CONFRONTING ANTI-BLACK RACISM NEWSLETTER

MANAGER'S GREETINGS

Welcome to the fall edition of our Confronting Anti-Black Racism (CABR) newsletter! Toronto's municipal election has just wrapped up, and it's an exciting time to think about what's ahead for our city. In this issue, we look back on events held for National Disability Employment Awareness Month and share updates from the CABR Unit and our community partners. As the year draws to a close, I'm grateful to the Black disabled leaders and community members whose advocacy helps make Toronto more accessible.

CITY NEWS & CIVIC UPDATES

Honouring Beverly Randolph Snow at Toronto Necropolis



On October 21, the City's Museums and Heritage Services commemorated Beverly Randolph Snow with a gathering at Riverdale Farm and a guided tour to his newly marked grave at Toronto Necropolis. Snow was born enslaved in Virginia and fled anti-Black violence in Washington, D.C., in 1835. He settled in Toronto with his wife, Julia, and opened several successful fine dining establishments.

The new grave marker honours Snow's contributions to Toronto's culinary and cultural history, and the tour highlighted the histories of Black families buried at the Necropolis.



CITY NEWS & CIVIC UPDATES

Have Your Say in the New Council Term



Toronto's new Council term began November 15. Black residents and community organizations can bring local priorities to City decision-making bodies by submitting written comments on agenda items or requesting to speak at a committee meeting. Visit Participate in Council and committee meetings. Email: clerk@toronto.ca.

Residents can also explore opportunities to serve on City boards, committees and tribunals through Public Appointments. Visit Explore public appointments. Email: appoint@toronto.ca

Below-market space for community organizations


226 Simcoe Street

The City is accepting applications for two community space tenancy opportunities at 226 Simcoe Street in Kensington-Chinatown and 38–40 Regent Street in Regent Park. Black- and Indigenous-led organizations have until **February 26, 2027 at 11:59 p.m.** to apply. Applicants must attend an information session for the space they's interested in. December and January sessions are available. Review the lease terms, operating costs and costs to prepare the space before applying. Visit Community Space Tenancy opportunities. Email: communityspace@toronto.ca

Get Ready for Winter Recreation



Registration for the City's winter recreation programs opens December 1–9, depending on the program and location. Toronto residents with low incomes can apply for the Welcome Policy recreation fee subsidy. The City also offers adapted programs such as swimming and CampTO for people with disabilities. Visit registration dates and adapted programs or call Recreation Client Services Call Centre 416-396-7378, option 1.

Visit Apply for the Welcome Policy or call Human Services Integration Office 416-338-8888.



Members of the CABR Unit and two of their Social Development colleagues staffed a polling station through Adopt-a-Poll during Toronto's October 26 municipal election.

CABR MILESTONES & COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

CABR Graditude Award



The Centre Haitien D'Actions Humanitaires (C.E.H.A.H.) honoured the CABR Unit with a Gratitude Award in recognition of its work to advance equity, challenge systemic racism and build a more inclusive community.

The CABR Unit's relationship with Toronto's Haitian community was established in 2025 through Emancipation Month events, starting with the flag-raising ceremony. We're grateful for the recognition and look forward to continuing to support community-led activities.

CABR MILESTONES & COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Dear Disabled Black Woman: Film Screening and Q&A



Left to right: Rachelle Gooden, TPL, Ingrid Palmer, and Jheanelle Anderson, CABR Unit at the film screening.

Dear Disabled Black Woman, an independent film by filmmaker and advocate with partial vision Ingrid Palmer, centres the voices of seven Black women with disabilities. Through personal stories, they share their experiences navigating employemnt in Canada and bring perspectives shaped by different ages, backgrounds and disabilities.

In partnership with Toronto Public Library and the CABR Unit, the October 16 premiere and Q&A at the Fairview Toronto Public Library Theatre welcomed more than 50 attendees. The discussion created an affirming space for community connection and shared learning about disability justice, with Black women's experiences at the centre.

In Our Blood: The Sickling Screening



On November 2, the CABR Unit and Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario (SCAGO) partnered with the University of Toronto's Black Student Engagement and Black Medical Students Association and to host In Our Blood, A community event and film screening. The event featured a blood drive, podcast recording, and screening of the documentary *The Sickling*, followed by a panel discussion.

The Sickling follows Toronto filmmaker Gabriel Badjeo's experience undergoing stem cell treatment for sickle cell disease. The event highlighted the resilience of people living with the disease and ongoing advocacy for federal recognition of sickle cell disease as a disability, building on the CABR Unit's 2026 focus on Black disability justice.

CABR MILESTONES & COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

SPARK 2026: Canadian Black Policy Conference



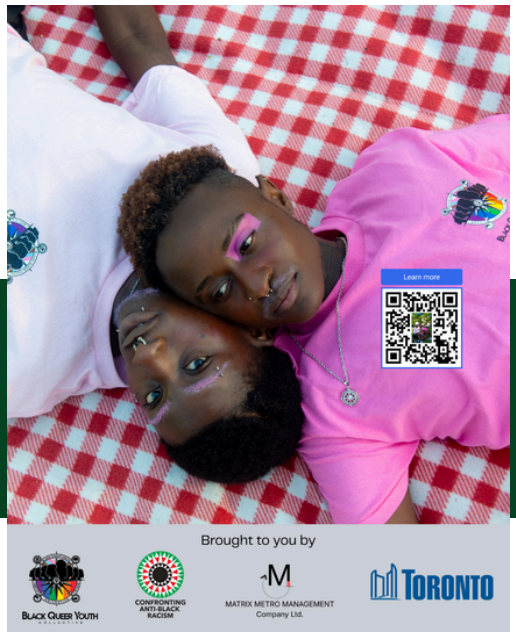
Left to right: Elder Floydeen Charles-Fridal, Elder Zanana Akande OOnt, and Dr. Kofi Hope speaking on a panel at the Conference.

On November 6 and 7, the Canadian Black Policy Network (CBPN) hosted SPARK 2026, the Canadian Black Policy Conference, in Toronto and online, bringing together policymakers, community leaders, advocates, researchers and students from across Canada. Through keynotes, panels, breakout sessions and cultural programming, participants explored policy issues shaping Black communities and discussed how to work together on community-led solutions. To learn more about their work visit: https://cbpn.ca/.



Afro-Indigenous Roundtable

The Afro-Indigenous Roundtable held on October 16 brought community members together to share their experiences of identity and belonging, discuss barriers to accessing City services, and explore ways to strengthen relationships between Black and Indigenous communities. Participants identified ways the City could better recognize and support Afro-Indigenous communities, including dedicated spaces, funding, culturally grounded programs, and a stronger voice for Afro-Indigenous residents in shaping City policies and decisions.





COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Black Queer Youth Collective

Founded in 2017, the Black Queer Youth Collective (BQYC) was created to fill a gap in services for Black LGBTQ+ youth in Toronto. Over the past nine years, the Collective has led community conversations, conducted research and delivered culturally responsive services. Its work includes Black Mental Health Week programming and The Domino Project, a needs assessment focused on Black LGBTQ+ youth. Another initiative, TRANScending Love: Rings & Tingz, is a community-led project exploring what African, Caribbean and Black trans women in Canada look for when dating and pursuing long-term relationships.



Building on the TRANScending Love series, the CABR Unit partnered with BQYC on TRANScending Love: For the Boiss. The digital campaign ran from May to September 2026, with special exhibits during Pride Month. It celebrated African, Caribbean and Black trans men and bois, highlighting the importance of belonging, safety and trust. The campaign affirmed trans people's autonomy and right to self-determination at every stage of their transition.

For the Boiss made space for Black trans men and transmasculine people whose voices are often underrepresented in community projects. It also opened up conversations about how community spaces and services can better include and support them. As BQYC enters its 10th year, the Collective plans to reflect on its work and bring photos and videos from the campaign into a travelling exhibit. The exhibit will introduce more people to BQYC's services and invite deeper conversations about Black trans men, masculinity and belonging in community spaces. Learn more about the Black Queer Youth Collective and TRANScending Love: For the Boiss on the BQYC website: https://www.blackqueeryouthcollective.org/