

Dear Friends and Allies of WHAI,

In the past few weeks, we at the provincial WHAI team, along with our partners and allies across Ontario, have been watching in horror as two young women in Canada have been killed by police: Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black-Indigenous woman in Toronto, and Chantel Moore, an Indigenous woman in Edmundston, New Brunswick.  These realities fall at the same time as horrendous police-killings of Black community members in the US, and devastating acts of anti-Black racism, ~~​​~~further illustrating the ongoing power of racism, and specifically – anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism – both in Canada and south of the border.

At this time, we at the WHAI provincial office are taking time to deeply reflect within ourselves, our team, and our network - about our solidarity with ~~​~~Black and Indigenous communities in the fight against racism.  We are reflecting on our commitment to the many Statements of Solidarity that have come out from amazing organizations across Ontario and beyond - and our commitment to dismantling racism.

As we do this work, we stand in deep solidarity with those who are speaking out. We are following the leadership of ACCHO in their Statement of Solidarity, and with the Ontario AIDS Network membership in their Statement of Solidarity with Black Lives Matter. Within this commitment, we not only affirm these statements, but we commit ourselves to challenging anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and violence through our actions, ensuring that Black and Indigenous communities who access HIV-related services in Ontario can do so without fear of discrimination and that we are working together to dismantle the many systems that contribute to disproportionate rates of HIV in Black and Indigenous communities across Ontario.

As we do this work, we are committing our selves to meaningful action.