



A message from Dr. Jane Ngobia

A Message of Solidarity Regarding Anti-Black Racism

Good morning Sheridan,

The events of the past few months, and of the past week in particular, have been a stark and painful reminder of the continued existence of anti-Black racism both in the United States and in Canada. I would like to express deep sorrow for the individual lives that have been lost and express my heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.

I would also like to acknowledge the impact that these events are having on members of the Sheridan community. The global pandemic, which many members of the Black community are experiencing disproportionately, makes these recent tragedies all the more difficult to bear. At a time when most of us are struggling with the loss of freedoms due to COVID self-isolation – the freedom to spend time outdoors without interference, to gather freely with whom we choose, to rely on state and social services to protect us – it is important to recognize that for many members of the Black community, these freedoms have always felt precarious. I understand and acknowledge the frustration, hurt and grief experienced by so many.

Sheridan condemns racism in all of its forms. Our Statement of Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion declares that, “Sheridan is committed to upholding the values of equity, diversity and inclusion in our teaching, learning and working environments, to ensure they are free of discrimination and harassment, and in compliance with the requirements of the Ontario Human Rights Code.” We all have a role to play in realizing this vision. As members of a learning community, it is incumbent on each one of us to educate ourselves about these issues, check our own biases, engage in self-reflection, and consider the actions that we can take to be a positive force for change within our spheres of influence.

If you are not familiar with the rich scholarship in this area, here are some recommended resources:

- *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi
- *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
- *The Fire This Time* (an anthology) by Jesmyn Ward
- [27 Books to Help You Talk to Your Kids About Race](#)

Inclusive Communities is hosting **Courageous Conversations: Black People Need to Catch their Breath**, a Virtual Roundtable on **June 2, 2020 from 12 - 1pm** to provide a space for the Sheridan community to engage in a much-needed conversation about anti-Black racism. Please join us to learn about ways that we can all support each other.

Conference Line Information

Join us: [Event address for attendees](#)

Event number (access code): 132 249 1786

Audio conference information

+1-416-915-6530 Canada Toll

[Global call-in numbers](#)

A crisis or traumatic event can trigger overwhelming emotional responses. People are impacted and respond to these events in different ways. There is no reason to suffer in silence. We encourage anyone who is struggling to seek professional help. Any students seeking comfort and support are able to access Counselling Services by calling The Centre for Student Success at:

- Davis Campus: (905) 459 -7533 ext. 5400
- Hazel McCallion Campus: (905) 459 - 7533 ext. 2528
- Trafalgar Road Campus: (905) 845 - 9430 ext. 2557

You can also email askanadvisor@sheridancollege.ca to make an appointment with a Counsellor.

Confidential employee counselling is also available 24 hours per day, seven days per week from our Employee and Family Assistance Program provider, which may be accessed by calling **1.844.880.9142** or visiting workhealthlife.com. The website features additional information and tips on coping with trauma.

We will continue to take steps to identify, address and prevent all forms of racism and racial inequality at Sheridan. Please know that we stand together at this difficult time, and share in the grief and sadness caused by these tragic events.

Sincerely,

Jane Ngobia,
Vice President, Inclusive Communities

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Sheridan

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