

July 2, 2020

Pickering Public Library Letter to the Community on Anti-Black Racism

As we reflect on recent global and local cases of anti-Black racism, the Pickering Library Board and leadership stand in solidarity with the Black community of Pickering.

We recognize that we are living in a pivotal moment when efforts in our community are converging to actively address anti-Black racism, discrimination, social injustice, ignorance, and hatred, and to build a more inclusive community.

While the public library is often regarded as a trusted civic institution, this is not true for everyone. We must highlight that historically library organizations have been led and staffed by white men and women and there have been countless examples of systemic racism, colonial values and exclusionary forces targeted at segments of the community.

On behalf of Pickering Public Library, we humbly recognize that our efforts in the domains of inclusion and anti-racism have fallen short. We hold ourselves accountable for missteps in the past and commit to contributing to an equitable and inclusive community going forward. We will begin this work in the summer of 2020 by establishing an anti-Black racism working group made up of community members and representatives from the Library. This group will be responsible for reviewing and making recommendations for changes to library policies, programs, spaces, services, and collections.

At Pickering Public Library, we have a significant role to play for our community in increasing knowledge, understanding, and empathy, and creating opportunities for dialogue about anti-Black racism, injustice, and privilege. In order to do this work, we look to the community to engage with us in developing actionable and measurable solutions that will build an inclusive and thriving community.

This moment marks the beginning of doing better and being better for our community.

With respect and gratitude,

On behalf of the Library Board of Directors



Sarah Jeffrey Sheehy
Board Chair

On behalf of Library leadership



Jackie Flowers
CEO/Director of Public Libraries