

# UNFUNDED

BLACK COMMUNITIES  
OVERLOOKED BY  
CANADIAN PHILANTHROPY



Philanthropy and  
Nonprofit Leadership  
CARLETON UNIVERSITY



Network for the Advancement  
of Black Communities

Réseau pour l'avancement  
des communautés noires

# UNFUNDED: BLACK COMMUNITIES OVERLOOKED BY CANADIAN PHILANTHROPY

A research report prepared by the Network for the Advancement of Black Communities and Carleton University's Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership program.

**AUTHORS:** Rachel Pereira, MPNL

**Liban Abokor**, Executive Director, Youth LEAPS

**Fahad Ahmad**, Nonprofit Consultant and PhD Candidate in Public Policy at Carleton University

**Firrisaa Jamal Abdikkarim**

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The following people provided their valuable perspectives in the report:

**Paul Bailey**

Executive Director  
Black Health Alliance

**Djaka Blais-Amare**

Grants Associate  
Calgary Foundation

**Nation Cheong**

Vice President,  
Community Opportunities  
and Mobilization  
United Way Greater  
Toronto

**Rebecca Darwent**

Lead, Partnerships  
Purpose Co.

**Chris Fredette**

Associate Professor,  
Management and Strategy  
Odette School of Business,  
University of Windsor

**Liben Gebremikael**

Executive Director  
TAIBU Community  
Health Centre

**Agapi Gessesse**

Executive Director  
CEE Centre for Young  
Black Professionals

**Teshini Harrison**

Policy Analyst  
Ontario Non-Profit  
Network

**Tasha Lackman**

Vice President,  
Philanthropy and  
Community  
Foundation of Greater  
Montreal/Fondation  
Du Grand Montréal

**Bruce Lawson**

President  
The Counselling  
Foundation

**Marcel Lauzière**

President and CEO  
The Lawson Foundation

**Kevin McCort**

President  
Vancouver Foundation

**Susan Phillips**

Professor and Graduate  
Supervisor, Philanthropy  
and Nonprofit Leadership  
Carleton University

**Joseph Smith**

Director of Emotional  
Intelligence  
Generation Chosen

**Aïcha Ali Taïga**

Head of Legal Affairs  
and Corporate Secretary  
Foundation of Greater  
Montreal/Fondation  
Du Grand Montréal

**Dori Tunstal**

Dean, Faculty of Design  
OCAD University

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic and contemporary anti-Black racism movements have shone further light on the systemic racism and hardships faced by Black people in Canada. The experience of Black people in Canada points to the inadequacy of public policy in addressing the concerns of Black communities. It also suggests that Canadian philanthropy has not sufficiently invested in the well-being of Black communities and Black community organizations.

This research report provides the first systematic, empirical examination of the extent to which Canadian philanthropy has responded to the unique and intersectional challenges facing Black communities. In establishing the social context and lived experience of Black community members, the report makes apparent that the needs of Black people in Canada are both specific and urgent. Despite the clear case for investment, Canadian philanthropy has largely been absent in supporting Black people in Canada. Evidence that illustrates how Canadian philanthropy has failed to meet the needs of Black people in Canada is drawn from the analysis of two sets of original data: 1) Semi-structured qualitative interviews with ten Black and non-Black philanthropic leaders from across the Canadian philanthropic sector; and 2) a review of the funding portfolios of 40 Canadian foundations.

## ➤ SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Our research and analysis suggest that the Canadian philanthropic sector has failed to support the urgent and specific needs of Black communities in Canada. As the philanthropic sector stands, it lacks the tools and knowledge to support Black communities effectively. Our key findings are:

- Both public and private foundations underfund Black-serving and Black-led community organizations. Only six of the 40 public and private foundations we reviewed funded Black-serving organizations over the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years, and only two foundations funded Black-led organizations in the same timeframe.
- Compared to private and other public foundations, community foundations have a better record of funding Black-serving organizations, but both Black-serving and Black-led organizations remain under-funded. All but one of the community foundations we reviewed funded Black-serving organizations over the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years, but only six funded Black-led organizations in the same timeframe.

“

Across all community foundations we reviewed, grants to Black-serving organizations represented a meagre 0.7 percent of total grants during the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years. Grants to Black-led organizations were only 0.07 percent of total grants made in the same period.

”

- The total amount of grant funding going to Black-serving and Black-led organizations is miniscule. Moreover, grant funding is sporadic, unsustained, and does not invest in the long-term capabilities of Black community organizations.
- Philanthropic and nonprofit leaders see the need for and the potential of a Black-led philanthropic foundation. Such a foundation would allow for the self-determination of Black communities, build the capacity of Black community organizations, ensure collaboration with other foundations to share resources and networks, and challenge the current philanthropic paradigm that wields ‘power over’ people with a top-down flow of resources. They assert that inadequate data, a lack of representation of Black communities in philanthropy, and systemic barriers, including anti-Black racism, have led to a severe underfunding of Black communities in Canada. This has resulted in the philanthropic sector not understanding the needs of Black communities, nor the extent to which they are being supported by the sector.

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For the other public and private foundations we reviewed, 0.13 percent of total grants during the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years were given to Black-serving organizations, and Black-led organizations received only 0.03 percent of total grant funds in the same period.

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## RECOMMENDATION

**A dedicated Foundation for Black Communities is urgent and necessary to address the particular and complex needs of Black communities in Canada.** The Foundation for Black Communities will embody a transformational model of community philanthropy that centres the self-determination of Black people in Canada, leverages community assets, and utilizes an inclusive and trust-based decision process to determine resource allocation, and community and capacity building priorities. The Foundation for Black Communities will be a first-of-its-kind institution to invest in priority areas that will lead towards a more promising future for Black people in Canada. For the Foundation for Black Communities to be successful, it needs to be sufficiently resourced so that it can provide sustained financial support to Black communities and Black community organizations.

There have been prior instances where Canadian philanthropy and the federal government have worked together to make sizable investments to address systemic issues facing equity seeking groups. For example, earlier this year, government and philanthropy together invested \$400 million towards the Equality Fund; in 1998, the federal government invested \$515 million in the Aboriginal Healing Fund. To realize the objectives of the Foundation for Black Communities, we believe the federal government and the philanthropic sector must collaborate to provide a commensurate level of support so that Black communities can make long-term, sustained investments towards their own well-being. The Foundation for Black Communities would ensure that Black communities retain autonomy to prioritize and allocate investments based on their needs.



# INTRODUCTION

The combination of the COVID-19 pandemic, social unrest, and a severely distressed economy poses a real and significant crisis to an already fragile safety net for the 1.2 million people that comprise Canada's diverse Black communities. Simultaneously, contemporary social movements have highlighted how public policy and philanthropic efforts have failed to meet the needs of Black communities who continue to be subject to institutional racism and discrimination. The opportunity to do something both meaningful and lasting and that will address the needs of the Black community in Canada has never been greater.

The aim of this report is to provide a systematic analysis of the extent to which Canadian philanthropic institutions have responded to the needs of Black communities and organizations. The research and analysis in this report examines the hypothesis that the lack of attention, investment, and long-term commitment towards Black communities from Canadian philanthropy contributes to a resource and adaptive-capacity gap that impacts the sustainability of Black-led and Black-serving organizations. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a Black-led and Black-serving philanthropic foundation specifically mandated to meet the needs of Black communities.

The analysis in this report consists of three parts. The first part summarizes secondary research on the social context of Black people in Canada, underscoring how systemic anti-Black racism manifests in the various social domains, including education, labour market, health, and criminal justice. This research establishes the context for why it is urgent for philanthropy, alongside public policy, to address the specific needs of Black communities.

In the second part of this report, we summarize the findings of interviews with Black and non-Black philanthropic and nonprofit leaders across key urban centres in Canada. Interview respondents highlight the philanthropic sector's lack of data and understanding about the needs of Black communities, weak networks and representation of Black communities in philanthropy, and the systemic barriers facing Black community organizations. This section also captures the recommendations of these leaders about how philanthropy can better support Black communities.



The third part of this report provides the first empirical analysis of the extent to which top Canadian foundations provide funding to Black-serving and Black-led community organizations. We created a dataset based on reviewing the funding portfolios of 40 public, private, and community foundations over the fiscal years beginning in 2017 and 2018. This analysis confirms our starting hypothesis that Canadian philanthropic institutions have severely underfunded Black community organizations, indicating a lack of commitment to the needs and priorities of Black communities.

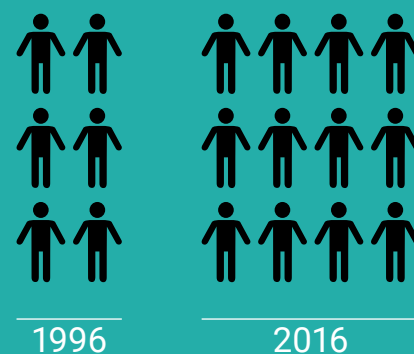
Based on the analysis, we stress the importance of a Black-led, community-governed, well-resourced philanthropic foundation that complements public policy actions to address the social, economic, and health challenges facing Black people in Canada. We argue that a dedicated foundation – the Foundation for Black Communities – that prioritizes the concerns of Black communities while applying principles of community philanthropy is the best way for philanthropy to meet the needs of Black communities and organizations.



# THE SOCIAL CONTEXT OF BLACK PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IN CANADA

Between 1996 and 2016, the Black population doubled in size, growing from 573,860 persons to 1,198,540 persons.<sup>1</sup> Black people now account for about 3.5 percent of the Canadian population, and Statistics Canada projects that Black population could represent between 5 to 5.6 percent of the population by 2036. Although most of Canada's Black population lives in large urban centres like Toronto and Montreal, it is the Prairies that have the fastest-growing Black population. The Black population is also relatively young. According to the 2016 Canadian census, 16.9 percent of the Canadian population are children under the age of 15 years old, and the Black population made up 26.6 percent of this age group.<sup>2</sup> Although this is a growing and thriving population in many ways, **Black people in Canada continue to face unique barriers and challenges due to racism and discrimination.**

Between 1996 and 2016,  
the Black population  
doubled in size



In a country that prides itself on its diversity, Black people have long resisted and continue to struggle with racism and discrimination in their daily lives. In 2016, the United Nations' *Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent* emphasized its "[deep] concern about the human rights situation of African Canadians."<sup>3</sup> This concern is merited and is largely provoked by Canada's long history of anti-Black racism. Black people in Canada are nearly twice as likely to report experiencing discrimination when compared to white Canadians,<sup>4</sup> with downstream consequences affecting employment, financial security, food security, health, education, and criminal justice. In 2018, there were 283 incidents motivated by hatred against the Black population, which accounted for 36 percent of all hate crimes targeting race or ethnicity.<sup>5</sup> However, the discussions around inequality and systemic barriers continue to ignore the central role that race and racism occupies in Canadian society – in particular, anti-Black racism.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada, *Diversity of the Black population in Canada: An overview*, 2016, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-657-X2019002

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its mission to Canada*, 2017, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/59c3a5ff4.html> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> Arjumand Siddiqi, Faraz Vahid Shahidi, Chantel Ramraj and David R. Williams, "Associations between race, discrimination and risk for chronic disease in a population-based sample from Canada," *Social Science & Medicine* 194 (2017):135-41.

<sup>5</sup> Greg Moreau, "Police-reported hate crime in Canada, 2018," *Statistics Canada*, 2020, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00003-eng.htm> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).



In Canada, the discourse around multiculturalism helps perpetuate the myth of a race-neutral society. Canadian progressiveness is a long-standing national identity that is partly grounded in a revisionist understanding of the nation's relationship with Black people and the constant comparison to the more virile racism in the US.<sup>6</sup> This identity downplays and ignores the role that anti-Blackness plays in Canadian society, as well as its harmful effects on the Black population. A contributing factor to Canada's unwillingness to acknowledge the embeddedness of anti-Black racism is the lack of disaggregated race data. Unlike the US, Canada does not routinely collect disaggregated race-based data. Such data is important for holding government and institutions accountable – it not only allows us to measure the size of the problem, but also to track our progress in addressing the concerns of all Canadians. Where disaggregated data does exist, it becomes clear that anti-Black racism is a prominent feature of Canadian society.

Take the case of Canada's education system, where schooling experiences of Black youth have long been a major area of concern for Black communities. This concern is due to the persistent gaps in opportunities and outcomes of Black students in the education system. A study examining 2006 and 2016 census data found that Black youth are the least likely group to attain any postsecondary qualifications, even after controlling for socioeconomic status and family characteristics.<sup>7</sup> Black youth are faring worse than their counterparts, despite their ambitions for higher education. In 2016, 94 percent of Black youth said that they would like to obtain at least a Bachelor's degree; however, only 60 percent thought that they could.<sup>8</sup> Some studies have suggested that the low academic ambition of Black students is directly related to interactions with teachers, counsellors, and administrators at their schools.<sup>9,10</sup>

The situation of Black students at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Canada's largest and most diverse school board, serves as a useful reference, because it is the only board in the country to collect data on racial identity.<sup>11</sup> Black students were disproportionately suspended, more likely to report negative interactions and lower expectations from teachers, and more than twice as likely as other students to be found in courses that precluded them from entering university.<sup>12</sup> In one study that linked TDSB data to University of Toronto administrative records, Black students were the least likely group to complete their studies – only 50 percent of the

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<sup>6</sup> Philip SS Howard, "On the back of blackness: Contemporary Canadian blackface and the consumptive production of post-racialist, white Canadian subjects," *Social identities* 24, no. 1 (2018): 87-103.

<sup>7</sup> Martin Turcotte, "Results from the 2016 Census: Education and Labour Market Integration of Black Youth in Canada. Insights on Canadian Society," *Statistics Canada*, 2020, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2020001/article/00002-eng.htm> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>8</sup> Statistics Canada. *Canada's Black population: Education, Labour and Resilience*, Statistics Canada, 2020, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-657-X2020002

<sup>9</sup> Carl James and Tana Turner, "Towards Race Equity in Education: The Schooling of Black Students in the Greater Toronto Area," *York University*, April 2017. <https://edu.yorku.ca/files/2017/04/Towards-Race-Equity-in-Education-April-2017.pdf> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>10</sup> Caroline Fitzpatrick, Carolyn Côté-Lussier, Linda S. Pagani and Clancy Blair, "I Don't Think You Like Me Very Much: Child Minority Status and Disadvantage Predict Relationship Quality With Teachers," *Youth & Society* 47, no. 5 (2015): 727-743.

<sup>11</sup> James & Turner, "Towards Race Equity in Education"

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

students that entered the university completed their studies.<sup>13</sup> This is cause for concern because it might exacerbate income inequality, as students who do not complete their post-secondary studies are left with higher debt levels, and miss out on the economic and social benefits of formal credentials.

Even for those that graduate, Black individuals have a harder time integrating into the labour market and experience higher unemployment rates. Black people in Canada are among those with the highest unemployment rates in Canada – the unemployment rate for Black people in Canada is around 12 percent, while the average for non-Black people in Canada is around seven percent.<sup>14</sup> Even Black people in Canada with a postsecondary education have a higher unemployment rate than the rest of the population, at 9.2 percent.<sup>15</sup> When employed, the positions held by Black people are disproportionately economically unstable, seeing as the Black community makes up the largest proportion of the non-immigrant, “working poor” in Toronto.<sup>16</sup> As a result, 23.9 percent of Black people in Canada live in poverty, which is almost twice the national poverty rate of white Canadians. Disaggregating these findings by geography and age group is starkly illuminating: the 2016 Canadian census data revealed that child poverty rates in Black communities in each province was higher than the national average of 17 percent.<sup>17</sup> In Saskatchewan, the child poverty rate for Black children was 25 percent; whereas in Newfoundland and Labrador, the child poverty rate for Black children was 41 percent – 24 percentage points higher than the national average. In Toronto, 46.3 percent of Black children live in poverty.<sup>18</sup>

Poverty has significant effects on the physical and emotional well-being of communities, with major implications for food security and physical and mental health.<sup>19</sup> In 2014, it was found that Black people in Canada are 3.56 times more likely to experience food insecurity compared to white Canadians.<sup>20</sup> The lack of access to, and sovereignty over, healthy, affordable food is detrimental to Black people in Canada across the lifespan. While food insecurity is connected to the development of life-threatening, chronic diseases such as diabetes, it also prevents

<sup>13</sup> University of Toronto – Toronto District School Board, *The University of Toronto-Toronto District School Board Cohort Analysis Report 1: Introductory Findings*, May 2019, <https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/depelab/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2019/05/U-of-T-TDSB-Report-1-Final-May-8.pdf> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>14</sup> Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016286.

<sup>15</sup> Statistics Canada. *Canada’s Black population: Education, Labour and Resilience*, Statistics Canada, 2020, Catalogue no. 89-657-X2020002

<sup>16</sup> Metcalf Foundation, *The working poor in the Toronto region: A closer look at the increasing numbers*, 2019, <https://metcalffoundation.com/publication/the-working-poor-in-the-toronto-region-a-closer-look-at-the-increasing-numbers/> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>17</sup> Newswire, *Exceptionally high child poverty rates in Black, Indigenous communities indicator of systemic violence in Canada*, 2020, <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/exceptionally-high-child-poverty-rates-in-black-indigenous-communities-indicator-of-systemic-violence-in-canada-845089842.html> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>18</sup> Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016211.

<sup>19</sup> Jayanta Bhattacharya, Janet Currie and Steven Haider, “Poverty, food insecurity, and nutritional outcomes in children and adults,” *Journal of Health Economics* 23, no. 4 (2004): 839-62.

<sup>20</sup> Melana Roberts, “Black Food Insecurity in Canada,” *Broadbent Institute*, February 2020, [https://www.broadbentinstitute.ca/black\\_food\\_insecurity\\_in\\_canada](https://www.broadbentinstitute.ca/black_food_insecurity_in_canada) (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

young children from consuming nutrients necessary for their development.<sup>21</sup> In our health system, Black people in Canada are less likely than their white counterparts to have access to a family physician.<sup>22</sup> When it comes to accessing the mental healthcare system, Black-Caribbean populations waited 16 months for care on average – more than twice the wait times experienced by white patients.<sup>23</sup>

While being neglected by both our health and educational system, the Black community also has to contend with a criminal justice system that consistently targets them. Unlike the United States or the United Kingdom, the Canadian criminal justice system does not systematically collect or publish race-based statistics.<sup>24</sup> However, reports conducted by researchers and human rights organizations have produced statistics corroborating what Black communities have been saying about racial discrimination in policing. The Ontario Human Rights Commission obtained access to Toronto Police Service data and found evidence of over-policing of the Black community.<sup>25</sup> They found that Black people accounted for 37.6 percent of cannabis possession charges, which translates to Black people being 4.3 times more likely of being charged than their representation in the general population. All other groups in Toronto were underrepresented for such charges. Black people in Toronto were also 3.2 times more likely to be charged with disturbing the peace, and also overrepresented in trespassing charges. Similar findings of racial bias in policing were found in other jurisdictions. In Halifax, Nova Scotia and Kingston, Ontario, Black people were three times more likely than white people to be stopped by the police.<sup>26,27</sup> In Edmonton, Black people were overrepresented in police stops, accounting for 11.1 percent of the street checks.<sup>28</sup> In a review of Ottawa Police data on traffic stops, Black drivers were found to be stopped 2.2 times more than what would be expected based on their representation in the population.<sup>29</sup> Despite the denials of racism in our criminal justice system, these findings highlight the racialized nature of policing in Canada.

<sup>21</sup> Enza Gucciardi, Janet A. Vogt, Margaret DeMelo and Donna E. Stewart, "Exploration of the relationship between household food insecurity and diabetes in Canada," *Diabetes Care* 32, no. 12 (2009): 2218-2224.

<sup>22</sup> Kelly K. Anderson, Joyce Cheng, Ezra Susser, Kwame J. McKenzie and Paul Kurdyak, "Incidence of psychotic disorders among first-generation immigrants and refugees in Ontario." *CMAJ*, 187, no. 9 (2015): 279–286.

<sup>23</sup> Tiyondah Fante-Coleman and Fatimah Jackson-Best, "Barriers and Facilitators to Accessing Mental Healthcare in Canada for Black Youth: A Scoping Review," *Adolescent Research Review* (2020): 1-22.

<sup>24</sup> Akwasi Owusu-Bempah and Scot Wortley, "Race, crime, and criminal justice in Canada," *The Oxford handbook of ethnicity, crime, and immigration*, ed. Michael Tonry and Sandra Bucerius (Oxford University Press, 2013), 281-320.

<sup>25</sup> Ontario Human Rights Commission, *Disparate Impact: Second Interim Report on the Inquiry Into Racial Profiling and Racial Discrimination of Black persons by Toronto Police Service*, 2020, <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/disparate-impact-second-interim-report-inquiry-racial-profiling-and-racial-discrimination-black> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>26</sup> Phils McGregor and Angela MacIvor, "Black People 3 Times More Likely to be Street Checked in Halifax, Police Say," *CBC*, January 9, 2017, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/novascotia/halifax-black-street-checks-police-race-profiling-1.3925251> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>27</sup> Owusu-Bempah and Wortley, "Race, crime, and criminal justice in Canada," 281.

<sup>28</sup> Jonny Wakefield, "Black people, aboriginal women over-represented in 'carding' police stops," *Edmonton Journal*, June 27, 2017, <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/black-people-aboriginal-women-over-represented-in-carding-police-stops> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>29</sup> Lorne Foster and Les Jacobs, "Traffic Stop Race Data Collection Project II Progressing Towards Bias-Free Policing: Five Years of Race Data on Traffic Stops in Ottawa," *Ottawa Police Services Board and Ottawa Police Service*, <https://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/news-and-community/resources/EDI/OPS-TSRDCP-II-REPORT-Nov2019.pdf> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).



These findings feature some of the challenges experienced by Black communities across Canada, but are only one piece of the narrative. For decades, Black-led and Black-serving organizations have been established and mobilized with community-oriented solutions. The work of these organizations is instrumental in addressing the issues created and exacerbated by systemic anti-Black racism, and the philanthropic sector's support of these organizations is a central factor in their success and sustainability.





# PHILANTHROPY AND BLACK COMMUNITIES: INTERVIEWS WITH SECTOR LEADERS

An important component of our research was to hear about first-hand experiences of Black communities and community organizations from leaders in the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. Through semi-structured qualitative interviews, we sought to understand the urgent community-level needs of Black people in Canada. We interviewed ten Black and non-Black leaders from the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors to learn their views on how the philanthropic sector has supported Black communities in Canada, if they feel a community-led foundation (The Foundation for Black Communities) dedicated to the needs of Black communities is needed, and how the philanthropic sector might support the viability of such a foundation. We present the findings from the analysis of the interviews along with common themes (see Appendix for coding methodology and interview protocol).

## ➤ PHILANTHROPY’S SUPPORT OF BLACK COMMUNITIES IN CANADA

Most of the interview participants indicated that philanthropic support of Black communities required drastic improvement. As we note below, these participants had intimate knowledge of the gaps in support at the community level; they referenced short-term, unsustainable funding that precluded organizations from thinking systemically and addressing problems at scale. Two philanthropic leaders suggested that their not knowing the extent to which philanthropy supported Black communities was itself an indication that Black communities were not well-supported. It was shared that Canadian philanthropy has rarely had conversations focused on the needs and priorities of Black people in Canada. According to the President and CEO of a foundation in Western Canada: “If we never talk about it, how can we ever claim we were doing it?”

“  
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”



## INADEQUATE DATA

The majority of participants referenced philanthropy's lack of understanding of Black communities and their needs, and particularly emphasized the lack of data that speaks to the philanthropic sector. One leader of a Black community organization mentioned that while Black communities know what their needs are through the work they are doing on the ground, the sector understands need through data. A senior member of a philanthropic organization in Ontario noted that without the data on what works for specific communities:

**“We’re going to continue to put money into suboptimal models or models that are incongruent with the day-to-day reality of communities who are struggling.”**

Several philanthropic leaders emphasized that it is not the sole responsibility of Black communities to produce this data, but a shared responsibility for the philanthropic sector.

## LACK OF REPRESENTATION AND RELATIONSHIPS

The importance of relationships was emphasized by nonprofit leaders and philanthropic leaders. They conveyed that relationships with foundations are important for accessing funds, and community organizations could be at a disadvantage due to not knowing the ‘right’ people. Philanthropic leaders, too, lamented the lack of relationships with Black communities as a key factor in the lack of support. As one foundation leader put it:

**“When you look at the philanthropic sector and you realize that we’re not demographically representative, then you have to conclude that, even with my best intentions, I can’t presume to be meeting your needs, because you’re not telling me, because we’re not in conversation. We’re not in a relationship.”**

This lack of demographic representation also manifests in tokenism, which was mentioned by several participants as the hiring of Black people into low-level positions with little power. One senior leader at a community foundation noted that:

**“When we do have Black people...who we hire for their expertise, especially around granting and so on, their ideas aren’t valued. They’re silenced. They’re exhausted by the emotional burden that they’re bearing within our organizations.”**

## SYSTEMIC BARRIERS

Another common theme that emerged from participants’ discussion of philanthropic support to Black communities was that of systemic barriers. Participants cited anti-Black racism, power differentials, and inequitable granting processes as major barriers to Black communities accessing appropriate levels of funding. Several participants referenced how granting processes, despite being ‘open calls’, are not attuned to the realities of community groups who may not have the relationships or organizational infrastructure to submit strong applications or – depending on the eligibility criteria – to apply at all.

A senior staff member at a community foundation noted that “so much happens based on who we know and who seems credible to us...so it’s a vicious circle of continuing to support the same small groups of organizations that have a track record and know how to speak the language.” They emphasized that maintaining the same granting procedures would ensure that they would continue to only fund a certain type of organization, “even if we supposedly have an open-door policy and broad calls for action.”

One participant explained that anti-Black racism contributes to a mental model that there is no need to understand Black communities’ needs as distinct. Another echoed that:

**“Race needs a very distinct lens and approach to it because of the historical systemic strategies. Not just barriers - *strategies* to keep people in places of poverty.”**

## ➤ WHAT IS NEEDED FOR PHILANTHROPY TO BETTER SUPPORT BLACK COMMUNITIES IN CANADA?

All participants indicated that they felt a Black-led philanthropic foundation was needed to focus on the priorities of Black communities in Canada. The most prominent themes that emerged were the need for a community-led initiative, and the need for collaboration within the sector. Participants also emphasized the need for capacity building and long-term funding.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF BLACK-LED COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The majority of participants mentioned the need for Black communities to play an active leadership role in philanthropic initiatives. Participants emphasized the need to listen to communities, and to support the self-determination of Black communities.

One nonprofit leader mentioned that a Black-led philanthropic foundation would allow people who are already positioned to have conversations with the sector about racism and community needs to work more effectively. Another stressed that the community always holds the expertise, and that “it’s just our role to figure out how to take all that expertise, that knowledge and those experiences, and create this space for more opportunity and more action and more change.”

One participant, the Executive Director of a Black-led organization, explained that the philanthropic sector has always needed their organization to fit into a box, and emphasized that “you need to start to ask communities what makes sense for them and allow them to pitch you on what that is.”

Philanthropic leaders stressed the need for Black communities to build something themselves, and to draw on leadership from within the Black community. As one participant explained,

**“It’s the ‘nothing about us, without us’ philosophy...the most important thing you need to do is listen.”**

Another shared that Black-led initiatives “know how to structure granting cycles that remove barriers and that meet needs that are defined by and for the community.” One philanthropic leader noted, in their role as the President and CEO of a private foundation in Ontario, that:

**“Sometimes when you’re very high level, you think you know best, and you forget that the decision-making should probably be closer to the ground.”**

In speaking about a potential initiative serving Black communities at their own organization, one participant, a senior leader at a community foundation, shared:

**“I hope that...it’s not just me and two or three other colleagues who are white... women and men who don’t live in these communities and who don’t work in these communities identifying what we think is the best idea to support.”**

## THE NEED FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND LONG-TERM FUNDING

Several participants raised the need for both long-term funding and capacity building support. They held that communities need commitment from philanthropy beyond the monetary. For example, one participant mentioned that foundations should seek out the reasons that organizations are not applying for funding, and assist them in addressing any barriers, making accommodations where possible.

One nonprofit leader emphasized that the large-scale issues they are addressing will take decades rather than years to solve, and that in order to accomplish their goals, they need philanthropic partners who are committed to generational change. Another shared, when speaking about how philanthropy should be supporting communities:

**“You can’t accomplish anything without resourcing. Resourcing it doesn’t necessarily mean applying money to it, but often it does. It means applying brains to it. It means applying human power to it. It means fundraising around it. It means putting it on an agenda and making people think about it and calling attention to the shortcomings your organization’s having, so if you’re not resourcing it, you’re not going anywhere.”**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION

All participants mentioned the need for collaboration among foundations as a means of ensuring that the sector as a whole understands and is engaged in serving the needs of Black communities. Participants saw a role for collaboration in the development and resourcing of a Black-led foundation – the notion of pooled resources and networks came up with several participants, who emphasized the importance of foundations working together to make change.

One participant asserted that: “the philanthropic community can provide resources, monetary and otherwise, to establish the necessary infrastructure and leadership to move forward” with a Black-led foundation.

Several philanthropic leaders highlighted the importance of a Black-led foundation not operating in isolation, to ensure that the sector as a whole is growing and learning from them. One participant, a senior leader at a foundation, speaking to the lack of understanding around the needs of Black communities in the philanthropic sector, shared:

**“Even as I’m talking, we need to make sure that we’re better educated around these issues...the Foundation for Black Communities can take a leadership role in helping us to ask the kinds of questions that we need to be asking ourselves as a sector.”**

## ➤ THE POTENTIAL OF THE FOUNDATION FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES

In imagining a Black-led foundation, several participants shared their hopes around the potential of a Black-led foundation to transform the dominant top-down philanthropic paradigm, and change the way that the philanthropic sector works with Black communities.

One philanthropic leader stressed that a Black-led foundation is needed because it is a fundamental shift in power in a sector that has historically wielded ‘power over’ people with a top-down flow of resources. A nonprofit leader mentioned that a Black-led foundation could disrupt, rather than perpetuate, inequitable systems.

The CEO of a community foundation in Western Canada echoed the need for change, stating that the philanthropic sector has responded to demands for data related to partisan activity or fundraising costs in the past, and can similarly investigate how philanthropy is supporting Black communities. They added:

**“I think there’s a real opportunity here for us to better understand what our money’s doing and...look at that as an opportunity to be better, as opposed to a stalling tactic to keep the status quo”.**

Several participants emphasized the opportunity for strategic leadership, and the potential to address large-scale issues that are too much for organizations to take on alone. One nonprofit leader elaborated on the potential of a Black-led foundation to work with Black community organizations to situate themselves within the ecosystem, and coordinate their strategies to address particular gaps; they stated that reaching that level of planning and insight “would be a game changer for Black communities and outcomes, and Black organizations trying to work to address that issue.” Another participant communicated the value of a Black-led foundation as a “commitment to invest, learn, pilot, raise the proof points, and then hold government accountable to utilizing public dollars to address the inequities that are putting a strain on our social support system, our health system, our justice system, etc.”

One nonprofit leader urged the team to: “Set the standard that you know that we, as a Black community, want to set for ourselves.”

In summary, the nonprofit and philanthropic leaders we interviewed unanimously supported the development of a Black-led foundation in Canada. They cited a lack of data, a lack of representation, and multiple systemic barriers, including anti-Black racism, as the main reasons that Canadian philanthropy has thus far failed Black communities. Participants saw a need for a foundation that is led by and for the Black community, that provides long-term support and builds capacity, and that collaborates with other foundations and community organizations. Moreover, they saw the potential of a Black-led foundation to transform how philanthropy engages with and supports Black communities, and embraced the opportunity to support Black community self-determination in the philanthropic sector.







# AN ANALYSIS OF FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR BLACK COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

To analyze the extent to which Canadian foundations are supporting Black-serving and Black-led community organizations, we reviewed the funding portfolios of 40 public, private, and community foundations over the fiscal years beginning in 2017 and 2018. Our dataset includes the 10 largest public and private foundations in Canada by asset size. In addition, to capture variation in foundation types, we include the five largest foundations within the following asset size categories: \$75 million to \$100 million, \$50 million to \$75 million, and \$25 million to \$50 million. Our dataset also includes the 15 largest community foundations by asset size. Altogether, the public and private foundations in our review represent 12.9 percent of total assets held by all public and private foundations,<sup>30</sup> and the community foundations represent 87 percent of total assets held by all community foundations.<sup>31</sup> We believe that our analysis provides a reasonable indication of the degree to which grants from Canadian foundations have specifically benefited Black communities and addressed anti-Black systemic racism in Canada. Our full methodology is described in the Appendix.

Our review suggests that Canadian foundations are not adequately meeting the resource and capacity needs of Black-serving and Black-led organizations, and are thus failing to address the complex and intersectional needs of Black communities. The current top-down philanthropic model that places funding institutions in a position of power and privilege over community organizations is ill-suited to tackle the systemic issues affecting Black communities. To address systemic issues that marginalize Black people in Canada, a Black-led, Black-governed foundation, situated among Black communities, is needed. This foundation would model inclusivity, provide sustained and flexible funding, and prioritize long-term community well-being over short-term impact. Our detailed findings follow.

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<sup>30</sup>Philanthropic Foundations Canada, *Canadian Foundation Facts*, <https://pfc.ca/resources/canadian-foundation-facts/#:~:text=All%20Private%20and%20Public%20Foundations,%3A%20Imagi%20ne%20Canada%2C%20April%202019> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>31</sup>Note that community foundations are a subset of public foundations.

### **FINDING 1: ONLY A HANDFUL OF CANADIAN FUNDING INITIATIVES ARE MANDATED TO SERVE BLACK COMMUNITIES**

In an exploratory survey of philanthropic initiatives serving Black communities to date, we found very few foundations mandated and dedicated to serving Black communities in Canada. We identified 13 organizational initiatives as providing funding or resources to Black communities; the majority of these are not registered foundations, but rather charitable organizations or non-profits that benefit Black communities. We also found a number of funds started by and for Black community members and administered by existing community foundations, such as the Black Canadian Scholarship Fund (at the Ottawa Community Foundation), the Black Community Solidarity Fund (at the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation) and the Black Students in Canada Fund (at Vancity Foundation). Our survey suggests that the majority of these funds were founded with, and still rely on, Black community contributions, rather than being part of the foundations' larger funding portfolios and priorities.

### **FINDING 2: PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS HAVE UNDERFUNDED BLACK-LED OR BLACK-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS**

The top 10 foundations, representing over \$10 billion in assets, disbursed 0.03 percent of funds to Black-led organizations in the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years, and 0.13 percent of funds to Black-serving organizations in the same timeframe. The other 15 foundations we reviewed, in various asset categories, did not fund any Black-led or Black-serving organizations in the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years. Of the 25 private and public foundations we surveyed, only two foundations funded Black-led organizations over the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years, and only six foundations funded Black-serving organizations in the same timeframe.

## **Top 10 Foundations**

**0.03%** of total grants disbursed went to Black-led organizations.

**0.13%** of total grants disbursed went to Black-serving organizations.

Of the six foundations that funded either Black-led or Black-serving organizations, that funding did not exceed 0.45 percent of any foundation's total grant disbursements during the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years, except in the case of one foundation, which gave 2.4 percent of its total grant disbursements to one organization. Together, these 25 foundations disbursed \$979 million dollars in the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years, with 0.16 percent of these funds going to either Black-led or Black-serving organizations.

Table 1 indicates the percentage of grant funds disbursed by the 25 public and private foundations in our review to Black-led and Black-serving community organizations in the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years.

**TABLE 1 – PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS: FUNDS DISBURSED TO BLACK-LED AND BLACK-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS**

Foundations	Assets in \$s (2017)	% of grant funds to Black-led orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years	% of grant funds to Black-serving orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years	Total grant funds disbursed in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years in \$s
Top Ten Foundations (\$100m+)	10,079,288,258	0.03%	0.15%	877,919,157
Top Five Foundations (\$50m - \$99.9m)	489,270,488	0	0	48,587,838
Top Five Foundations (\$25m - \$49.9m)	245,052,088	0	0	42,292,961
Top Five Foundations (under \$25m)	122,100,911	0	0	10,587,449

**FINDING 3: COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS FARED BETTER THAN PRIVATE AND OTHER PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS, BUT ARE STILL UNDER-FUNDING BLACK-LED AND BLACK-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS**

The top 15 community foundations disbursed 0.07 percent of funds in the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years to Black-led organizations, and 0.7 percent of funds to Black-serving organizations in the same timeframe. All but one of the community foundations we surveyed funded Black-serving organizations over the two-year period examined, while only six funded Black-led organizations in this same timeframe. Funding to Black-serving organizations did not exceed 1.6 percent of any single foundation’s total grant disbursements, and funding to Black-led organizations did not exceed 0.5 percent of any single foundation’s total grant disbursements. While these community foundations – representing 87 percent of community foundation assets – performed better than public and private foundations in this review, they still disbursed less than one percent of total gifts to Black-serving organizations, and nine out of 15 community foundations did not fund any Black-led organizations in the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years.

For every \$100 the top 15 community foundations disbursed

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Only 0.07 cents went to Black-led organizations

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Only 0.70 cents went to Black-serving organizations

Table 2 indicates the percentage of grant funds disbursed by the 15 community foundations in our review to Black led and Black serving community organizations in the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years.

**TABLE 2 – COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: FUNDS DISBURSED TO BLACK-LED AND BLACK-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS**

Foundations	Assets in \$s (2017)	% of grant funds to Black-led orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years	% of grant funds to Black-serving orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years	Total grant funds disbursed in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years in \$s
Top 15 Community Foundations	5,052,279,548	0.07%	0.70%	525,094,889

**FINDING 4: FUNDING TO BLACK-LED AND BLACK-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS IS SPORADIC, UNSUSTAINED, AND DOES NOT INVEST IN THE LONG-TERM CAPABILITIES OF THESE ORGANIZATION**

The recent incidents of police brutality against Black communities have underscored the systemic discrimination and marginalization facing Black communities in Canada. As anti-Black racism movements have issued a call to action, several foundations have launched statements and initiatives in response (e.g. *Taking Action on Racial Justice* at the Vancouver Foundation or *Using your philanthropy to advance racial justice* at the Toronto Foundation). In all cases, these initiatives appear to be reactive, do not commit to specific amounts and priorities for funding, and do not have specific mandates for improving the long-term well-being of Black communities. While our review did not include the specifics of funded programs and initiatives, only seven percent of all funded organizations in our review received the same funding amount in both the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years. This suggests that the majority of funding is short-term and project-focused, rather than operational or ongoing.

Taken together, our findings suggest that existing philanthropic institutions – public and private foundations – are both unable and unwilling to adequately understand and prioritize the needs of Black communities.







# THE NEED FOR THE FOUNDATION FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES

Philanthropic institutions often view themselves as important actors engaged in systemic social change. However, our evidence demonstrates that the current ecosystem of Canadian foundations is not adequately meeting the resource and capacity needs of Black-led and Black-serving organizations, and is therefore failing to address the complex and intersectional marginalization of Black communities. The current top-down philanthropic model that places funding institutions in a position of power and privilege over grantee organizations is ill-suited to tackle systemic issues and root causes that result in the discrimination and marginalization of Black communities. With calls for racial justice and equity in the philanthropic sector increasing, it is time for a the **Foundation for Black Communities**. The Foundation for Black Communities should be a model of “community philanthropy” that hinges on mutual accountability, privileges the assets and experiences of the community, and offers autonomy for Black communities to choose how, when, and where money is spent.<sup>32</sup>

As a Black community-led and Black-governed foundation, the Foundation for Black Communities will be able to prioritize and fulfill the specific needs of Black communities. Rather than funds being tightly controlled and restricted by a few, a community philanthropy-based model would democratize funding arrangements. The Foundation for Black Communities would adopt a philanthropic approach rooted in relationships, and built on trust and cooperation, upending the transactional nature of grantmaking that foundations conventionally deploy. It would utilize longer-term, flexible funding that builds capacity and puts power and control in the hands of communities to determine their own priorities.

Community philanthropy is an emerging concept in the philanthropic sector, representing a paradigm shift away from the entrenched, top-down model of charity.<sup>33</sup> At its simplest, community philanthropy is community-led, involves the contribution of community time, talent, resources and assets, and centres long-term wellbeing.<sup>34</sup> While Canada has experienced positive developments with place-based community foundations,<sup>35</sup> we contend that the notion of community philanthropy can be expanded and modelled with the establishment of a Black-led community foundation.

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<sup>32</sup> Jenny Hodgson and Anna Pond, “How Community Philanthropy Shifts Power What Donors Can Do to Help Make That Happen,” *Grantcraft*, 2018, <https://grantcraft.org/content/guides/how-community-philanthropy-shifts-power/> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Global Fund for Community Foundations and the Johnson Center at Grand Valley State University, *A Different Kind of Funder? Why and How Funders Support Community Philanthropy*, 2017, <https://globalfundcommunityfoundations.org/resources/a-different-kind-of-funder-why-and-how-funders-support-commu/> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).


<sup>35</sup> Jenny Harrow and Tobias Jung, “Philanthropy and community development: the vital signs of community foundation?,” *Community Development Journal* 51, no. 1 (2016): 132-152.

Community philanthropy goes beyond giving different communities a seat at the table – it balances power between resource holders and resource users. With the Foundation for Black Communities using a community philanthropy approach, Black communities would no longer be beholden to the priorities of funding institutions, but rather chart their own course for long-term social well-being and economic development. While a few funds started by and for Black people in Canada are housed at existing community foundations, there is a need to take a comprehensive, consistent approach to address the needs and priorities of Black communities in Canada. The Foundation for Black Communities must also be well-resourced in order to make necessary and long-term investments toward Black community organizations and Black communities. The Foundation for Black Communities would ensure that Black communities across the country have access to a comparable amount of resources, are engaging and being served in the way that best suits them, and are sharing knowledge, resources, and capacity across geographical communities.

In summary, to facilitate true systemic change, a Black-led model of community philanthropy is needed. The Foundation for Black Communities offers a tangible way to meet this need. In a study conducted for the Association of Black Foundation Executives in the U.S., recommendations from leaders of Black-led organizations suggest that in order to fund social change, the philanthropic community must learn about and be involved with Black communities, recognize Black community leadership and structures, collectively design funding opportunities, invest in Black-led social change infrastructure, and actively advocate for investment in Black communities.<sup>36</sup> The Foundation for Black Communities offers the opportunity for philanthropy to rise to the occasion and build mechanisms that prioritize investments into, and autonomy of, Black communities, while also advancing an innovative model of philanthropy for Canadian foundations.

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<sup>36</sup>ABFE: A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities, *The Case for Funding Black-Led Social Change*, 2019, [http://www.blacksocialchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BSCFN\\_BLSO\\_Report.pdf](http://www.blacksocialchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BSCFN_BLSO_Report.pdf) (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).



# GOVERNMENT AND PHILANTHROPY MUST ACT TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH THE FOUNDATION FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES

Support from the federal government *and* the philanthropic sector, together, is essential to support and resource the Foundation for Black Communities at levels that would have a meaningful impact for Black communities across Canada. The pandemic and the economic downturn has exposed and worsened an already fragile safety net for Black communities, who are among the hardest hit by the convergence of these two tragedies. The federal government, along with philanthropic stakeholders, must ensure that specific measures are in place to support the recovery of the Black Canadian community, and this must include a robust and coordinated package of investments to aid the recovery process.

We have seen some initial elements of these necessary investments with the roll-out of the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative, which was announced in 2018 as part of the federal governments' recognizing of the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent.<sup>37</sup> Program features include:

- Capital Grant Program to assist non-profits retrofit their spaces and purchase equipment
- Selection of intermediaries to grant out approximately 12 million dollars over the next 3 years.
- Creating the Canadian Institute for People of African Descent

Additionally, the government recently announced the \$221 million Black Business and Entrepreneurship program.<sup>38</sup> In the recent throne speech,<sup>39</sup> the government has signaled a commitment to addressing areas of inequities facing Black communities stemming from anti-Black racism and systemic discrimination by:

- Taking action on online hate;
- Going further on economic empowerment for specific communities, and increasing diversity on procurement;

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<sup>37</sup>Government of Canada, *About the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative*, <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/social-development-partnerships/supporting-black-communities.html> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>38</sup>Prime Minister of Canada, *Prime Minister announces support for Black entrepreneurs and business owners*, <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/09/09/prime-minister-announces-support-black-entrepreneurs-and-business> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>39</sup>Government of Canada, *Speech from the Throne to open the Second Session of the Forty-Third Parliament of Canada*, <https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/campaigns/speech-throne/2020/stronger-resilient-canada.html#canada-fighting-for> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

- Building a whole-of-federal-government approach around better collection of disaggregated data;
- Implementing an action plan to increase representation in hiring and appointments, and leadership development within the Public Service;
- And taking new steps to support the artistic and economic contributions of Black Canadian culture and heritage;
- Justice reform

While we view these announcements and commitments as positive first steps, we also see the need for more government investments in areas such as housing, childcare, and healthcare aimed at Black communities as part of a robust Black Canadian Recovery Plan. It is within this context, as a feature of a Black Canadian Recovery Plan, that we see the greatest potential for the Foundation for Black Communities.

There have been previous examples where Canadian philanthropy and the federal government have worked together to support equity seeking groups. For instance, in the recently launched Equality Fund, the federal government invested \$300 million dollars with philanthropic institutions contributing another \$100 million.<sup>40</sup> In a prior instance, in 1998, the federal government provided community investments in the sum of \$515 million when they helped establish the Aboriginal Healing Fund.<sup>41</sup> To realize the objectives of the Foundation for Black Communities, we believe the federal government and the philanthropic sector must collaborate to provide a commensurate level of support. At the same time, it remains crucial that Black communities retain autonomy to prioritize and allocate investments based on their needs.

The Foundation for Black Communities must be seen as part of an ecosystem of responses that address the challenges facing Black people in Canada, with the aim to improve their outcomes. The Foundation for Black Communities would complement public policy actions and improvement within public institutions that enhance public support and safety for Black people in Canada. It would serve as an advisor, convenor, and collaborator for investments made by government and philanthropic stakeholders towards the Black community in Canada. Being led by Black community members, the Foundation for Black Communities would be best placed to identify the priorities and needs of Black communities. Leveraging its position within the Black community, the Foundation for Black Communities would use its advocacy within the philanthropic sector to activate additional investments from its philanthropic peers within the sector.

<sup>40</sup> Government of Canada, *The Equality Fund: Transforming the way we support women's organizations and movements working to advance women's rights and gender equality*, 2018, <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/06/global-affairs-canada---the-equality-fund-transforming-the-way-we-support-womens-organizations-and-movements-working-to-advance-womens-rights-and-g.html> (accessed Nov. 9, 2020)

<sup>41</sup> Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, *Evaluation of Community-Based Healing Initiatives Supported Through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation*, 2009, <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100011405/1547572026320?wbdisable=true#exsum> (accessed Nov. 9, 2020)



## CONCLUSION

In this report, we have undertaken a comprehensive analysis of the extent to which Canadian philanthropy has supported the needs of Black communities and Black community organizations. Based on interviews with leaders from the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors and a review of the funding portfolios of 40 Canadian foundations, we find that philanthropic institutions have severely underfunded Black-led and Black-serving community organizations. In addition, there is little understanding about the needs and priorities of Black communities in philanthropic institutions. These shortcomings stem from a lack of data about the needs of Black communities, poor representation of and relationships with Black community organizations in dominant philanthropic institutions, and systemic barriers, including anti-Black racism, faced by Black communities.

Our analysis highlights the need for the **Foundation for Black Communities** to support community organizations working to overcome the systemic barriers faced by Black communities. The Foundation for Black Communities will be based on a transformational, Black-led model of community philanthropy that emphasizes mutual accountability with Black communities, privileges the assets and experiences of the communities, and offers autonomy for Black communities to choose how, when, and where resources are allocated. The Foundation for Black Communities will utilize its resources and expertise to research and identify issues, invest in community organizations and programs, advance public policy, and bring awareness to the priorities of Black people in Canada.



# APPENDIX

## ➤ METHODOLOGY FOR INTERVIEW DATA ANALYSIS

Semi-structured, qualitative interviews were conducted with ten leaders from the nonprofit and philanthropic sector. A purposive sampling strategy was used to ensure participation from Black and non-Black leaders serving Black communities in urban centres across Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia. All interviews were conducted virtually through Zoom. The interviews were recorded, transcribed, and the interview transcriptions were analyzed using NVivo. Each interview was coded, and the codes were then organized into themes. The prominent themes that emerged from the data related to philanthropy's lack of understanding of Black communities, and the reasons for it (lack of data, lack of representation, and systemic barriers), as well as the ways in which philanthropy can better support Black communities (Black community-led initiatives, capacity building, and collaboration).

The following interview protocol was used:

1. How well do you feel the philanthropic sector (private, public and community foundations) supports Black Canadians and their priorities?
  - **Probe:** What effect do you think the current level of support from philanthropy has on Black communities, considering the barriers they face?
2. Do you think that the philanthropic sector understands the needs of the Black communities and the barriers they face in accessing resources? How so, or how not so?
  - **Probe:** What effect do you think this could have?
3. Do you think a dedicated Foundation for Black Communities is needed? If yes, why? If no, why not?
  - **Probe:** What could be the advantages or disadvantages?
4. What lessons could the Foundation for Black Communities learn from existing ones and what pitfalls could it avoid?
5. In what ways can the philanthropic sector work with the Foundation for Black Communities the community to better support Black Canadian?
6. Do you have any other thoughts you would like to add before we end our conversation?



# METHODOLOGY FOR FOUNDATION FUNDING REVIEW

Using publicly-available T3010 data, we examined the funding portfolios for 40 foundations during the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years to determine the number of Black-led and Black-serving organizations funded. This data was then compared to the total gift expenditures in these years to determine the percentage of Black-led and Black-serving organizations funded in each fiscal year.

For the purposes of this review, we have defined Black-led organizations as organizations that were created by and for Black communities and have Black leadership. This includes social or cultural organizations and other organizations explicitly mandated to meet the needs of Black communities (e.g. a Black youth mentorship organization). We define Black-serving organizations as those mandated to serve either Black communities or communities of colour, under which Black communities could reasonably fall, such as organizations serving newcomers, immigrants and refugees. Our review is unable to include organizations that do not specify in their mandate that they serve either Black communities or communities of colour, even though they might serve Black communities in their neighbourhood service area. We suspect this might exclude a handful of neighbourhood organizations across the country, as well as social service agencies that serve a range of communities, and acknowledge this to be a limitation of the study. Within the scope of the research undertaken, it was not possible to determine a count of these organizations across Canada in a systematic way. There is an opportunity to extend our analysis in future to include such organizations by assessing neighbourhood demographics across the country.

In an effort to reflect a wide range of foundations, our dataset included the 10 largest public and private foundations by asset size, as well as the five largest foundations within the following asset size categories: \$75 million to \$100 million, \$50 million to \$75 million, and \$25 million to \$50 million. Additionally, our dataset included the 15 largest community foundations by asset size. In order to ensure consistent and reliable data, we utilized T3010 data to determine foundation asset size; this is consistent with the methodology of both Philanthropic Foundations Canada<sup>42</sup> and Blumberg's Charity Data Portal.<sup>43</sup> The most recent comprehensive T3010 dataset we had access to was from 2017; asset size for all private and public (including community) foundations was based on this dataset. Funding portfolios for all foundations for the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years were accessed online via the Canada Revenue Agency's T3010 Registered Charity Information Return records. The 2017 and 2018 fiscal years were chosen for being the

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<sup>42</sup>Imagine Canada and Philanthropic Foundations Canada, *Assets & Giving Trends of Canada's Grantmaking Foundations*, <https://pfc.ca/publication/assets-giving-trends-of-canadas-grantmaking-foundations-september-2014/> (accessed Nov. 1, 2020).

<sup>43</sup>Blumberg's Charity Data portal is populated with information from T3010 CRA filings and is available at [charitydata.ca](http://charitydata.ca).

most recent years with complete online T3010 data for all foundations; the 2019 fiscal year was excluded due to it not being consistently available for all foundations in the Canada Revenue Agency's online records.

The full analysis of public, private and community foundations is included below. In conducting the review, we excluded several foundations in order to better represent the philanthropic sector's contributions to Black communities in Canada. The following types of foundations were excluded from the review: foundations exclusively funding communities outside of Canada (Mastercard Foundation); foundations established to fund one organization (The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation, The Gibbons-Daley Foundation); foundations that primarily deliver programming (Addictions Foundation of Manitoba); and foundations that did not dispense any funds in the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 fiscal years (The Paul Myers Family Foundation).



## ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

Foundations (\$100m+)	Assets in \$s (2017)	% of grants to Black-led orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years	% of grants to Black-serving orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years
Foundation 1	2,196,300,254	0	0.01%
Foundation 2	2,013,966,000	0	0.45%
Foundation 3	1,285,482,525	0.03%	0.03%
Foundation 4	992,599,987	0	0
Foundation 5	834,902,674	0	2.4%
Foundation 6	657,933,877	0.60%	0.34%
Foundation 7	613,357,680	0	0
Foundation 8	583,182,186	0	0
Foundation 9	498,476,616	0	0.07%
Foundation 10	403,086,459	0	0
Foundations (\$50m – \$99.9m)	Assets in \$s (2017)	% of grants to Black-led orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years	% of grants to Black-serving orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years
Foundation 11	99,498,496	0	0
Foundation 12	98,473,553	0	0
Foundation 13	98,031,008	0	0
Foundation 14	97,495,675	0	0
Foundation 15	95,771,756	0	0
Foundations (\$25m – \$49.9m)	Assets in \$s (2017)	% of grants to Black-led orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years	% of grants to Black-serving orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years
Foundation 16	49,988,450	0	0
Foundation 17	49,684,347	0	0
Foundation 18	48,502,040	0	0
Foundation 19	48,492,691	0	0
Foundation 20	48,384,560	0	0
Foundations (under \$25m)	Assets in \$s (2017)	% of grants to Black-led orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years	% of grants to Black-serving orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years
Foundation 21	24,997,661	0	0
Foundation 22	24,716,807	0	0
Foundation 23	24,623,827	0	0
Foundation 24	23,882,735	0	0
Foundation 25	23,879,881	0	0

## ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Foundation	Assets in \$s (2017)	% to grants to Black-led orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years	% to grants to Black-serving orgs in 2017 & 2018 fiscal years
Community Foundation 1	1,229,400,939	0.02%	0.14%
Community Foundation 2	845,792,078	0	0.97%
Community Foundation 3	821,408,095	0.04%	0.98%
Community Foundation 4	553,197,443	0.22%	1.55%
Community Foundation 5	348,600,890	0.44%	1.14%
Community Foundation 6	290,624,422	0	0.06%
Community Foundation 7	192,795,102	0	1.49%
Community Foundation 8	170,182,673	0.11%	0.46%
Community Foundation 9	149,675,138	0.17%	1.26%
Community Foundation 10	103,296,068	0	0.16%
Community Foundation 11	81,967,617	0	0.14%
Community Foundation 12	78,910,507	0	0
Community Foundation 13	71,931,137	0	0.20%
Community Foundation 14	60,711,197	0	0.89%
Community Foundation 15	53,786,242	0	0.29%



Philanthropy and  
Nonprofit Leadership  
CARLETON UNIVERSITY



Network for the Advancement  
of Black Communities

Réseau pour l'avancement  
des communautés noires