BLAC

IMPACT

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Advancing black justice



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC) recognizes that our work takes place on traditional Indigenous territories across the territory now called Ontario. We acknowledge that there are 46 treaties and other agreements that cover the Province.

BLAC also acknowledges that our head office is located on the land known as Tkaronto. Tkaronto is the unceded and ancestral territories of the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee confederacy, the Mississauga's of the Credit River, the Wendat and many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. It is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississauga's of the Credit and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississauga's and Chippewa bands, to peaceably share and care for the lands around the Great Lakes.

BLAC also acknowledges the many people of African descent who are not settlers, but whose ancestors were forcibly displaced as part of the transatlantic slave trade, brought against their will, and made to work on these lands.

We believe that advancing Indigenous sovereignty is deeply and inextricably linked to Black liberation and we will continue to mobilize and take action in solidarity with Indigenous people and communities.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Justice can be measured by the laws we enact or the institutions we establish. It can also be measured by the experiences of the people those systems are intended to serve.

For Black communities across Ontario, the distance between the promise of equality and the reality of lived experience remains significant. Discrimination in employment, barriers to housing, inequities within the justice system, and unequal access to public services continue to shape opportunities and outcomes. These challenges remind us that meaningful progress requires more than acknowledging systemic racism; it demands sustained action, institutional accountability, and a willingness to confront the structures that perpetuate inequality.

Throughout 2025–2026, Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC) continued to respond to these challenges through legal representation, strategic litigation, public legal education, and systemic advocacy. Our work extended from supporting individuals navigating discrimination to contributing to significant legal proceedings and policy discussions with implications far beyond any single case.

Yet the significance of this work cannot be captured entirely through statistics or legal outcomes. Behind every file is an individual seeking to be heard, a family navigating uncertainty, or a community confronting barriers that should not exist. These experiences are at the heart of BLAC's mandate and reinforce why independent, community-centred legal advocacy remains essential.

As a Board of Directors, our responsibility extends beyond organizational oversight. We are entrusted with safeguarding BLAC's mission, strengthening its long-term sustainability, and ensuring that its work remains responsive to the communities it serves. Effective governance requires both accountability and foresight, particularly as the legal, political, and economic landscape continues to evolve.

I am grateful to my fellow Board members for their service and dedication, to our staff for their professionalism and perseverance, and to the community organizations, volunteers, and partners whose contributions strengthen our collective efforts.

Neto Naniwambote
Chair, Board of Directors
Black Legal Action Centre

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



For many Black individuals and families across Ontario, asserting a legal right can mean navigating unfamiliar processes, confronting institutions with considerably greater resources, and finding the courage to challenge treatment that has too often been normalized.

At BLAC, we see these realities through the Black people who come to us for help. Their experiences remind us that access to justice goes beyond rights; it asks whether people can exercise those rights, obtain meaningful remedies, and trust that the institutions responsible for upholding them will act fairly.

The 2025–2026 reporting year brought both opportunities for progress and reminders of the work that remains. Our legal team continued to address matters involving employment, housing, human rights, public services, and the correctional system. These areas intersect. They are connected to the conditions that shape people's ability to work, secure housing, access essential services, and participate fully in society.

Beyond individual casework, BLAC contributed to significant legal developments. Our case interventions, deputations and submissions brought attention to the disproportionate effects of correctional security classifications on Black inmates, discriminatory trends in housing, and shortfalls in Canada’s international commitments to advancing Black justice.

We also continued our involvement in litigation challenging discriminatory street check and carding practices, as well as City housing denials based on race. This work reflects the importance of confronting practices whose consequences extend beyond individual encounters with police to questions of public trust, accountability, and equal treatment under the law.

Demar Kemar Hewitt
Executive Director & General Counsel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Neto Naniwambote

Neto Frank Naniwambote is a licensed paralegal. His practice spans human rights, immigration, residential tenancies, provincial offences, and civil litigation, with experience appearing before Ontario courts and administrative tribunals.

Neto brings extensive community leadership experience, including service on the Board of Directors of the Harriet Tubman Community Organization and as former Board Chair of IGNITE. He holds degrees in Parajurist Studies, Accounting Management, and Mathematics and Physics. Fluent in English, French, Portuguese, and Dutch/Afrikaans, he brings a multidisciplinary and multilingual perspective to his legal practice and community service.



Valarie Steele

Valarie Steele is a community activist and leader with extensive experience in advocacy, governance, and community development. She has served multiple terms as Vice President and President of the Jamaican Canadian Association and as President of the Jamaican Diaspora Canada Foundation. She also represented Canada on the Jamaican Diaspora Advisory Board, advising the Government of Jamaica on issues affecting Jamaicans living abroad.

Valarie has served on numerous boards and committees throughout Toronto's Black community and is Vice President of the Black Action Defense Committee Inc. Her longstanding commitment to community advocacy reflects decades of leadership and service to Black communities in Canada.

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Ivor Christopher

Ivor Christopher is a Chartered Professional Accountant. As a seasoned Accounting and Finance professional, Ivor brings over 35 years experience including over 15 years financial managerial experience, in non-profit and charitable organizations. Ivor also served for two years as the Controller for the Italian Canadian Savings and Credit Union.

Ivor is currently leading the Pan-African Credit Union Initiative, looking to establish a Black Credit Union in the Greater Toronto Area. He tirelessly lends his expertise and skills to the Black Community.



Dr. Jacobet (Edith) Atieno Wambayi

Dr. Edith is the Founder and Executive Director of Uzima Women Relief Group International, an organization supporting families affected by poverty, conflict, and disease, with a particular focus on women and children living with HIV/AIDS. A former Senior Research Officer at the Kenya Medical Research Institute, she brings decades of experience in medical research, public health, and community-based advocacy.

Her leadership includes serving on Canada's Ministerial Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS from 2007 to 2015 and advising the Government of Bangladesh through the World Health Organization. She also leads Health and Life Promotion Research Consultancy (HELP), providing research, education, and community support services. Holding a PhD and MSc in Medical Sciences, Dr. Edith brings extensive expertise in health equity, international development, and community empowerment.

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Selwyn Pieters

Selwyn Pieters is a sole practitioner called to the Bars of Ontario, Canada; Trinidad & Tobago, and Guyana.

Selwyn has a vast experience in criminal, human rights, law enforcement and national security issues and can provide unmatched professional legal service in individuals, corporation and governments. Specialties: Education law, Criminal law, Human Rights law, Police law, Administrative law, Constitutional law, and civil litigation and can provide Notary services.



Dr. Jacqui Getfield

Dr. Jacqueline Getfield is a social scientist and Manager of the Caribbean African Regenerative Medicine (CARM) Project. Her research examines the intersections of race, motherhood, disability, health, and education, drawing on Critical Race Theory, Black feminist thought, and Critical Disability Studies.

An experienced speaker, educator, and community advocate, she delivers public lectures and facilitates workshops on diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging. She is also the Founder of Mothers United in Mediating Mutual Alliances (MUMMA), an initiative supporting collaboration among families, educators, and health professionals. Dr. Getfield serves on the boards of several charitable organizations, including the North York Seniors Centre, bringing expertise in research, equity, accessibility, and community engagement to BLAC's Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ayderus Alawi

Ayderus is a community advocate and youth leader with extensive experience advancing access to justice, education, and resources for marginalized young people. He is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Beyond the Lyrics Youth Resource Centre, a grassroots organization dedicated to empowering youth and addressing systemic barriers.

His advocacy experience includes working with youth affected by policing and the criminal justice system, providing court support, facilitating legal rights workshops, and assisting with police complaints. While attending Osgoode Hall Law School, Ayderus continued his community-focused legal work through the Community and Legal Aid Services Programme (CLASP), serving as a Youth and Education Division Leader. He also completed Osgoode's Criminal Intensive Programme, further strengthening his experience in criminal law and access to justice.



Owen Rhoden

Mr. Rhoden is a Senior Business Development Manager, Financial Advisor, and Director of the Jamaican Canadian Association. With over 15 years of community service, he brings extensive experience in organizational governance, strategic planning, financial oversight, and community leadership.

Throughout his career, he has supported Black-led organizations and provided professional guidance and mentorship to Black individuals and communities. His work reflects a longstanding commitment to addressing systemic barriers, advancing equity, and strengthening opportunities for Black Canadians. He brings valuable financial expertise, governance experience, and a community-centred perspective to BLAC's Board of Directors.

INTRODUCTION

Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC) is a community legal clinic specializing in addressing anti-Black racism within legal systems and public institutions in Ontario. BLAC advances racial equity through legal advocacy, strategic litigation, public legal education, and policy reform. The clinic's work is grounded in the understanding that anti-Black racism operates both individually and systemically, shaping outcomes in areas such as employment, housing, human rights, public services, and the justice system.

Over the past year, BLAC continued to expand its legal and advocacy work across Ontario. Through litigation, coalition partnerships, public education initiatives, and law reform advocacy, the clinic has challenged discriminatory practices and strengthened access to justice for Black communities.

This annual report highlights the activities and impact of BLAC's work over the reporting period. It reflects the organization's ongoing commitment to addressing systemic racism and advancing meaningful change within legal and public institutions.

The 2025–2026 reporting year brought both opportunities for progress and reminders of the work that remains.

Our legal team continued to address matters involving employment, housing, human rights, public services, and the correctional system. These concerns are not isolated. They are connected to the conditions that shape people's ability to work, secure housing, access essential services, and participate fully in society.

OUR VISION & MISSION



A society where anti-black racism is named and meaningfully addressed; where the humanity and dignity of Black people are centered; where the laws and the legal system are just and fair; and where racial equity and full participation of all Black people in society is achieved.



To combat and eradicate individual and systemic anti-Black racism in Ontario through education, advocacy, and litigation.



Blac provides free legal advice and representation to qualified low- or no-income Black people in Ontario who have experienced anti-black racism.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

BLAC's work is grounded in a commitment to justice, accountability, and community empowerment. Our work is guided by the following principles:

Community

We will strive to center members of all Black communities in our work. This involves including community members and their perspectives throughout planning and delivery; ensuring that we are accessible regardless of poverty, geographic location, (dis)ability, and language; building authentic partnerships and collaborative relationships; and being transparent, accountable, and responsive to the communities we serve.

Anti-Discrimination

We will work to create an environment that actively addresses discrimination in all its forms. This includes racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, anti-fatness, ableism, sanism, sexism, misogyny and misogynoir, ageism, classism and elitism.

Abolition

We will work towards a transformed world in which justice is not equated with punishment, and accountability is not equated with caging. We will work with trusted community partners who have a demonstrated interest in this liberatory agenda for Black, Indigenous and racialized people.

Intersectionality

We acknowledge that "all Black people are not demonized equally or identically. Gender, sexual orientation, (dis)ability, mental health and place of birth also mediate the way that anti-Black racism is experienced." (Maynard, p.12) We will work to identify, address, and break down institutional, systemic and structural barriers faced by groups within Black communities.

Inclusivity

We will work to support not only those Black people who are perceived by society as "good" or "innocent" but also those who are stigmatized, criminalized or otherwise deemed as less deserving of justice, care and dignity. Freedom is "the necessary universal outcome for all if those at the bottom of society attain theirs."(Hobson, 2016, p. 6)

01

STRATEGIC PRIORITY ONE

ADVANCING JUSTICE THROUGH DECARCERATION

Working towards a justice system that is fair, accountable, and free from anti-Black racism.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 01

GOAL

BLAC is recognized as a trusted legal advocate addressing systemic anti-Black racism within the justice system through police complaint advocacy, correctional law representation, strategic litigation, and public legal education.

OUR OBJECTIVES

➤ 1.1 Address Anti-Black racism in correctional institutions

Provide legal advocacy and representation for individuals experiencing discrimination, denial of services, or unequal treatment within correctional facilities.

➤ 1.2 Support accountability following police interactions

Assist community members with navigating the police complaints process following police interactions and provide guidance on available accountability mechanisms.

➤ 1.3 Strengthen public legal education on police encounters

Deliver “Know Your Rights” public legal education sessions that inform communities about their rights during police interactions and the police complaints process.

➤ 1.4 Advance systemic advocacy and strategic litigation

Participate in court interventions, coalition advocacy, and systemic litigation aimed at addressing racial disparities within policing, corrections, and the broader justice system.

DESIRED OUTCOME



A justice system in which Black individuals are no longer disproportionately impacted by policing, incarceration, and custodial supervision, and where systemic racism within justice institutions is meaningfully addressed.

2025-2026 MILESTONES AND RESULTS

Throughout 2025–2026, BLAC challenged systemic barriers within Canada's justice system through strategic litigation, legal advocacy, and efforts to strengthen institutional accountability. Three significant developments illustrate the scope of this work.

Challenging Inequities in Correctional Classification

In *Dorsey v. Canada (Attorney General)*, BLAC intervened before the Supreme Court of Canada, drawing attention to the disproportionate classification of Black incarcerated individuals into higher security levels. The Court confirmed that habeas corpus remains a broad, flexible and accessible remedy for unlawful restraints on residual liberty: an inmate need not show a prior change in status quo or an existing entitlement to lower security, but must establish that current confinement is more restrictive and raise a legitimate ground for questioning its lawfulness, after which the detaining authority must justify it. The Court adopted and applied BLAC's central access arguments by rejecting formal barriers that would prevent meaningful judicial review of denial-of-transfer decisions, recognizing that security classification affects programs, family visits, work, temporary absences and release timing, and holding that continued medium-security confinement may be qualitatively comparable to an involuntary transfer to higher security; this accords with BLAC's submission that habeas corpus must be "equally, and meaningfully, available" and that its availability cannot be determined without reference to substantive equality.

Seeking Accountability for Racial Profiling

BLAC continued its involvement in litigation challenging the Toronto Police Service's street check and carding practices. The class action's certification marked an important procedural development, allowing claims of alleged racial profiling and Charter violations to proceed. The litigation raises broader questions about discriminatory policing practices, accountability, and public trust.

Addressing Barriers Through Record Suspension Support

BLAC identified opportunities to expand record suspension services through partnerships with Peacebuilders International Canada and The 519. These initiatives aim to reduce barriers to employment and social participation for individuals with criminal records, supporting reintegration and advancing BLAC's decarceration objectives.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS RELATED TO JUSTICE-SYSTEM ADVOCACY AND DECARCERATION

STRTEGIC LITIGATION AND LEGAL INTERVENTIONS

Actions or Outcomes

- **Dorsey v. Canada (Attorney General**): a Supreme Court case examining correctional security classifications and their disproportionate impact on Black inmates. The Court affirmed access to habeas corpus review in circumstances affecting liberty interests.
- **Toronto Police Carding Class Action:** supporting litigation challenging street checks and alleged racial profiling. The certification decision allowed the claims to proceed toward adjudication.
- **R. v. Matthew Althorpe**: delivering a Community Impact Statement highlighting the psychological, social, and intergenerational harms of white supremacist extremist violence on Black communities.

COALITION AND SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Actions or Outcomes

- Collaborated with Peacebuilders, the CanAfro Research Institute, the Fresh Start Coalition, OSOCOR, and other justice-sector partners to advance collective responses to anti-Black racism.
- Contributed community-informed perspectives to discussions on justice-system reform, the criminalization of self-defence, and barriers to record suspensions and reintegration.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS RELATED TO JUSTICE-SYSTEM ADVOCACY AND DECARCERATION

JUSTICE-SYSTEM POLICY ADVOCACY

Actions or Contributions

- **Bail and Sentencing Reform:** Contributed equity and human rights analysis to coalition advocacy concerning Bill C-14.
- **Criminal Records and Reintegration:** Worked with the Fresh Start Coalition to advance discussions on record suspensions and barriers to reintegration.
- **Police Accountability:** Observer of the Coalition for Canadian Police Reform and broader discussions on policing and justice-system reform. Engaged with the RCMP on resources and community perspectives on policing.
- **Correctional Research:** Identified opportunities with the University of Toronto Sandbox program to examine racism and inequality in correctional facilities.
- **Black Circle of Care Initiative:** Explored community-centred approaches to supporting Black individuals affected by the criminal justice system, with a focus on culturally responsive services, legal advocacy, and pathways to reintegration.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS RELATED TO JUSTICE-SYSTEM ADVOCACY AND DECARCERATION

BLAC

PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY PATHWAYS

Actions or Contributions

- **Correctional Rights Education:** Delivered a public legal education session at Collins Bay Institution, informing approximately 30–40 incarcerated Black individuals about their rights and the federal correctional grievance process.

- **Understanding Accountability Mechanisms**: Facilitated discussions on filing grievances, institutional accountability, and the challenges incarcerated individuals face when seeking remedies.

- **Community-Informed Advocacy:** Gathered perspectives on barriers to using formal complaint mechanisms, including concerns about retaliation and distrust of correctional authorities, to inform ongoing rights education and advocacy.

CONFRONTING RIGHTS AND RACISM BEHIND PRISON WALLS

A legal right means little when exercising it comes with the fear of retaliation.

This tension emerged during a public legal education session the BLAC delivered at Collins Bay Medium Security Institution.

Led by former staff lawyer Hodine Williams, the session brought together approximately 30–40 Black incarcerated individuals to discuss their legal rights and the grievance procedures available within federal correctional institutions.



Hodine Williams, former BLAC Staff Lawyer, pictured with a participant during a public legal education session at Collins Bay Medium Security Institution

What began as a presentation on navigating the correctional grievance process developed into a candid conversation about the realities of incarceration. Participants shared experiences of perceived racial discrimination, unequal treatment, and deep mistrust of correctional authorities. Their accounts pointed to concerns that extended beyond individual incidents and raised broader questions about institutional accountability.

A particularly significant issue was the fear associated with filing formal grievances. Several participants explained that, although complaint mechanisms exist, they were reluctant to use them because they feared retaliation or further mistreatment. Their concerns exposed a critical distinction between the existence of legal protections and the practical ability to access them.

The discussion also demonstrated the importance of bringing legal education directly into correctional institutions. Participants asked questions, engaged openly with BLAC's legal team, and expressed interest in similar sessions being delivered at other facilities. For many, the visit was their first introduction to BLAC and the assistance available through the clinic.

The session underscored an important reality: access to justice requires more than informing people of their rights. It also requires accountability mechanisms that people can use without fear. By listening to the experiences of incarcerated individuals, BLAC gained valuable community-informed perspectives to support its ongoing legal education and advocacy addressing anti-Black racism within the correctional system.

02

STRATEGIC PRIORITY TWO

ENABLING FULL PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 02

BLAC

GOAL

BLAC strengthens legal protections and accountability mechanisms addressing discrimination in employment, housing, education, and public services.

OUR OBJECTIVES

➤ 2.1 Provide legal representation and advocacy addressing anti-Black racism in key areas of law including human rights, employment, and housing.

➤ 2.2 Deliver public legal education initiatives that increase awareness of legal rights and empower communities to challenge discrimination.

➤ 2.3 Advance systemic advocacy and policy reform efforts aimed at eliminating structural barriers affecting Black communities.

DESIRED OUTCOME



Black communities can participate fully and equitably in social, economic, and civic life without barriers created by systemic racism.

2025-2026 MILESTONES AND RESULTS

Challenging Barriers to Justice

Access to justice depends not only on the existence of legal protections, but also on whether individuals can meaningfully exercise them. In Lydia Dosu v. Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario and York University, BLAC intervened to challenge procedural barriers that could restrict access to human rights remedies. Its submissions emphasized that individuals experiencing discrimination should not face additional requirements unsupported by Ontario's Human Rights Code.

Advancing Equality in Public Services

In *Quebec (Attorney General) v. Kanyinda*, BLAC participated in a Supreme Court of Canada proceeding concerning the exclusion of refugee claimants from Quebec's subsidized childcare program. BLAC submitted, and the Court acknowledged, that Black women are disproportionately impacted by the new exclusions created by the government policy. The Court found the exclusion inconsistent with Charter equality protections, reinforcing the importance of equitable access to essential public services.

Creating Space for Community Dialogue

During Black History Month, BLAC hosted Living in Colour: Black Life, Law, and Belonging in Canada, bringing together legal professionals, advocates, and community members to explore the relationship between race, law, and belonging. The hybrid symposium featured nine speakers and panelists and attracted approximately 170 registered participants, creating opportunities for discussion, knowledge sharing, and community connection.

Confronting Anti-Black Hate Online

Through its BLAC OUT HATE! webinar series, BLAC addressed the growing challenges of anti-Black hate in digital spaces. Designed for youth, parents, and community members, the initiative explored online harassment, harmful narratives, and practical ways to recognize and respond to digital hate.

2025-2026 MILESTONES AND RESULTS

Influencing Institutional and Sector-Wide Reform

Beyond litigation and public education, BLAC contributed to institutional reform through its participation in advisory committees and collaborative initiatives. These engagements provided opportunities to bring the experiences and concerns of Black communities into discussions on anti-racism, access to justice, and institutional accountability, helping inform policy development and approaches to addressing systemic barriers.

Protecting the Rights of Children in Care

Through Our System, Our Children, Our Responsibility (OSOCOR), BLAC supported advocacy addressing the intersection of child welfare and immigration policies. This work included attention to Bill S-235 and the barriers faced by racialized young people leaving care without secure immigration status or identification documents.

Exploring Holistic Legal Services

Through the University of Toronto Sandbox program, BLAC explored a proposal for a more holistic approach to legal services, including the potential integration of social work support and community partnerships to address the impacts of anti-Black racism beyond immediate legal needs.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS RELATED TO EQUITY, ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND FULL PARTICIPATION

ADVANCING EQUALITY THROUGH STRATEGIC LITIGATION

Actions or Outcomes

- **Lydia Dosu v. HRTO and York University**: Challenged procedural barriers to human rights claims, emphasizing that applicants should not face requirements beyond those established under Ontario's Human Rights Code.

- **Quebec (Attorney General) v. Kanyinda**: Advanced equality arguments concerning Black refugee claimants' access to subsidized childcare. The Supreme Court found the exclusion contrary to the Charter equality protections.

- **Human Rights Legal Education:** Secured funding approval through ACLCO to develop the Ontario Human Rights Law and Practice for Clinics training curriculum, strengthening access to specialized legal knowledge within Ontario's community legal clinic system.

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION AND INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

Actions or Outcomes

- **Accessible Legal Information**: Shared legal developments, advocacy updates, and community resources through BLAC's newsletters and membership communications.

- **Inclusive Employment Opportunities**: Supported the Empowering Black Youth with Unique Abilities Program, an initiative creating employment-readiness opportunities for Black youth with disabilities.

- **Community Knowledge Exchange:** Engaged legal professionals, advocates, and community members through educational events and public discussions addressing racial equity, belonging, and systemic barriers.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS RELATED TO EQUITY, ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND FULL PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Actions or Outcomes

- **Living in Colour Symposium**: Hosted a hybrid Black History Month event featuring nine speakers and panelists and approximately 170 registered participants, exploring race, law, belonging, and systemic discrimination.
- **BLAC OUT HATE!:** Delivered webinars equipping youth, parents, and community members with knowledge and strategies to recognize and respond to anti-Black hate in digital spaces.
- **Community Conversations:** Participated in the Ontario Court of Justice Black History Month panel series and York University's From the Islands to the North: Redefining Success in the Diaspora, contributing legal and community perspectives to public discussions.

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION AND SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Actions or Contributions

- **Advancing Equity in Legal Clinics:** Participated in the ACLCO Race Equity Advisory Committee, contributing to discussions on addressing racism within Ontario's community legal clinic system.
- **Human Rights and Court Reform:** Brought community-informed perspectives to the Ontario Human Rights Commission Community Advisory Committee and Court Transformation Advisory Committee, highlighting barriers to equitable access to justice.
- **Cross-Sector Partnerships:** Engaged with HARRC, Peel Children's Aid Society, Border(ing) Practices, and CNERJ to explore collaborative responses to systemic challenges affecting Black families and communities.





SUPPORTING YOUTH PATHWAYS TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Sometimes, creating opportunities begins with something as simple as opening a door.
During the summer of 2025, BLAC welcomed two students from Downsview Secondary School for an eight-week internship through the Law in Action Within Schools (LAWS) program. The placement introduced the students to the work of a community legal clinic, offering early exposure to careers in law and the role of legal advocacy in advancing social justice.

The partnership also created an opportunity to respond to a practical need within the school community. After learning that Downsview Secondary School's computer lab required additional equipment, BLAC coordinated the donation of five computer monitors to support student learning.
On September 17, 2025, Executive Director Demar Hewitt met with Principal Saraya Elwin and Rizeena Khan to deliver the equipment and discuss opportunities for continued collaboration.

What began as an internship placement became an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between BLAC and the school. The experience illustrates how partnerships can extend beyond their original purpose, connecting young people with professional opportunities while responding to the needs of the communities they serve.

Beyond LAWS, BLAC supported pathways into the legal profession through student mentorship with Level Justice and placements involving Pro Bono Students Canada, Toronto Metropolitan University, and Durham College. These opportunities provided students with practical exposure to community legal advocacy and access-to-justice work.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO LEGAL SUPPORT

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO LEGAL SUPPORT

Access to justice begins with knowing where to turn.

At the 11th Annual Black Wellness Fair, held at Sheridan College in Mississauga, BLAC joined community organizations and service providers supporting Black, African, and Caribbean communities. The event brought together resources spanning physical and mental health, social services, and community well-being, creating an opportunity to connect legal assistance with the broader needs of individuals and families.



L-R: Xuan Nguyen-Vi, Human Resources Manager, Mississauga Community Legal Services (MCLS); Bishen Mudie, Community Legal Worker, BLAC; Kenia Afolabi, Paralegal, MCLS; Nishat Kazmi, Board Member, MCLS; and Rita Gupta, Staff Lawyer, North Peel and Dufferin Community Legal Services.

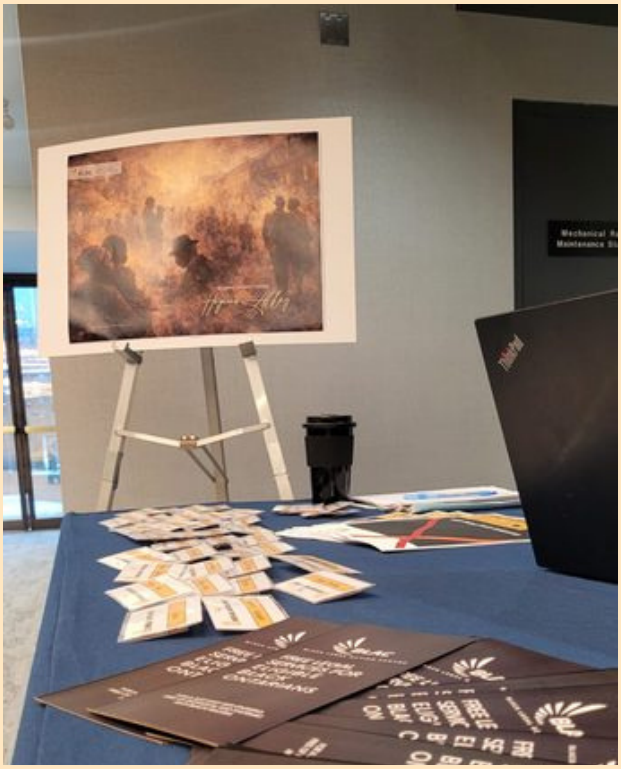
Throughout the fair, BLAC staff engaged with attendees, answered questions about the clinic's mandate, and shared information about accessing legal assistance for discrimination and systemic barriers. These conversations revealed an important gap: several visitors were learning about BLAC and its services for the first time.

For some attendees, the information extended beyond their own immediate needs. Participants expressed interest in sharing BLAC's resources with relatives, friends, and others who might benefit from legal support, creating opportunities for information to circulate through community networks.

The experience reinforced a simple but important lesson: the availability of legal services does not automatically make them accessible. By meeting people in familiar community spaces and building relationships with other service providers, BLAC can help reduce informational barriers that might otherwise prevent individuals from seeking assistance.

LIVING IN COLOUR: BLACK LIFE, LAW, AND BELONGING IN CANADA

What does it mean to belong in a society where the promise of equality has not always translated into equal treatment?



This question was at the heart of Living in Colour: Black Life, Law, and Belonging in Canada, BLAC's Black History Month symposium held in February 2026. Bringing together legal professionals, scholars, artists, advocates, and community members, the event explored how Black Canadians experience, navigate, and challenge the institutions that shape their lives.

Delivered in a hybrid format, the symposium attracted over 170 registered participants and featured nine speakers and panelists. Among them were Theresa Donkor, Nana Yanful, Deijaumar Clarke, Dr. Robin Clarke and Antonio Johnson, whose perspectives connected legal advocacy with questions of migration, identity, cultural expression, and Black leadership.

The conversations examined the relationship between law and lived experience, including the ways legal and public institutions have historically shaped Black people's opportunities, rights, and sense of belonging. Yet the discussions were not confined to exclusion and injustice. They also considered how Black communities have asserted agency, challenged established structures, and contributed to reshaping Canada's social and legal landscape.

By bringing different disciplines and experiences into conversation, Living in Colour offered an opportunity to consider racial justice beyond the courtroom. The symposium connected legal knowledge with cultural expression, community experience, and broader questions about whose voices are heard and whose experiences inform institutional change.

Belonging is more than being present. It is about having the power to participate, contribute, and shape the institutions that govern our lives.

LIVING IN COLOUR: BLACK LIFE, LAW, AND BELONGING IN CANADA

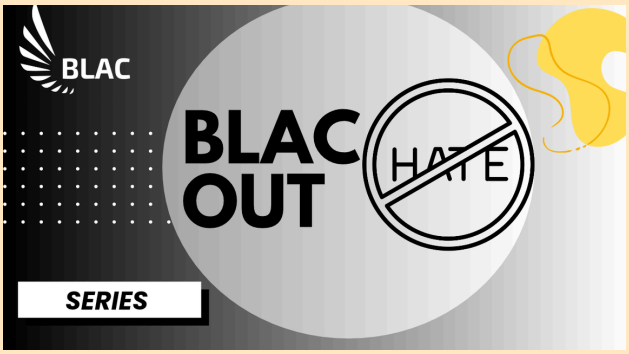
That idea captures the significance of Living in Colour and its place within BLAC's broader work to advance meaningful participation and access to justice.





Photos (left to right): Dr. Sanjay Campbell discusses contemporary racial disparities in the context of Canada's history of Black presence and institutional exclusion; Antonio Johnson, Raianna Wedemire-Peart, and DeMar Kemar Hewitt participate in a panel discussion at BLAC's Living in Colour: Black Life, Law, and Belonging in Canada Symposium.

BLAC OUT HATE! CONFRONTING ANTI-BLACK HATE IN DIGITAL SPACES



BLAC continued its public education work through BLAC OUT HATE! a virtual webinar series designed to address the growing presence of anti-Black hate in online spaces. The initiative focuses on helping youth, parents, and community members understand how online hate operates and how individuals can respond to it in informed and constructive ways.

The webinar series examines how digital platforms can become sites where racist narratives spread rapidly and where young people may be particularly vulnerable to harmful messaging. Through these sessions, BLAC provides participants with tools to recognize online hate, understand their legal rights, and develop strategies for responding to harmful content and digital harassment.

The series includes programming tailored to different audiences. A parent-focused webinar, Behind the Screens: Understanding Anti-Black Hate Online, explored how families can identify early warning signs of online radicalization and support young people navigating digital spaces. A youth-focused session, Don't Take the Bait: Spotting Online Hate, encouraged young participants to critically examine online content and recognize tactics commonly used to spread hateful messaging.

The initiative also connects conversations about online harm to broader issues affecting Black communities, including mental health, resilience, and community support. An upcoming session, From Resilience to Resistance: Embracing Black Mental Health and Wellness, will explore how individuals and communities can respond to online hate while maintaining collective well-being.

Through BLAC OUT HATE! the clinic continues to expand its public legal education efforts into digital environments, ensuring that communities are equipped with knowledge and practical tools to recognize, challenge, and respond to anti-Black hate both online and offline.

BLAC gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada, whose funding has made the BLAC OUT HATE! initiative possible.

03

STRATEGIC PRIORITY THREE

ADVANCING ECONOMIC SECURITY AND POVERTY RELIEF

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 03

GOAL

BLAC contributes to policy and legal reforms that address the structural drivers of poverty affecting Black communities across Ontario.

OUR OBJECTIVES

➤ 3.1 Advocate for equitable access to income assistance programs and social supports.

➤ 3.2 Address systemic discrimination within housing, social assistance, and public services through legal advocacy.

➤ 3.3 Contribute to policy development and research aimed at reducing poverty and improving living conditions for Black communities.

DESIRED OUTCOME



Black communities can participate fully and equitably in social, economic, and civic life without barriers created by systemic racism.

Economic insecurity is not experienced in isolation. Housing instability, inadequate income supports, employment barriers, and unequal access to essential services often intersect, creating challenges that cannot be addressed through individual legal remedies alone.
During 2025–2026, BLAC brought its frontline legal experience and community-informed perspectives into provincial policy discussions aimed at addressing these interconnected challenges.

Contributing to Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy

BLAC participated in consultations on Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, highlighting the structural conditions that contribute to economic insecurity among Black communities. Drawing on legal service experience and community narratives, BLAC raised concerns about rising housing costs, insufficient employment income, and the inadequacy of Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits.
Its submission emphasized that poverty cannot be examined separately from housing stability, health, and systemic discrimination. Effective poverty reduction therefore requires coordinated policy responses that address both immediate financial hardship and the institutional barriers that perpetuate inequality.

Advocating for Economic Justice Through Provincial Budget Priorities

Working alongside Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change (COP-COC), BLAC contributed to the 2026 Ontario Pre-Budget Submission, advancing recommendations to address the affordability pressures facing low-income and racialized communities.
The submission called for increased social assistance rates, stronger investments in affordable housing, improved access to employment opportunities, and greater support for legal services. Through this coalition-based advocacy, BLAC helped bring an anti-racism and access-to-justice perspective to provincial budget discussions, connecting economic policy decisions with their consequences for marginalized communities.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS RELATED TO POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

BLAC

POLICY ADVOCACY ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL POVERTY

Actions or Outcomes

- **Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy**: Submitted recommendations identifying housing instability, inadequate employment income, and insufficient social assistance as interconnected drivers of economic insecurity affecting Black communities.

- **Social Assistance and Systemic Inequality**: Highlighted the inadequacy of Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits and emphasized the connections between poverty, housing insecurity, health, and systemic discrimination.

COALITION-BASED ANTI-POVERTY ADVOCACY

Actions or Outcomes

- **2026 Ontario Pre-Budget Submission:** Collaborated with Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change (COP-COC) on recommendations addressing income inequality, affordable housing, access to justice, and barriers affecting marginalized communities.

- **Health Equity and Systemic Advocacy**: Collaborated with HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario, Aboriginal Legal Services, and other partners on a Charter challenge concerning the closure of supervised consumption sites, highlighting the risks of criminalization and unequal access to health services for Black communities.

- **Community-Informed Policy Development:** Contributed legal analysis and frontline perspectives to coalition discussions on labour market discrimination, housing affordability, and social policy reform.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS RELATED TO POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

BLAC

COMMUNITY-INFORMED ECONOMIC JUSTICE ADVOCACY

BLAC drew on frontline legal experience and community perspectives to inform its poverty reduction and economic justice recommendations. By connecting individual experiences of housing insecurity, inadequate income supports, and systemic discrimination to broader policy discussions, BLAC sought to ensure that the realities facing Black communities were reflected in provincial reform proposals.

SUPPORTING EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS FOR BLACK YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Opportunity should not be determined by the barriers a young person faces.

For Black youth with intellectual disabilities and those on the autism spectrum, entering the workforce can involve navigating overlapping barriers related to race, disability, and access to employment opportunities.

Recognizing these challenges, BLAC partnered with Inclusion Canada through the Empowering Black Youth with Unique Abilities Program, an employment-readiness initiative designed to help young people build confidence, develop practical workplace skills, and explore meaningful career opportunities in culturally affirming environments.

As a community partner and placement site, BLAC supports outreach and recruitment while providing opportunities for participants to gain exposure to professional workplace settings. The partnership connects BLAC's community relationships with Inclusion Canada's employment-readiness programming, helping create pathways for young people who may otherwise encounter barriers to accessing workplace experience.

The initiative reflects an important dimension of economic justice: access to employment is not only about securing a job, but also about having opportunities to develop skills, build confidence, and participate meaningfully in the workforce.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE UN DIALOGUE ON THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

The struggle against anti-Black racism extends beyond national borders, and so must the conversations about accountability and human rights.

On April 14–17, 2025, BLAC participated in consultations held in New York in connection with the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (UN-PFPAD). The discussions brought together civil society organizations, legal advocates, and community leaders to inform the development of a proposed United Nations Declaration on the Rights of People of African Descent.

The consultation explored proposed collective rights and the need for international frameworks to recognize systemic racism, advance reparatory justice, and address inequalities in sustainable development and environmental protection. BLAC contributed perspectives informed by the legal challenges and lived experiences of Black communities in Canada, connecting domestic concerns to broader international human rights discussions.

A central theme was the importance of ensuring that international commitments translate into meaningful protections. Participants also emphasized the need for Black-led community organizations, youth, and women to have a substantive role in shaping the policies and frameworks intended to protect their rights.

BLAC's participation provided an opportunity to contribute to an emerging international human rights framework while bringing Canadian perspectives on anti-Black racism into a wider conversation about collective rights, justice, and accountability.

Operational Metrics & Analytics

2025–2026 | BLAC'S COMMUNITY IMPACT AT A GLANCE

BLAC

2,014

Clients Supported Through Legal Advice & Referrals

Connecting community members with legal information, support, and pathways to justice.

231

Active Legal Casework files

183

Legal Cases Closed

3

Sumpreme Court Interventions

1,140

matters assessed through an anti-Black racism lens

35

Law Reform, Policy & Systemic Advocacy Initiative

10

community education and engagement activities

LEGAL SERVICES | AREAS OF LAW

Client Services and Legal Assistance

Providing accessible legal assistance remains central to BLAC's mandate to support low- and no-income Black residents across Ontario experiencing anti-Black racism.
During the 2025–2026 reporting period, BLAC handled 231 legal casework files spanning employment, public services, housing, human rights, corrections, social assistance, and other legal matters.

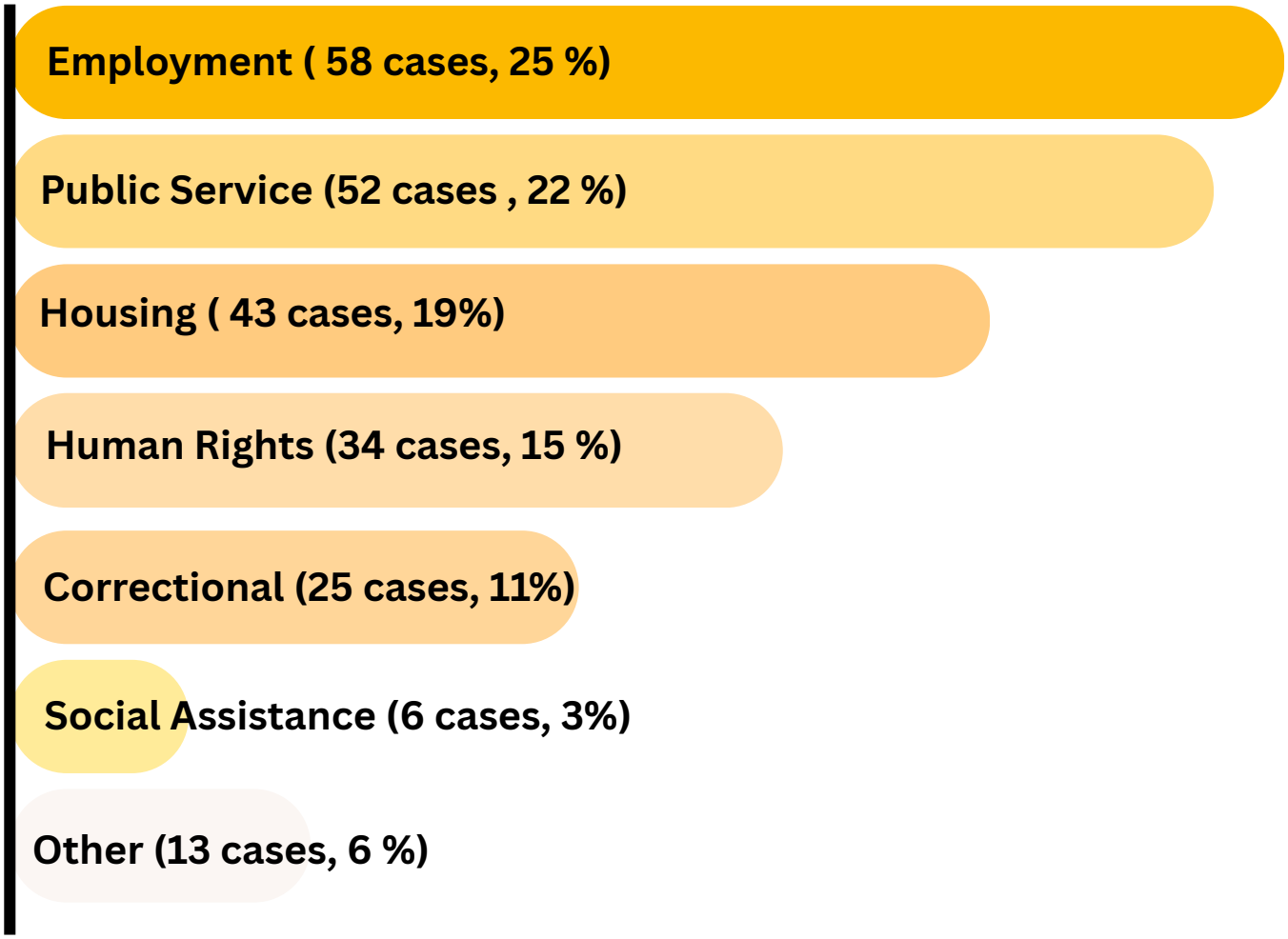


Figure 1 . Distribution of Legal Casework by Area of Law, 2025–2026 (n = 231)

Understanding Our Caseload

BLAC's 2025–2026 caseload reflects the diverse legal challenges facing Black communities across Ontario, particularly in areas that shape economic security, housing stability, and access to essential public services.

Employment, public services, and housing collectively accounted for 66.2% of the 231 legal casework files handled during the reporting period. This concentration highlights the importance of accessible legal support in navigating workplace disputes, interactions with public institutions, and housing-related challenges.

Beyond these areas, BLAC's work extended to human rights, correctional matters, and social assistance, demonstrating how legal challenges can arise across multiple aspects of everyday life. These matters also underscore the importance of examining individual legal experiences within the broader context of systemic anti-Black racism.

Intake, Case Support and Referral Activity

BLAC serves as an important point of contact for Black individuals across Ontario seeking legal assistance in matters involving anti-Black racism and systemic discrimination.

During the 2025–2026 reporting period, 2,014 individuals contacted BLAC seeking legal information, assistance, or referrals. While direct legal representation is guided by the clinic's mandate, eligibility requirements, and available resources, BLAC also helps individuals identify appropriate legal and community support services.

Through its intake and referral activities, BLAC connects community members with legal professionals, specialized community legal clinics, advocacy organizations, and other services addressing issues such as housing, employment, human rights, and social assistance.
These referral pathways form an important part of BLAC's broader commitment to improving access to justice, particularly for individuals whose legal needs fall outside the clinic's capacity or eligibility criteria.

Referral Resources



Legal Information and Referral Services
JusticeNet
Pro Bono Ontario
Law Society Referral Service
Human Rights Legal Support Centre
Legal Aid Ontario

Community Legal Clinics and Advocacy Organizations



Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario
Canadian Centre for Housing Rights
Kingston Community Legal Clinic
Mississauga Community Legal Services
Neighbourhood Legal Services

FIVE YEARS OF LEGAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Client Services and Legal Assistance

Over the past five years, BLAC has opened 1,058 legal casework files, reflecting sustained demand for legal assistance across Black communities in Ontario.
While annual caseloads have fluctuated, BLAC recorded a 26.3% increase in new legal files in 2025–2026, rising from 160 in the previous reporting year to 202.
These trends reflect changes in recorded service activity over time and reinforce the importance of maintaining accessible legal assistance for individuals navigating anti-Black racism and systemic discrimination.

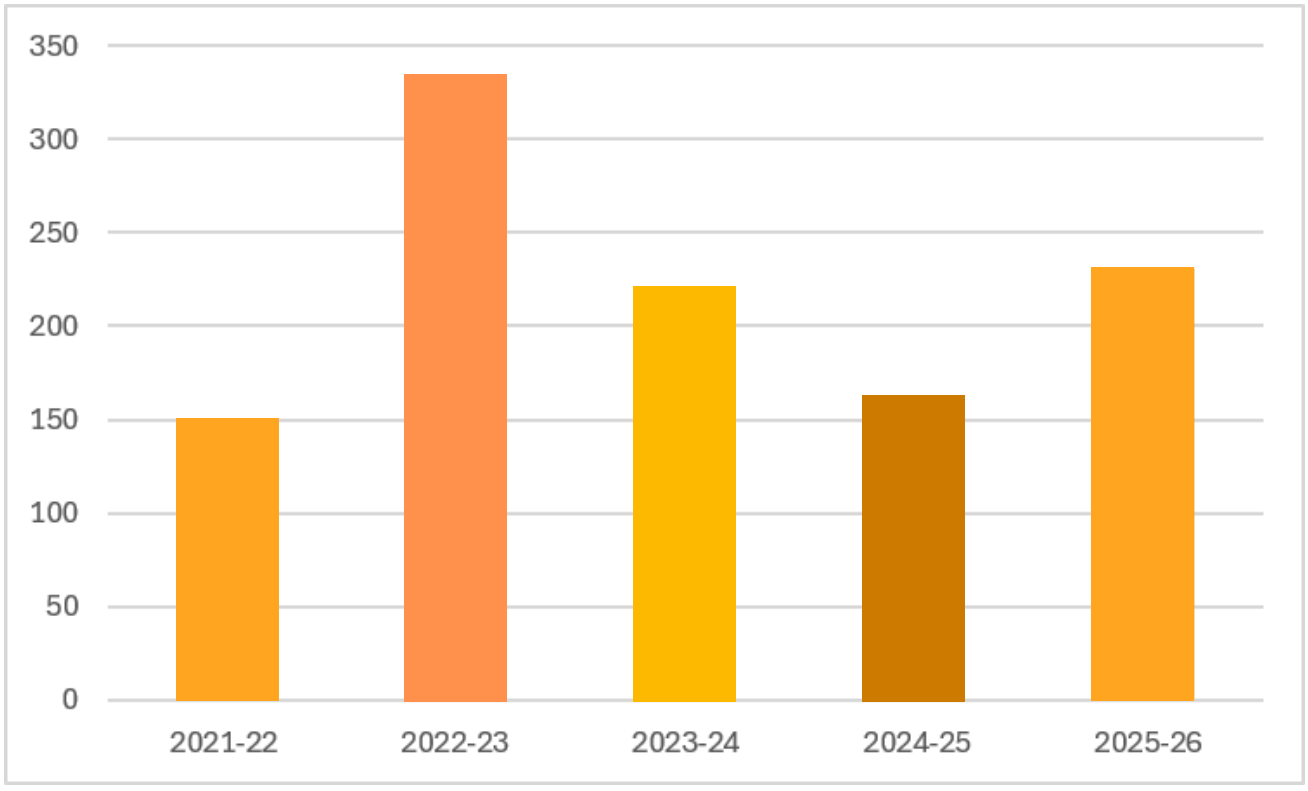


Figure 2 . Five- Year Trend in Legal Representation

UNDERSTANDING WHO WE SERVE

Client Demographics | Gender Identity

Understanding the demographic characteristics of individuals accessing BLAC's services helps inform our approach to equitable and responsive legal assistance.

Over the five-year reporting period, women represented the largest proportion of clients, accounting for approximately 60% of recorded gender identities, followed by men at approximately 38%. BLAC also served individuals identifying as transgender, agender, and other gender identities.

These findings provide insight into the communities accessing BLAC's services and highlight the importance of considering diverse experiences and intersecting forms of discrimination in the delivery of legal assistance.

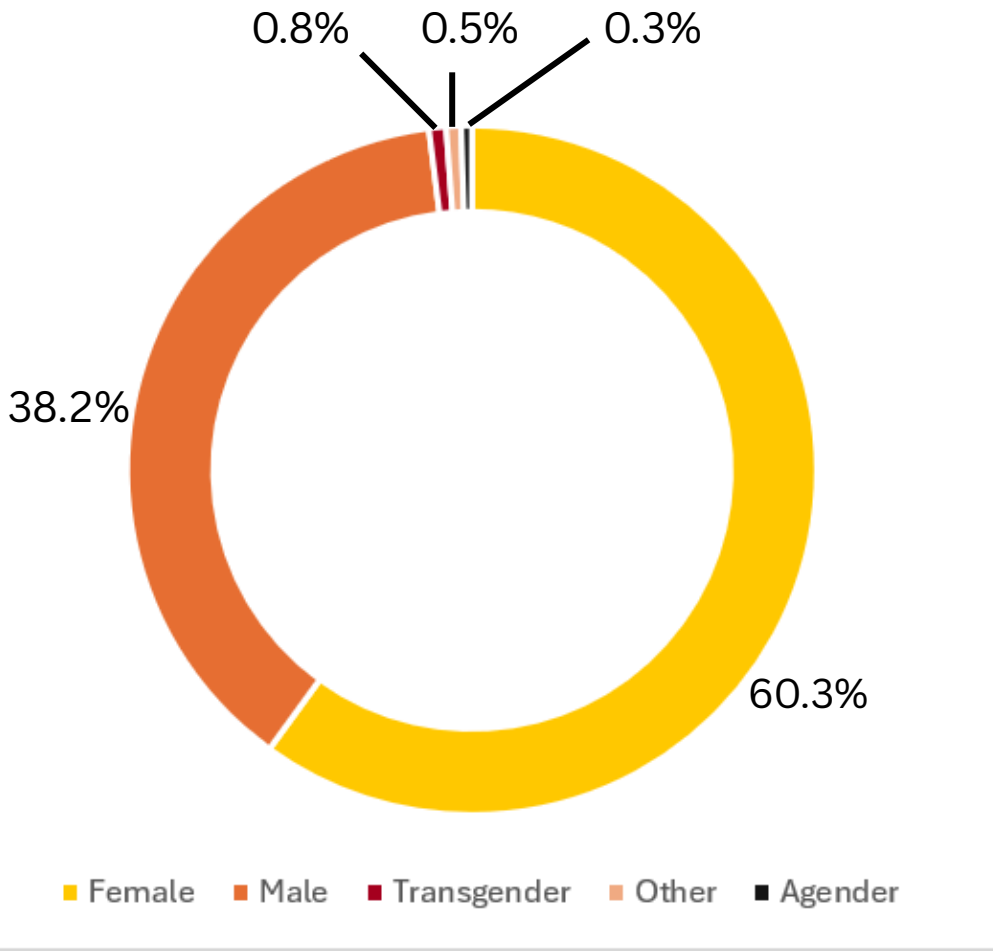


Figure 3 . Gender Identity of Clients

UNDERSTANDING WHO WE SERVE

Client Demographics | Gender Identity

Understanding the demographic characteristics of individuals accessing BLAC's services helps inform our approach to equitable and responsive legal assistance.

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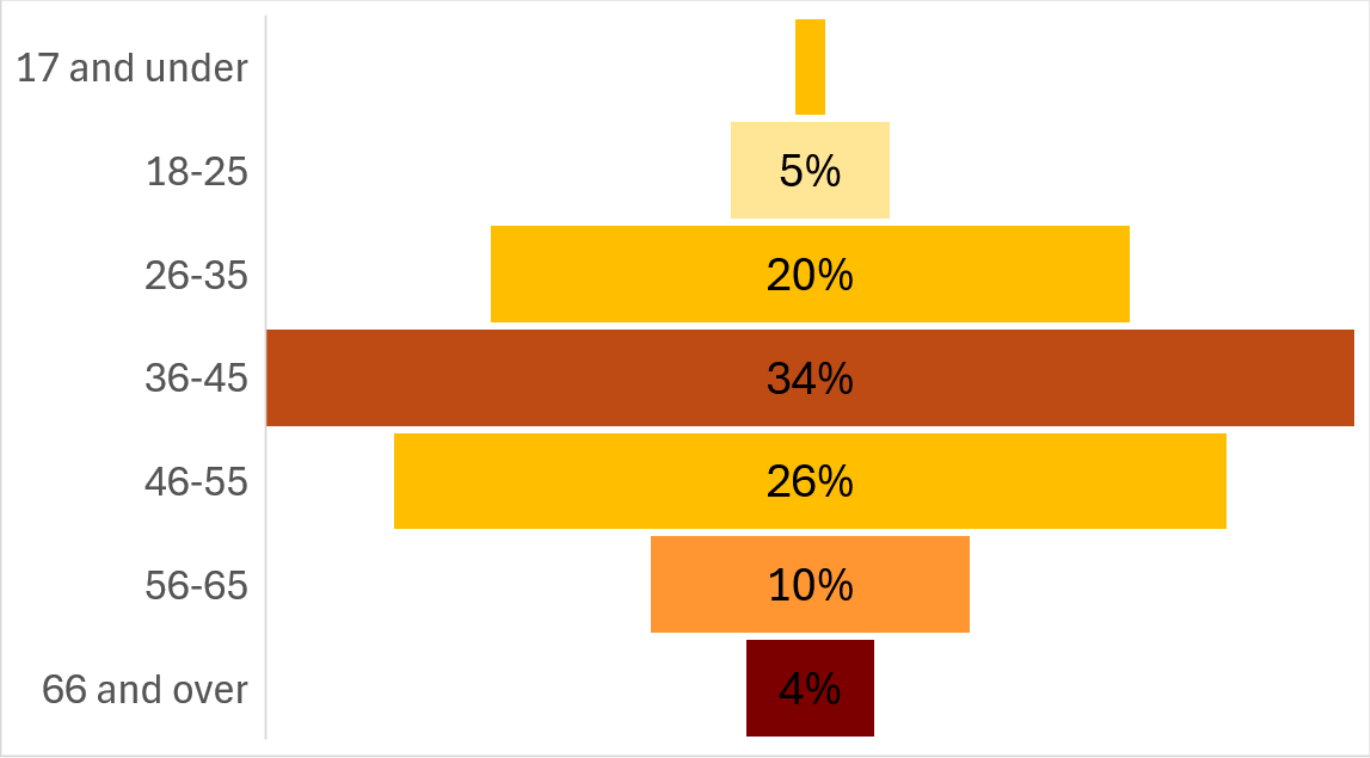


Figure 3 . Age Distribution of Clients, 2021–2026

OUR TEAM



Shevaun Pierre, *Paralegal*



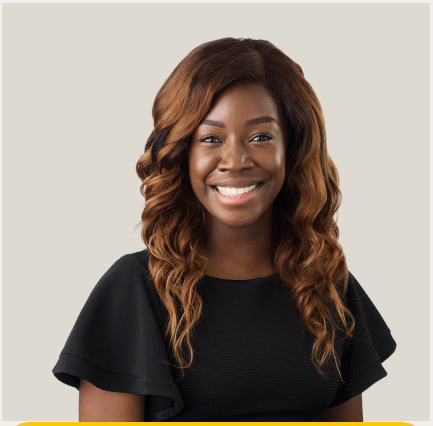
Chuks Nwajei, *Staff Lawyer*



Nathan Heath, *Executive Assistant*



Venus Asamoah, *Social Worker*



Zainab Adewusi, *Staff Lawyer*



Kareem Guimba, *Staff Lawyer*



Musab Ahmed, Finance Director



Sanjay Campbell, PhD,
Community Legal Worker

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR FORMER COLLEAGUES

We extend our sincere appreciation to the following former team members for their contributions to BLAC during the 2025–2026 reporting period:

Hodine Williams
Staff Lawyer

Raianna Wedemire-Peart
Paralegal

Bishen Mudie
Community Legal Worker

We also acknowledge the articling students and volunteers who generously contributed their time, knowledge, and skills to supporting BLAC's work.

We thank them for their service and wish them continued success in their future endeavours.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

BLACK LEGAL ACTION CENTRE
Balance Sheet
As At March 31, 2026

		LAO: General Fund	LAO: Capital Fund	General Operations	Externally Restricted: Canada Heritage Fund	Externally Restricted: Department of Justice	Externally Restricted: Canada Summer Jobs	Externally Restricted: ACLCO	Externally Restricted: Inclusion Canada	TOTAL 2026
Assets										
Current Assets										
Cash	$	-	-	2,505,564	-	77,646	-	25,000	60,000	**2,668,210**
Accounts receivable		-	-	-	21,950	51,362	2,017	-	-	**75,329**
Harmonized sales tax receivable		-	-	68,767	-	13,377	-	-	-	**82,144**
Prepaid expense		-	-	33,691	-	-	-	-	-	**33,691**
		-	-	2,608,022	21,950	142,385	2,017	25,000	60,000	**2,859,374**
Noncurrent Assets										
Capital assets: net (Note 4)		-	13,276	-	-	-	-	-	-	**13,276**
Security deposit		18,444	-	5,362	-	-	-	-	-	**23,806**
		18,444	13,276	5,362	-	-	-	-	-	**37,082**
		18,444	13,276	2,613,384	21,950	142,385	2,017	25,000	60,000	**2,896,456**
Liabilities										
CurrentLiabilities										
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		18,444	-	30,178	3,478	231,763	-	-	-	**283,863**
Dueto Black Legal Action Centre Organization (BLACO) (Note 9)		-	-	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	**2,000,000**
Inter-fund payable (receivable)		-	-	68,889	18,472	(89,378)	2,017	-	-	**-**
		18,444	-	2,099,067	21,950	142,385	2,017	-	-	**2,283,863**
Funds Balance		-	13,276	514,317	-	-	-	25,000	60,000	**612,593**
	$	18,444	13,276	2,613,384	21,950	142,385	2,017	25,000	60,000	**2,896,456**

On behalf of the Board: _____ Director

_____ Director

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

BLACK LEGAL ACTION CENTRE
Balance Sheet
As At March 31, 2025

		LAO: General Fund	LAO: Capital Fund	LAO: Legal Disbursement Fund	Internally Restricted	Externally Restricted: Canada Heritage Fund	Externally Restricted: Ontario Trillium Fund	Externally Restricted: Parents of Black Children	Externally Restricted: Department of Justice	Externally Restricted: The Neighbourhood Organization	TOTAL 2025
Assets											
Current Assets											
Cash	$	(2,758)	-	1,129	130,736	-	50,590	50,025	4,865	84,769	**319,356**
Accounts receivable		-	-	-	53,056	-	-	-	284,290	-	**337,346**
Harmonized sales tax receivable		33,083	-	41	-	-	3,789	199	13,377	15	**50,504**
Prepaid expense		6,885	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**6,885**
Short-term investments (note 5)		-	-	-	2,168,500	-	-	-	-	-	**2,168,500**
		37,210	-	1,170	2,352,292	-	54,379	50,224	302,532	84,784	**2,882,591**
Noncurrent Assets											
Capital assets: net (Note 4)		-	18,337	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**18,337**
Security deposit		23,806	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**23,806**
		23,806	18,337	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**42,143**
		61,016	18,337	1,170	2,352,292	-	54,379	50,224	302,532	84,784	**2,924,734**
Liabilities											
Current											
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		8,301	-	-	-	-	-	-	219,225	-	**227,526**
Inter-fund payable (receivable)		52,715	-	(1,758)	(318,464)	-	54,379	50,224	78,120	84,784	**-**
		61,016	-	(1,758)	(318,464)	-	54,379	50,224	297,345	84,784	**227,526**
Funds Balance		-	18,337	2,928	2,670,756	-	-	-	5,187	-	**2,697,208**
	$	61,016	18,337	1,170	2,352,292	-	54,379	50,224	302,532	84,784	**2,924,734**

On behalf of the Board: _____ **Director**

_____ **Director**

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

BLACK LEGAL ACTION CENTRE
Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances
For the Year Ended March 31, 2026

		LAO: General Fund	LAO: Capital Fund	LAO: Legal Disbursement Fund	General Operations	Internally Restricted	Externally Restricted: Canada Heritage Fund	Externally Restricted: Department of Justice	Externally Restricted: Canada Summer Jobs	Externally Restricted: ACLCO	Externally Restricted: Inclusion Canada	TOTAL 2026
REVENUES												
Legal AidOntario												
- Direct receipts	$	1,005,202	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1,005,202**
- Indirect receipts (Note 3)		66,650	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**66,650**
- Legal disbursements		-	-	4,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**4,000**
Donations		-	-	-	77,460	-	-	-	-	-	-	**77,460**
Interest Earned		-	-	-	88,903	-	-	-	-	-	-	**88,903**
Grants (Note 7)		-	-	-	-	-	274,500	351,330	17,942	25,000	60,000	**728,772**
		1,071,852	-	4,000	166,363	-	274,500	351,330	17,942	25,000	60,000	**1,970,987**
EXPENSES												
Salaries		817,562	-	-	75,886	-	22,992	22,608	17,662	-	-	**956,710**
Office and General		14,010	-	-	103,342	-	21,326	42,369	280	-	-	**181,327**
Occupancy		97,130	-	-	32,233	-	-	-	-	-	-	**129,363**
Professional fees		23,268	-	6,928	106,689	-	230,748	295,626	-	-	-	**663,259**
Insurance		53,232	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**53,232**
Indirect payments (Note 3)		66,650	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**66,650**
Donation expense (Note 9)		-	-	-	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	**2,000,000**
Amortization		-	5,061	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**5,061**
		1,071,852	5,061	6,928	2,318,150	-	275,066	360,603	17,942			**4,055,602**
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		-	(5,061)	(2,928)	(2,151,787)	-	(566)	(9,273)	-	25,000	60,000	**(2,084,615)**
FUNDS BALANCE BEGINNING OF YEAR		-	18,337	2,928	-	2,670,756	-	5,187	-	-	-	**2,697,208**
TRANSFER TO GENERAL OPERATIONS		-	-	-	2,670,756	(2,670,756)	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
TRANSFER TO CANADA HERITAGE FUND		-	-	-	(566)	-	566	-	-	-	-	**-**
TRANSFER TO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		-	-	-	(4,086)	-	-	4,086	-	-	-	**-**
FUNDS BALANCE END OF YEAR	$	**-**	**13,276**	**-**	**514,317**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**25,000**	**60,000**	**612,593**

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

BLACK LEGAL ACTION CENTRE
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year ended March 31, 2026

		2026		2025
Cash generated (used in)				
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:				
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	**$**	**(2,084,615)**	$	(357,918)
Adjustment for items not involving cash:				
Amortization		**5,061**		5,263
Impact on cash of changes in working capital items:				
Accounts receivable		**262,017**		(252,891)
Harmonized sales tax receivable		**(31,640)**		39,082
Prepaid expenses		**(26,806)**		15,423
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		**56,337**		209,589
Due to Black Legal Action Centre Organization (BLACO)		**2,000,000**		-
		180,354		(341,452)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchase of capital assets		**-**		(14,683)
Increase (decrease) in short-term investments		**2,168,500**		(2,168,500)
		2,168,500		(2,183,183)
Increase (decrease) in cash		**2,348,854**		(2,524,635)
Cash, beginning of year		**319,356**		2,843,991
Cash, end of year	**$**	**2,668,210**	$	319,356

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(Contd.)*

Controlled not-for-profit organization
The Organization controls Black Legal Action Centre Organization ("BLACO") and has elected not to consolidate it. BLACO's own assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and cash flows are excluded from these financial statements. The Organization's transaction and outstanding balance with BLACO are disclosed in Note 9.

Capital assets
Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is provided annually at rates determined to charge the cost of the assets to operations over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Computer Hardware	55%
Furniture	20%
Telephone	30%
Leasehold Improvement	5 year straight line

3. INDIRECT PAYMENTS

Legal Aid Ontario administers and makes payments on behalf of BLAC for the following expenditures:

General Fund	**2026**	2025
Pension and Benefits	**$ 159**	$ 100
Library	**2,075**	116
Supplies and Services	**64,415**	52,643
	$ 66,650	$ 52,859

4. CAPITAL ASSETS

		Cost	**Accumulated Amortization**	**Net Book Value Mar. 31, 2026**	Net Book Value Mar. 31, 2025
Lease Improvements	$	**253,975**	**(253,975)**	**-**	-
Furniture		**36,120**	**(24,636)**	**11,484**	14,355
Computer Hardware		**23,413**	**(21,621)**	**1,792**	3,982
Telephones		**7,728**	**(7,728)**	**-**	-
	$	**321,236**	**(307,960)**	**13,276**	18,337

The half-year rule applies to newly purchased capital assets.

5. SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

As at March 31, 2025, short-term investments consisted of guaranteed investment certificates bearing an effective interest rate of 3.05% and maturing on August 14, 2026. These investments were redeemed on March 9, 2026.

6. PREMISES LEASE COMMITMENT

On March 20, 2024, the Organization is committed under an operating lease agreement from August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2030 for the premises, requiring annual payments of approximately $65,504 with an increase of 6.25% every two years on August 1st.

7. GRANTS

Revenues from grants recognized in the year are as follows:

		2026	2025
Government of Canada	**$**	**292,442**	59,000
Department of Justice		**351,330**	208,335
Inclusions Canada		**60,000**	-
Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario (ACLCO)		**25,000**	-
Ontario Trillium Funding		**-**	(21,600)
The Neighbourhood Organization		**-**	96,079
	$	**728,772**	341,814

8. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No payments were made to members of the Board of Directors during the year ended March 31, 2026. During the year ended March 31, 2025, payments totaling $82,000 were made to members of the Board for professional services provided outside their capacity as directors and under normal commercial terms. The comparative amount has been corrected from $62,000, as previously disclosed, to $82,000 to reflect the total payments made during that year. This correction affected the related-party disclosure only and had no impact on the previously reported assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses or fund balances.

9. RELATED ORGANIZATION AND TRANSFER PAYABLE

BLACO was incorporated on February 25, 2026. The Organization is BLACO's sole member, and the organizations have common directors. BLACO was established to undertake programs and services beyond the Organization's legal clinic mandate.


BLAC