

The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) is to deliver programs and services, provides a physical hub, and to advocate to improve the well-being and equity of Jamaican, Caribbean & African-Canadian communities within the Greater Toronto Area



Adaoma Patterson
President
995 Arrow Road
Toronto ON M9M 2Z5

July 5, 2021

Executive Committee
Secretary Catherine Regan
12th Floor, West, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, On M5H 2N2
Email: exc@toronto.ca

Re: EX25.1 – Recognition Review Project Update and Response to the Dundas Street Renaming Petition

Dear Mayor Tory,

The Jamaican Canadian Association strongly supports the decision to rename Dundas Street and Dundas Square. This move is quite appropriate in today's climate of anti-racism and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This constant reminder to the Black community that a major civic asset in our great city is named after someone who delayed the abolition of slavery in the British Empire is extremely disturbing. Renaming Dundas St. is part and parcel of a similar effort to change the name of Ryerson University, which is in fact located on Dundas. As you have rightly noted, Viscount Henry Dundas "had virtually no connection to Toronto" but was instrumental in the perpetuation of slavery and racism.

Renaming Dundas Street would send a message to the Black community and others that the errors of the past are admitted and then the historical record is corrected.

Now is time Mayor Tory to review other street names that might also be perpetuating the memory of other racists in Canadian history. As University of Toronto Professor Melanie Newton commented recently "This is the process of us coming to a richer and better relationship with our past."

For almost 60 years, the Jamaican Canadian Association has advocated for Black communities; this is another example of a historical wrong that needs to be corrected and our members' look forward to seeing these changes implemented soon. We were pleased that you have said we are "recognizing a larger history that we must not ignore."

Thank you for your efforts to eliminate anti-Black racism in this City.

Regards,

Adaoma Patterson
President