

Acknowledging Black History Month

Dear Bayview Family Practice Patients,

Black History Month is a time to recognize the tremendous accomplishments and contributions of Black Canadians past and present. It is also a time to acknowledge that Anti-Black racism is an ongoing issue in Canada impacting the health and health care of Black Canadians.

The year 2020 made visible the impact of anti-Black racism around the world. COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Black communities in Toronto and beyond, and has highlighted the significant health, and socio-economic disparities facing this community amid the unprecedented tragedy and harm. As an example, in late July Toronto Public Health reported that Black people accounted for 21% of the city's COVID-19 cases, despite making up 9% of the population. People who identified as Black and other people of colour were six to nine times more likely to test positive for COVID-19 than the white population.

Aside from COVID-19, Black communities are disproportionately affected by diabetes, strokes, hypertension and mental health issues, among others. These disparities are largely due to structural inequities and systemic racism that persist today.

Bayview Family Practice is committed to creating, supporting and maintaining a working environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying and disrespectful behaviour. We stand in solidarity with Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities. As physicians, we are committed to practicing and promoting cultural safety, cultural competence, and cultural humility by listening to and learning from communities most impacted by systemic and structural inequities and discrimination.

In honour of Black History Month and in keeping with our long involvement in women's health, we are making a donation to [Black Women In Motion](#), a Toronto-based, youth-led organization that empowers and supports the advancement of black women and survivors of sexual violence.

We encourage you to take this month to learn more about Black Canadian history and to reflect on opportunities to engage in anti-racism activities throughout the year, as we will.

Warmly,

Leslie Beyers Karen Fleming Claire Murphy Jennifer Wyman