

Vision Statement of the Anti-Black Racism Task Force, Town of Newmarket

[DRAFT]

To provide strategic direction to the Town of Newmarket which will lead to the elimination of systemic discrimination in Newmarket. Making Newmarket a welcoming place, where all can feel like they belong, by creating a safe and respectful space where racial equity is realized for Black residents. Building on the vibrancy of the Afro-descendant community, while promoting a harmonious and peaceful means of intercultural understanding which will build a stronger community.

With the foremost recognition that anti-Black racism exists, the task force seeks ways to disrupt, displace and dismantle this scourge within our community of Newmarket.

In furtherance of these objectives we seek to:

- Act as one of the conduits to bring the challenges being faced by afro-descendants and their allies into the light. By so doing, we seek to be an agent for healing within the community for those whose lives have been adversely impacted by anti-Black racism in all its forms.
- Foster confidence in our democratic institutions by bringing these challenges and concerns to the local government (namely the Newmarket Town Council) thereby increasing the sense that this minority community feels ‘heard’ and is ‘empowered’.
- Promote safe, harmonious and peaceful means of intercultural understanding which will build a stronger community via appropriate recommendations.
- Conceive or adopt recommendations tailored to the needs of the Newmarket community (at the procedural and policy levels) that seek to advance the equality of afro-descendants as well as improve the physical and emotional wellbeing outcomes of this segment of the community.

We further recognize the tremendous diversity within the community of those who possess African heritage & ancestry and celebrate the immense contributions such individuals have made to the Canadian way of life from the very start. Within the context of 2015-2024 being declared by the United Nations as the International Decade for People of African Descent, we further underscore and emphasize that harmonious and inclusive ways, beliefs and institutions will further strengthen the nation of Canada and that the scourge of racism detracts from the present and future prosperity of our beloved nation.