community
- To discuss activities and roles of Black health leaders and professional organizations and other resources within the Black community
- To discuss how these strengths can be leveraged to better support Black people's health and issues identified in previous sessions

PANELISTS for Session 3

Moderated by Dr. Onye Nnorom

- Dr. Nicolas Cadet, Ophthalmologist and Oculoplastic Specialist at the CUISSS du Centre.
- Dr. Delores V. Mullings, Full Professor and Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) at the Memorial University of Newfoundland (School of Social Work).
- Dr. Mojola Omole, Breast Surgical Oncologist and General Surgeon, Scarborough Health Network & President of the Black Physicians of Ontario (BPAO).
- Noreen Sibanda, Registered Provisional Psychologist, Alberta Black Therapist Network.
- Dayirai Kapfunde, Registered Clinical Social Worker and Clinical Supervisor,
 Psychotherapist, Alberta Black Therapist Network.
- Dr. Damilola Iduye, Pan Canadian Nurses of African Descent.



FINDINGS

- A need for cultural sensitivity and competence among non-Black healthcare professionals.
- Under-representation of Black population in leadership roles within healthcare.
- Racial disparities and systemic issues
- Impact of religious organizations in health care.
- A need for post-secondary mentorship programs



CONCLUSION

- The town hall sessions provided a better understanding of the underlying contributors to Black health inequities.
- We need more dialogue...
- You're all invited to Session 4....

SESSION 4:POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR ADDRESSING BLACK PEOPLE'S HEALTH: TOWARDS CREATING A NATIONAL BLACK STRATEGY

- Tentative Date: January 31 to February 2, 2025
- This session is the final town hall in the four-part series. It will be an in-person event at the 4th National Black Canadians Summit in Montreal, organized by the Michaelle Jean Foundation.

 Dr. Ato Sekyi-Otu and Dr. Bukola Salami will summarize the outcomes of the previous town hall sessions.

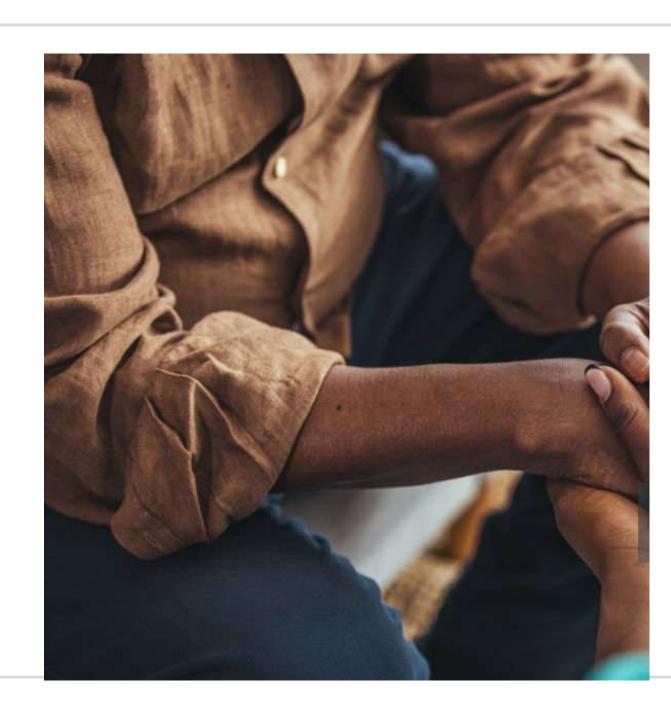
PANELISTS for Session 4:

- Dr. Kwame McKenzie, CEO of the Wellesley Institute and full professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto.
- Dr. Na-Koshie Lamptey, first Deputy Medical Officer of Health at the City of Toronto.
- Dr. Akwatu Khenti, Special Advisor to the City of Toronto's Targeted COVID Equity Action Plan.
- Dr. Barbara Hamilton-Hinch, Associate Professor, Recreation and Leisure Studies (Dalhousie University).
- Representatives of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Representatives of Health Canada

WHAT IS NEXT?

WHAT IS NEEDED?

- Funding at the Federal Level
- Further collaboration
- Input from the Black Communities



THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?