



# Black Legal Action Centre

Suite 221 – 720 Spadina Avenue • Toronto • Ontario • M5S 2T9

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September 3, 2020

Dear Community:

Today it is with heavy hearts and immense gratitude that we announce Ruth Goba will be stepping down as Executive Director of the Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC).

Ms. Goba joined BLAC in June of 2018 as Executive Director and has shown true leadership during her tenure, advocating tirelessly and steering our organization through some of the most pivotal times for our community. Under her guidance, BLAC has grown to be a leading advocate in confronting anti-Black racism and a strong resource in providing legal support to Black Ontarians.

The work that was done under Ms. Goba's leadership and the credibility BLAC has established is evident by the significant amount of donations our organization has received in recent months, which are being responsibly and transparently managed to ensure their future use for the clinic and the Black community. Our work has only just begun, and because of Ms. Goba's efforts, BLAC is in a strong position to build on our achievements as we continue to serve our community and combat individual and systemic anti-Black racism in Ontario.

"I am deeply honoured and grateful to have been chosen as the founding Executive Director of BLAC. I feel now is the appropriate time for me to move on, and for the organization to be taken into the future by a new Executive Director," Ms. Goba said. "I am so pleased to leave knowing that BLAC is on solid footing to further the work I had the privilege of starting. I believe we have provided an important service to the public and our community. We have set a high standard in support of the Black community and addressing anti-Black racism that will continue into the future."

BLAC has appointed Lesa Francis as Interim Executive Director as the organization searches for a permanent candidate to fill the role. While Ms. Goba will support the organization through this transition phase, her last day as Executive Director will be September 3, 2020.

On behalf of BLAC, the Board of Directors extends a sincere thank you to Ms. Goba for her dedication and hard work, and we trust that she will continue to have a positive impact the Black community.

Sincerely,  
Rinaldo Walcott, Chair of the Board  
Zanana Akande, Ex Officio (Past Chair)