



CENTRE FOR YOUNG BLACK PROFESSIONALS

# CABRAC Presentation 2022

# Unemployment Statistics-Toronto

- The unemployment rate for racialized youth stood at 20.5% compared to 15.7% for non-racialized youth, a difference of 4.8 percentage points.
- The unemployment rate for Black youth in Toronto and Ontario is 28%, which is two times higher than the national average of 14.3%.
- While the quality of life in Toronto is often portrayed as one among the highest in the world, there are persistent and worsening spatial inequalities between central Toronto and its inner suburbs such as the Black Creek area (includes Jane and Finch), Weston-Mt. Dennis, Crescent Town, Rustic, and Scarborough Village.

*(Statistics taken from, "Tired of the Hustle: Youth Voices on Unemployment" published by St. Stephen's Community House)*

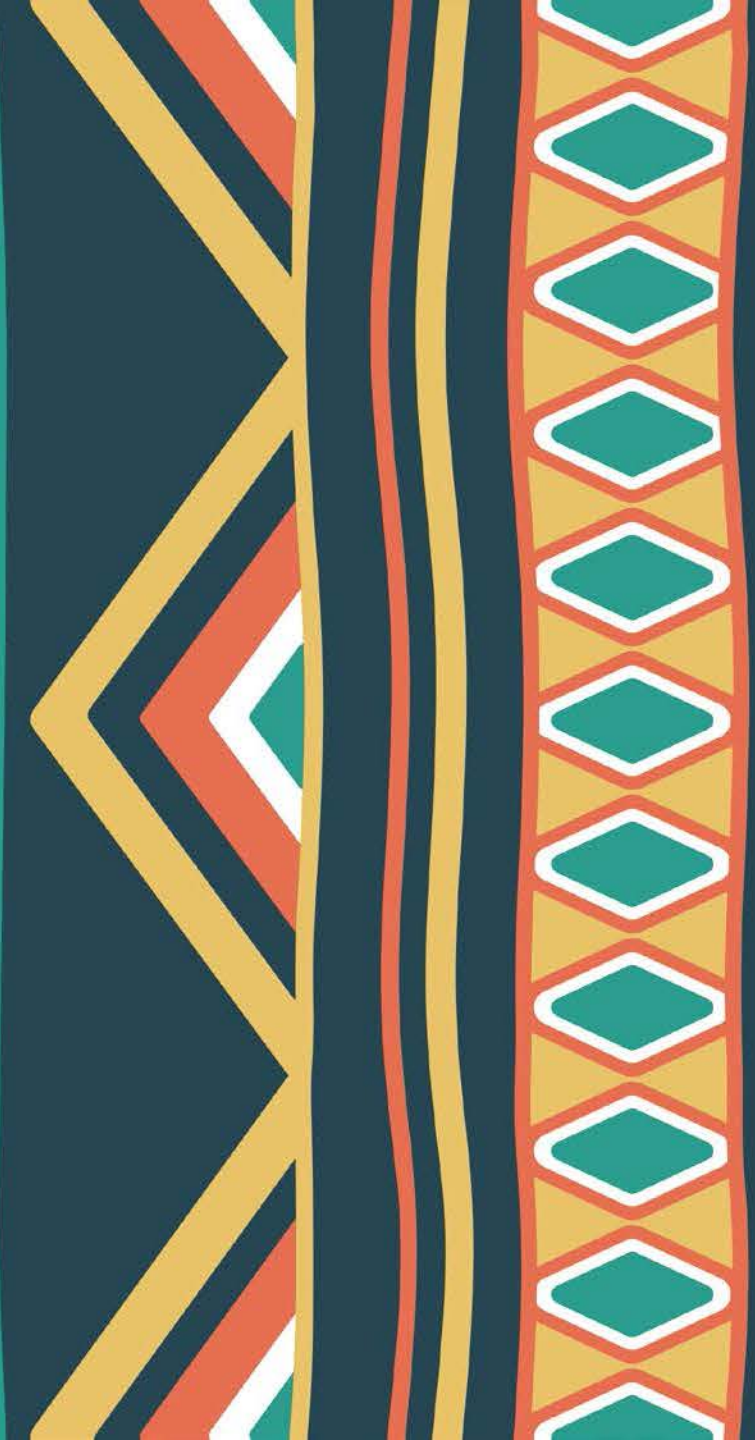


# The Current Situation

Young Black professionals and Black youth are seeking well-paying jobs that can financially sustain them.

## Hinderances include:

- **Vaccine Passports**-employers in the community are requesting prospective employees be fully vaccinated, making it difficult for CEE to run programming, as members have challenges securing employment.
- **Entrepreneurship Opportunities**-SEED funding for entrepreneurs are needed to create opportunities. Often, they require experience or success, in order to acquire funding, rather than supporting start ups.
- **Racial Disparities**-within the labor force are affecting both participation and unemployment rates, which continue to affect the state of employment.
- **Economic Recovery**-young Black Professionals are not seeing the outcomes of economic recovery in their communities.



# Key Drivers

- **COVID-19 Pandemic**-this has caused Black youth and young professionals to lose job security and financial security.
- **Cost of Living in Toronto**-Statistics have shown us that Toronto is known to be the 8<sup>th</sup> most expensive city in the world to live in.

## Statistics:

**47% of the young people CEE serves are currently receiving income supports such as Ontario Works.**

**A single person on Ontario Works receives \$533.00 after tax per month.**

1. Housing: the average Toronto rent is \$2070 per month. Depending on the property size, the average rental rates are as follows:

- \$1404 for a bachelor style apartment
- \$2444 for a 2-bedroom apartment

2. Food Costs: According to Toronto's Nutritious Food Basket Calculator, the average cost per month to buy food in the city ranges from roughly, \$260 for a female adult, to roughly, \$340 for a male young adult.

3. Childcare: According to a Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives report, Torontonians pay some of the highest childcare costs in Canada, with the median monthly cost being:

- \$1774 for infant care
- \$1457 for toddler care
- \$1207 for preschool

*(Statistics taken from, "Cost of Living Across Canada," published by WOVA Leads, 2022.)*



# CEE's Support

- **Black youth are overrepresented in the criminal justice system and are underrepresented in the labour market due to the increased barriers to accessing good meaningful employment.**
- CEE is actively finding ways to fill the gaps in labour that exist and create new and innovative ways to continue to engage Black youth in work and in community.
- CEE's Black focused programming-that engage youth around CEE 5 pillars of experiential learning: employability, education, empowerment and entrepreneurialism - is a successful model that continues to inspire, empower and encourage our Black youth to pursue sustainable life for themselves and their families while attracting the support of diverse stakeholders.

# CEE's Impact

- To date, CEE has supported over 421 black youth throughout CEE's program life cycle to graduation – a 97.8% retention rate.
- CEE offers an intensive 6 weeks-8 month program to improve careers, education and empowerment (CEE) that are holistic, person-centered, culturally relevant/responsive, informed by industry standards and augmented by a wrap around social support model.
- Since 2012, CEE has successfully launched 7 industry specific career training programs that are aligned with labour market/skill gaps; alumni support services under which a digital learning program was established to support continued skill and network development for graduates 2 years post programming.



# Promising Interventions

- **Life Stabilization-** in the midst of building key career and employability skills, it is important to focus on areas such as food and housing security. This is to ensure that youth are focused on their upward mobility, rather than having to juggle the stresses of proper nutrition, safety and security etc.
- **Trauma Informed Approach**
- **Culturally Relevant Approach**



# Recommendations

- Fully funding and appropriately staffing these types of programs and providing a decent livable income.
- Encouraging relationships and partnerships between the private and public sector to create opportunities for Black youth.
- Equipping non-profits and charities with resources to create innovative approaches to their work, to ensure particular communities are not dependent on government rescues in an ongoing basis.





# Questions & Answers

