



Black Legal Action Centre

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

Membership Drive

Dear Community Members:

The Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC) is a non-profit specialty community legal clinic that provides free legal services for low or no income Black residents of Ontario. BLAC works to combat individual and systemic anti-Black racism by providing legal representation, summary legal advice and brief services to individual clients, and engaging in test case litigation, law reform and community development to improve the laws that affect low income people. They also provide public legal information sessions to members of the public and other community agencies.

The clinic officially opened its doors on March 1, 2019 with six staff. Since then BLAC has counselled and directed hundreds of clients through the legal system, and their work is so extensive that the centre has now grown to a staff of 13. They have participated in numerous advocacy initiatives working with many community organizations and allies to combat systemic anti-Black racism across Ontario. Recently, with funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage Anti-Racism Action Program (ARAP), BLAC has launched a province-wide initiative focusing on the school-to-prison pipeline. Their aim is to research and develop recommendations for policy reform and advocate for change within the justice and education system. For more information about BLAC and the work that they do, please refer to the [website](#).

This letter is an encouragement, a solicitation to individuals and organizations to become members of BLAC. [Membership applications](#) can be found on the website, and the associated fees may also be paid online. The Black Legal Action Centre welcomes current and new eligible members to become involved and share their ideas anytime, and certainly at the general meetings, to ensure that the community is informed of and influences the clinic's direction.

Please know that BLAC's membership year is set from **October 1 to September 30**. Although in the past we have responded to exceptional circumstances and altered the rule, generally candidates interested in standing for election to the Board must be members for at least six months before their nomination for election to the Board. **Those interested in applying to become Directors of the Board still have time to join before the next annual meeting.** If you require more information, please contact Lesa Francis, Interim Executive Director, at info@blacklegalactioncentre.ca.

Sincerely,

Zanana Akande

Zanana Akande
Board Chair