

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

[DRAFT]

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.

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We recognize the tremendous diversity among those who possess African heritage and ancestry in Newmarket and celebrate the immense contributions Afro descendant people have made to the Canadian way of life since the early seventeenth century. The United Nations declared 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent which creates the framework for respect and protection of African descendant peoples' fundamental freedoms and human rights.

The Newmarket Anti-Black Racism Task Force aims to provide strategic direction to the Town of Newmarket which will lead to the implementation of the full and effective elimination of systemic discrimination in Newmarket. Building a strong and connected community where Black residents feel safe and dignified, and where racial equity, belonging and intercultural understanding are realized for all racialized communities, not just Black communities.

Furthermore, we seek to:

- Act as a conduit between the Town's afro-descendant peoples (and their allies), bringing their lived experiences to the forefront. 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.
- Promote confidence in our democratic institutions by bringing these social issues and concerns to the municipal government to advance the voice of the community.
- Nurture a safe, harmonious and peaceful Newmarket community through targeted recommendations that focus on racial equity and seek to advance the emotional and physical wellbeing of afro-descendant people
- Urge the Town of Newmarket to champion equitable outcomes for the Afro descendant segment of the community.