

Approved June 5, 2020

## COMMUNIQUÉ on Anti-Black Racism

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations - Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) condemns racism, white supremacy, and all systems of oppression which continue to deny citizens equitable treatment and justice in contemporary society. Recent events in the United States and in Canada have clearly demonstrated that racialized members of society are more at risk of mistreatment by the law enforcement system. We recognize the particular emotional burden on our Black colleagues and community members at this time.

CFLA further condemns all forms of violence and acknowledges that racialized people continue to be subject to greater negative police intervention. CFLA acknowledges the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery in the United States, and the death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet in Canada, as well as the many others.

Twenty-first century libraries strive to be safe, respectful, and welcoming spaces, and library buildings and virtual spaces act as important community hubs and spaces of innovation, of learning, and of refuge. Libraries aim to provide equitable access to information resources, physical and digital resources, and engage in community and academic partnerships, and community outreach. Libraries have the ability to lift up citizens at all stages of life, providing access to accurate information, technology, and vital programming

At the same time, we acknowledge that inequity exists in Canada. Systemic racism also continues to exist within our library systems, and in our profession. Inequity is present in the lack of representation of racialized people of colour in books and resources, including as authors, and inequality is present in our systems of organization and access, and programming. We acknowledge the lack of racialized people in our professional associations. CFLA commits to fulfil the goals of equity and inclusion we have enshrined in our Position Statement on [Diversity and Inclusion](#). As an organization we recognize we have gaps in our work in the area of diversity and inclusion and will be taking concrete steps to ensure this is no longer the case.

As we begin the month of June, a month marking both the celebrations of Pride and National Indigenous History month across Canada we want to recognize the challenges and discrimination faced by Black colleagues and community members with identities which intersect with LGBTQ2S and Indigenous identities.

Sharing stories, engaging in learning, and building knowledge are important aspects of dismantling racism and libraries can provide important spaces for the interaction of ideas and the support of civil society. CFLA-FCAB commits to continue to advocate for equity in access to information and support for libraries across Canada and calls on libraries of all types to continue to play a part in fostering a more just, equitable, and inclusive society.

For more information please contact:

Julie McKenna  
Chair, CFLA-FCAB  
[jmckenna@reginalibrary.ca](mailto:jmckenna@reginalibrary.ca)