

Like so many of you in our network, the Canadian Breast Cancer Network (CBCN) has closely followed the Black Lives Matter protests and the growing movement it has inspired online, in Canada, and globally. The protests, in response to the tragic death of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis, have sparked a necessary global conversation aimed at addressing police brutality and dismantling systemic racism.

At CBCN, we recognize the importance of these critical issues and we stand in solidarity with the Black community and other BIPOC communities against all forms of racism whether overt, unconscious or structural. As a national health charity, we are very aware of the racial and ethnic disparities that exist in healthcare – with breast cancer being no exception. We know that these inequities impact breast cancer patients both in terms of access and survival outcomes. Just as Black lives matter, so too does Black health.

Our Commitment

CBCN remains committed to using our platform to amplify the voices of underserved populations disproportionately affected by breast cancer. Going forward, we will regularly be using CBCN's Our Voices blog to shine a spotlight on the ways in which racialized communities experience health disparities in breast cancer. We will also be expanding our public outreach efforts to be more inclusive and diverse to ensure that CBCN's educational, advocacy and networking activities are truly reflective of the needs of the broader breast cancer community.

While we continue to evaluate the actions we can take to implement substantive change, CBCN is recommitting to accelerating our efforts to increase equity and inclusion throughout our network. The work of implementing change is our responsibility and a role we take seriously as leaders in breast cancer patient care. We hope you will join us as a community to foster a more just and equitable world.

Sincerely,

Cathy Ammendolea, CBCN Board Chair, on behalf of the
Canadian Breast Cancer Network