

Resource Group Canada supporting Black Lives Matter

Remembering Aug 1, 1834, the day of Emancipation in Canada by investing in The Cornerstone Partnership

“Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”

Good Trouble! This was the phrase connected to John Lewis, the Civil Rights leader and US legislator who recently died. “Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”

Good trouble means standing up for justice, speaking up when there is injustice, taking a side for those who are marginalized, standing up against racial and any other discrimination. Good trouble means getting involved and not looking the other way.

Good trouble means not just looking south, thinking here in Canada we are immune to racial discrimination. We are not. It means recognizing that all is not well in our history. Our history includes discrimination and subjugation of the indigenous people, racial discrimination of Black people in Nova Scotia and other parts of Canada, the Chinese people building the railroads, Jews being denied full citizenship and later entry into Canada in the 30s. Viola Desmond pictured on our ten-dollar bill challenged racial segregation in a movie theatre in Nova Scotia. She was called a troublemaker.

We at ReSource Group Canada want to speak out against racism. We support peaceful protests for Black Lives Matter and want to engage to eliminate systemic racism in Canada. As a company, we commit to ensuring that any of our internal or external communications and actions are free of any systemic racism. We commit to supporting BLM not only by our statements but also by our actions.

This August 1, Resource Group Canada is making some “Good Trouble” as we celebrate and remember the day of Emancipation and the abolishment of slavery in the British Empire including what is now Canada, which took place on August 1st, 1834. August 1 is a day to celebrate! And to do this, **we are proud to announce a new investment in a program we believe to be tackling systemic racism at its core. The Cornerstone Partnership between Yonge Street Mission (YSM) and Children’s Aid Society of Toronto (CAS of Toronto).**

Much racial injustice and disparity have their roots in poverty. We feel that our focus needs to be on children, young people, families, educational and employment opportunities in order to tackle this challenge head-on.

We were surprised to learn as stated by CAS of Toronto, that while Black Torontonians represent only nine percent of the city’s population, Black children represent the highest percentage of children in the care of CAS of Toronto. The fundamental causes point to deep-seated issues of poverty, compounded by systemic racism — preconceived ideas about a parent’s ability to care for their child.

Yonge Street Mission and the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto’s Cornerstone Partnership is an innovative collaboration that is working to change these grim statistics. As part of CAS of Toronto’s ongoing journey to shift its child welfare model from reactive investigation to proactive intervention, the Cornerstone Partnership provides supports and services to low-income and vulnerable Black families that directly impact their ability to care for their children. The organizations work together on case management, with CAS of Toronto connecting Black families to YSM for culturally-reflective services and wrap-around support, including employment resources, housing advocacy, educational upgrades, subsidized daycare, nutritional information, food access and counselling services. The objective is to reduce the length of stay

of a child brought into foster care. Through their work together, they are building the capacity of families to protect their children, instead of protecting children from their families.

The long-term goals of this partnership are to minimize potential trauma, disruption and distress which can lead to multi-generational impacts on the overall well-being of a family. Initial results reflect these positive impacts and a range of benefits the service interventions are already having for Black families in Toronto.

We at ReSource Group Canada are proud to announce that as part of our August 1st celebration of Emancipation, we are making a substantial financial commitment to this initiative to focus on Black children and the lives of Black families in Toronto.

Yes, their lives matter!

We invite you to join us in making “Good Noise” by supporting this innovative and impactful initiative. Please contact Angela Solomos at asolomos@ysm.ca at Yonge Street Mission, to see how you or your company can get involved.

www.resourcegroupcanada.com - <https://www.ysm.ca/cornerstone-partnership>