



Toronto
1600-2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1E4

Montreal
317-5165 Sherbrooke St W
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4A 1T6

www.bcas-srcn.org
info@bcas-srcn.org

Remarks of BCAS Chief Executive Officer, Nicholas Marcus Thompson at the Third Session of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Geneva, Switzerland, April 16, 2024

After a decade, our persistent calls for reparations continue to be overlooked. The old ways of requesting reparations have not worked. The systems and structures that have oppressed us for so long will not correct themselves. It is not enough to ask those who have oppressed us to do what is right and just. We must demand it, enforce it through the power of strategic litigation paired with relentless advocacy.

Today I am proud to announce that civil society has come together to establish the Global Strategic Litigation and Advocacy Network. This initiative will harness the collective expertise of legal professionals, activists, and community leaders worldwide. Together we will employ strategic litigation alongside advocacy to tackle systemic discrimination against people of African descent, to secure reparations and drive profound systemic changes, because we are here to disrupt the status quo, to dismantle the oppressive systems that have held us back for countless generations.

We are here to ensure that the future does not mirror the injustices of the past. With every lawsuit, with every campaign, and every call to action, we are building a legacy, a world where equality is the bedrock of society. In Canada the Black Class Action Secretariat spearheads this approach with a landmark \$2.5 billion class action lawsuit against the federal Government of Canada. This lawsuit seeks restitution for decades of discrimination within the public sector, aiming to rectify injustices endured by Black applicants and employees.

Join us as we forge ahead not just to make history but to make it right. Thank you very much.