

Statement on Anti-Black Racism

The Canadian Association for Midwifery Education (CAMEd-ACFSF) is joining the voices of the many organizations that are actively condemning Anti-Black Racism. While this outpouring of support for Black Lives Matters was originally sparked by the police murder of George Floyd, we recognize that this is within a larger context of ongoing police violence and brutality against People of Colour and Black communities in particular. We stand in solidarity with those crying out for a more just system in the United States.

We must remember and acknowledge Canada's own history of slavery and continued inequity towards Black people. Black communities continue to have disproportionate rates of poverty, incarceration and poorer health outcomes. We acknowledge these issues are deeply rooted in Canada's colonial history, resulting in hundreds of years of systemic racism and intergenerational trauma.

Representing midwifery educators across Canada, we must take leadership in acknowledging how this intergenerational trauma and ongoing persecution has impacts on the health of pregnant people and newborns/children. Black people in particular are at higher risk of poor outcomes across the globe, including in Canada. As researchers, we acknowledge that there is a need to collect race-based data in order to understand the impacts of social determinants of health on Black communities and racialized groups.

As educators, we also acknowledge the deep impact recent events have had on midwifery students and faculty across the country. For those who have lived experiences of Anti-Black Racism, or other forms of racism, these events may also be re-traumatizing.

Racialized students in midwifery education programs have expressed experiencing racism, including racial bias and micro-aggression. We acknowledge that this has created environments where racialized students might feel unseen, unheard, or unwelcome. Representing midwifery educators across the country – we support every program to say loudly and clearly:

It is for US to recruit and welcome Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) students within our programs.

We need you in our programs,

We need you as **midwives** and

We need you in positions of **leadership** and **decision making**.

We call on all Canadian midwifery education programs to commit to addressing Anti-Black Racism and creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for students, staff and educators.

CAMEd also makes this promise:

As leaders in midwifery education, we see this as part of our commitment to teaching excellence to strive towards creating a more equitable environment and working actively to dismantle Anti-Black Racism and other forms of discrimination in a meaningful and ongoing way.