



FACL Ontario Applauds Government Funding for Anti-Racism Justice Initiatives

FACL Ontario applauds the federal government for recognizing the intersection between systemic racism and the overrepresentation of BIPOC Canadians in the criminal justice system. Today's funding announcements represent a welcome first step on the road to a fairer and more equitable justice system. They include:

- \$6.6 million over 5 years and \$1.6 million ongoing to support the implementation of Impact of Race and Culture Assessments, which allow sentencing judges to consider the disadvantages and systemic racism that contributed to racialized Canadians' interaction with the criminal justice system.
- \$28.6 million over 5 years to support Community Justice Centres (CJC) pilot projects in British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario. CJsCs bring justice, health and social services together to address the root causes of crime, divert individuals accused of non-violent offences away from incarceration, and connect them with social supports. Through the integration of culturally appropriate services, CJsCs can help decrease the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples and Black Canadians in the criminal justice system and provide solutions to systemic issues.
- \$49.3 million to support the implementation of *Gladue* principles in the mainstream justice system and Indigenous-led responses in order to help reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the criminal justice and correctional systems.
- \$8.1 million to develop Administration of Justice Agreements with Indigenous communities to strengthen community-based justice systems and support self-determination.

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