



League of Pearlfection Interest Group

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Ontario Ministry of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

To the Minister of Education, Honourable Indira Naidoo-Harris:

We are writing this letter to state our strong interest in increasing the awareness of the diversity of education in the Province of Ontario. As today is the last day of Black History Month, we find it fitting that all students should be able to learn about and study Black history all year long. We will be using this letter to encourage you to take a step, very much in line with your Anti-Black Racism sentiments and Ontario's Anti-Black Racism strategies, and elevate the Black history course to the level of other history courses in the Ontario 9-12 curriculum.

At the time of writing, Ontario high school students must study Black history as an 'Open' level course. Even in schools where there are a number of students who are interested in Black and African history, and have different competency levels, there is only one course available. Consider how the high achieving high school students who want to remain challenged and want to remain in 'M' or 'U' level courses to increase their averages when applying to post-secondary – consider that they would pass on learning about Black history because it is not offered at the same level as Canadian, American or World History.

We understand that there may be difficulty building a team to develop a curriculum like this, but as a group of university-educated women, we are happy to lend our support, specifically by meeting with History curriculum leads across the province to work towards the development of a Black history course at the grade 11 'M' or 'U' level and, perhaps, one that is available at the grade 12 'M' or 'U' level.

Ontario should welcome this with open arms. We know that the Greater Toronto Area has been home to people of African descent since the sixteenth century and at the time of writing we are 6.9% of the GTA population¹, and as Canada's most populated province, it is in the interest of the Ministry of Education to promote and advance diversity of knowledge.

Thank you,

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¹ Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.