



Black Legal Action Centre

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Dear Colleagues and Community,

After much deliberation, I have made the very difficult decision to step down as the Executive Director of the Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC).

Over two years ago, BLAC was created thanks to the vision and hard work of the founding Board of Directors, including the past Chair of our Board, Zanana Akande. The Board envisioned a legal clinic overseen and staffed by members of the community that would speak out on important issues of systemic anti-Black racism and provide critical services to the community. I am honoured to have been chosen to implement that vision.

As I depart, I want to thank, first and foremost, the extraordinary members of the Black community who we strive to serve. Our community is a remarkable one. We all exist in a society that is rife with systemic racism and prejudice; a society that overlooks and diminishes Black success and devalues Black life. The disproportionately negative impacts of Covid-19 on the Black Community and far too many deaths at the hands of the police have revealed how deeply entrenched anti-Black racism is in our society. Despite that, we are diverse, strong, proud, resilient, tenacious, and beautiful. Our community has been a constant source of strength, support and inspiration to me. Thank you for blessing me with the opportunity to work alongside you.

Thank you to the extraordinary staff with whom I have had the honour of working. They are smart, tenacious, compassionate and thoughtful. Their zealous advocacy on behalf of the community and against anti-Black racism will continue. We have worked hard to set a high standard for service and I am excited to see all that BLAC will achieve in the future. I also thank Legal Aid Ontario for their funding and support of BLAC's work.

I am so grateful for having being granted this extraordinary opportunity and I will continue to work (after a break!) toward achieving an equitable society.

All my best,

Ruth Goba