

Panel 2 – Canadian Statement on Education: Overcoming Systematic Racism and Historical Harm

Madame la présidente,

Le Canada demeure déterminé à atteindre le quatrième objectif de développement durable afin d'assurer une éducation inclusive et de qualité pour tous et de favoriser l'apprentissage continu.

La vie des Canadiens noirs a été considérablement touchée par des siècles de pratiques et de politiques discriminatoires. Toutefois, cette histoire doit être notée parallèlement à la reconnaissance des progrès réalisés par les Canadiens noirs, comme les pionnières féministes Viola Desmond, Mary Ann Shadd et Rosemary Brown.

L'éducation concernant à la fois les préjugés systémiques causés et la résilience, ainsi que les contributions historiques et contemporaines des communautés noires, est essentielle pour aider à vaincre le racisme contre les personnes noires et lutter contre les préjugés raciaux.

Where data is available on Black youth who are educated in Canada, there is evidence of achievement and opportunity gaps linked to discrimination in the education system. For example, we know that Black high school students are the most likely to be streamed into special education and applied programs and are the least likely to enroll in college and university when compared to White and other racialized students.

Despite the Canadian-born Black population aged 25 to 54 having similar educational attainment to the Canadian-born non-racialized population, they earn only 76 cents for every dollar earned by the latter.

Significant action is needed to address these inequities. As part of the Government of Canada's efforts, Canada continues to fund Black-led organizations which are helping deliver Black made Black Led solutions for the community, including solutions that support education and literacy, as well as promotion of Black history.

We are committed to working with other countries and community organizations to help overcome systemic racism and harm affecting Black communities in Canada and globally.

Merci/Thank you.