



NEWS RELEASE

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Historic consultation about child welfare takes place with African Canadian community on September 15 in North York

TORONTO — A historic public consultation with Toronto's African Canadian community about their experiences with the child welfare system will take place on Tuesday, September 15 at the Jamaican Canadian Association in North York.

The consultations are part of an African Canadian community project called "One Vision One Voice: Changing the Child Welfare System for African Canadians". The project aims to address issues of overrepresentation and disproportionality of the African Canadian community in child welfare. The information collected will inform the project's research and will help to shape the practice framework that supports employees in the child welfare system to better serve African Canadian children and families.

"These are voices that have gone previously unheard. Their experiences matter. They're vital to making real change for African Canadians in the child welfare system," says Kike Ojo, OACAS Project Manager of "One Vision One Voice".

The project is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, through the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.

"One of the goals of Ontario's child welfare system is that the care Children's Aid Societies provide meets the unique needs of children, youth, and families whenever and wherever they require service. It is essential that we continue to engage and listen to the valuable input of community groups, organizations, children, youth, and families as we work towards better outcomes for African Canadian children and youth."

-Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services

The consultation on September 15 will take place at the Jamaican Canadian Association, located at 995 Arrow Road, North York, Toronto, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. The consultation will begin with a press conference that runs from 6:00 to 6:30 pm with Minister of Children and Youth Services, Tracy MacCharles; President of the Jamaican Canadian Association, Everton Gordon; Executive Director of the African Canadian Legal Clinic, Margaret Parsons; Chair of the Board of Directors of OACAS, Avanthi Goddard; and Executive Director of OACAS, Mary Ballantyne.

Additional consultations will take place during the fall across Ontario, including in Peel, York, and Durham regions, as well as in Toronto, Windsor, Hamilton, London, and Ottawa.

Information and registration for the consultations is available on the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies website at <http://www.oacas.org>.

About the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies: Since 1912, OACAS has represented Ontario's Children's Aid Societies in Ontario and provided service in the areas of government relations, communications, information management, education, and training to advocate for the protection and well-being of children. <http://www.oacas.org>.

For more information or to request an interview with Kike Ojo, OACAS Project Manager of "One Vision One Voice: Changing the Child Welfare System for African Canadians", please contact:

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