



Mothering while Black

Anti-Black Racism in Ontario's Child Welfare System

Presented By: Kike Ojo

What is One Vision One Voice



One Vision One Voice is a program led by the African Canadian community. It is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services through the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies and addresses the overrepresentation of African Canadian families in the child welfare system.

The One Vision One Voice program, in partnership with the African Canadian community, has developed a Practice Framework, made up of 11 Race Equity Practices, which will be used by child welfare staff across the province to improve outcomes for African Canadian children and families who come into contact with the child welfare system.





Why are so many black children in foster and group homes?

Too many black, Indigenous kids in Ontario child-welfare system, report finds

BY COLIN PERKEL, THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NATIONAL

'Crisis' in Children's Aid over number of black children in care

OPINION

What good data mean for black youth in foster care

News • GTA

Indigenous, Black children over-represented in foster care, group homes, inquiry says

By LAURIE MONSEBRAATEN Social Justice Reporter
Thu., April 12, 2018

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READY FOR
AN MBA
UNLIKE ANY

Discredited Motherisk hair-testing program harmed vulnerable families: report



Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies

Increase in wards

Black foster homes needed

BY CLAUDIO LEWIS

The number of black children becoming wards of the Children's Aid Society is on the steady increase, says Brian McPherson, a social worker with the agency.

He told Contrast during an interview that the bulk of these are new immigrant children, who, in a number of cases, find it difficult to adjust to the Canadian society, and to connect with their parents.

McPherson, a West Indian, says that the major problems occur when many of these children join their parents, from whom they have lived apart for many years.

"Some parents leave their children in the islands and come here to better their social and economic position, the children join them after many years, then the parents find out that they cannot be controlled. Some of these children eventually get into trouble with the law and the Children's Aid Society has to step in."

"We don't like to take children from their parents. At the Children's Aid Society we believe that the best place for a child is in his own home with his parents. But where it can be proved that the parents can no longer control, provide or care for that child then, under the Child Welfare Act, the Children's Aid Society must step in and ensure that the child's needs are catered for."

This increase of children coming under the care of the agency has created a demand for black foster homes in Toronto.

"The Children's Aid Society badly needs black foster homes," McPherson said. "It will be very easy for many of these children to readily identify with foster parents with whom they may share some common background."

"But that white foster homes are not working out for black kids but in a great number of cases, the agency is finding out that placing a black child in a white home can result in a shocking experience for that child. We have had cases where black kids run away from these homes and stay in social workers. 'I don't want to stay in my white home'."

McPherson said that for the longest while the agency has been trying to get black kids in the community to be involved in foster homes but the response has always been disappointing.

"Many of these problems," he said, "can be prevented, if only the immigration department will inform the Children's Aid Society of some of the immigrant children who will be joining their parents, after they have been apart for a long time."

"We can work with these people and reduce these problems. That is what the agency is here for," he concluded.



Photo by Claudio Lewis

A pair of Queens wins. Miss Black Ontario, Diane Fenton, left, sits with Miss Montreal Carnival '76 Judy Joseph. During the fifth annual Spear Magazine Ball.

The Queens were guests of the Spear Magazine staff during the occasion. Miss Montreal travelled to Toronto especially to attend the Ball at the Masonic Temple last Saturday.

Look for it in CONTRAST

Beginning this week is our column Jazz Nectar, which will feature artists, jazz as well as others who are doing their thing in Toronto's hot spots.

We kick off this column with a salute to Jerry Horowitz, a Nova Scotia boy who has gained an international reputation over the past decade, and has now decided to return home to teach the entertainment scene.

Beginning also next week will be a serial on the successful and not so successful black Maritimers who came out of the East Coast a decade ago and have become a force in Toronto. They are doctors, engineers, contractors, big and small businessmen. These folks are together and they are all cousins! So if you touch one of them, brother, you are likely to have a whole army of cousins coming at you.

We call them affectionately, repeat affectionately, the Maritime Mafia. Look for them starting next week, in Contrast.

Frankie Perkins shot

Popular Frankie Perkins, aged about 36, was shot on Tuesday night behind the Paramount Hotel on Spadina Ave.

At about 8 p.m. he was taken to the Toronto Western Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. There were apparently no

Jamaican wife still missing after two weeks

Mrs. Daisy Taylor, age 46, of 13 Hilda Cres. in Brampton left home on July 20th in search of work, and has not been seen since.

According to her husband, Norman Taylor, age 56, his wife has never spent one night away from home in their 14 years of marriage. They are the parents of 4 children, ages 3 to 19 years and they came from Jamaica in 1962 to settle in Toronto. He is employed as a carman at the CNR.

Mrs. Daisy Taylor has been an out-patient at Peel Memorial Hospital and Lakeshore Hospital, and is presently under medication. Attempts to contact her doctor were not successful but her husband says that her illness was not of a very



Daisy Taylor

We had money at the game, in the bag and other over-boards. We paid the manager the amount the association could afford."

Asked about the \$20,000 in the CDAs received from Western, Nelson, a handreader himself said, "It was stipulated by the Western CDA that the money not be used for prizes."

Attempt to establish a black foster parent project

by claudio lewis

A black organization in Toronto is making a serious attempt to establish a black foster parent project to battle the shortage of black foster homes which now exists in Metro.

According to the Ed Clarke, Chairman of the Black Resources Information Centre, the centre has already met with the Children's Aid Society and various churches in Toronto and discussed the shortages of the black foster homes.

As a result of those meetings, he said, BRIC established the "Black Foster Home" project, where an up to date registry of black families who are willing to act as foster parents will be maintained.

The move to establish the project resulted from the revelations in the Contrast that the Children's Aid Society were desperately in need of black foster homes, he said.

Social worker, Brian McPherson told Contrast recently that the Children's Aid Society were desperately in need of Black Foster Homes because there was an increase of black children, who were becoming wards of the agency.

Immigration decrease linked to rules

There has been a 25 per cent decrease in the number of immigrants entering Canada for the first quarter of this year from the same three months of 1975 the Immigration Department said recently.

Britain and the United States headed the list of countries as sources of immigrants. The movement from Europe to Canada has been declining recently and the figures show a drop to 35 per cent from 42.2 per cent in 1975. There has been an increase to 26.9 per cent from 24.3 per cent from Asia

He explained that while white foster homes were generally successful with black children, he felt that it would be advantageous for a black child to be in a foster home where he or she could readily identify with their foster parents.

In announcing the establishment of BRIC Foster Home Project, Ed Clarke,



Ed Clarke

former Chairman of the NBCC, said, "There exist a definite social problem with black children who end up in white foster homes."

He said that the problem of adaption for both the child and parent could be very difficult for both black child and white foster parent.

Clarke said that the centre will work closely with the

placement service in the Children's Aid Society. The homes of all volunteers for the project will be visited by trained persons from the project to establish whether they meet standards set by the Children's Aid Society," he said.

Editor's Note: persons interested in becoming black foster parents are asked to call BRIC at 368-6539 or write to Black Foster Parents Project, c.o. Black Resources Information Centre, 167 Church Street, Toronto.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Club Trinidad visit

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The Historical Context: Motherhood and Child Welfare

The System
is **NOT**
Neutral!



What contributes to experiences of Black mothers today?

- The Funding Formula
- Biases of mandated referrers
- Poverty
- Access to social services (lack of)
- CW agencies decision making
- Criminalization
- Isolation
- Housing (lack of)

ONE VISION ONE VOICE: Changing the Child Welfare System for African Canadians

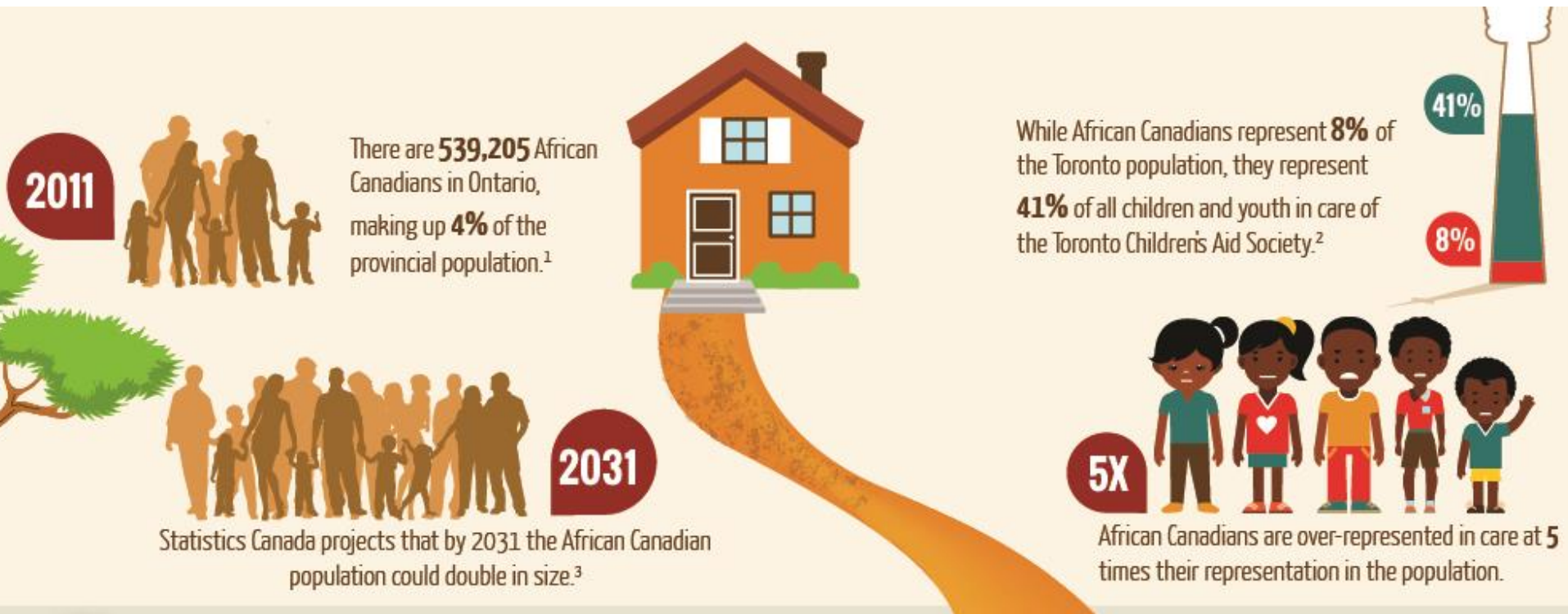
Anti-Black Racism

A conceptual framework for understanding a dialectic that involves "a particular form of systemic and structural racism in Canadian society, which historically and contemporarily has been perpetuated against Blacks" and highlights the "resistance against dominant and hegemonic systems of Whiteness and the building of agency and social transformation against racism and other forms of oppression".

Akua Benjamin, 2003

ONE VISION ONE VOICE: Changing the Child Welfare System for African Canadians

Child Welfare System



ONE VISION ONE VOICE: Changing the Child Welfare System for African Canadians

Entry to the System



There are no significant differences in the overall incidence of child maltreatment between Whites and people of African descent. However, professionals and individuals are more likely to report people of African descent than Whites to child welfare.⁴



When a report to child welfare has been made, people of African descent are investigated twice as often as Whites.⁶



Poverty, not the type or severity of maltreatment, is the single most important predictor of placement in foster care and the amount of time spent there.⁵



White children who are abused or neglected are twice as likely as children of African descent to receive services in their own homes.⁷

In the System



Children of African descent remain in foster care longer, move more often, receive fewer services, and are less likely to be returned to their home or adopted.⁹

In the System



When an investigation is found to have been substantiated, children of African descent are 36% more likely than White children to be placed into foster care.⁸



Most White children who enter the system are permitted to stay with their families, whereas most children of African descent are taken away from theirs. Child welfare for children of African descent usually means shattering the bonds with their parents.¹⁰

Exiting the System



Children of African descent exit foster care most frequently through adoption or "aging out" of the system. White children exit most frequently through reunification with families.¹¹

Exiting
the System



There are a number of negative outcomes for children of African descent who remain in foster and institutional care until they "age out" of the system, including: not completing high school, teen pregnancy, homelessness, unemployment and involvement with the criminal justice system. They also experience isolation from family, culture and community.¹²

“Resistance is in our DNA”

Dr. Akua Benjamin

ONE VISION ONE VOICE: Changing the Child Welfare System for African Canadians



Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies

The Immigration System

The Immigration System:

- Points system
- Skilled trades labourers (60s & 70s)
- Domestic Workers (50s & 60s)
- “Barrel-children”

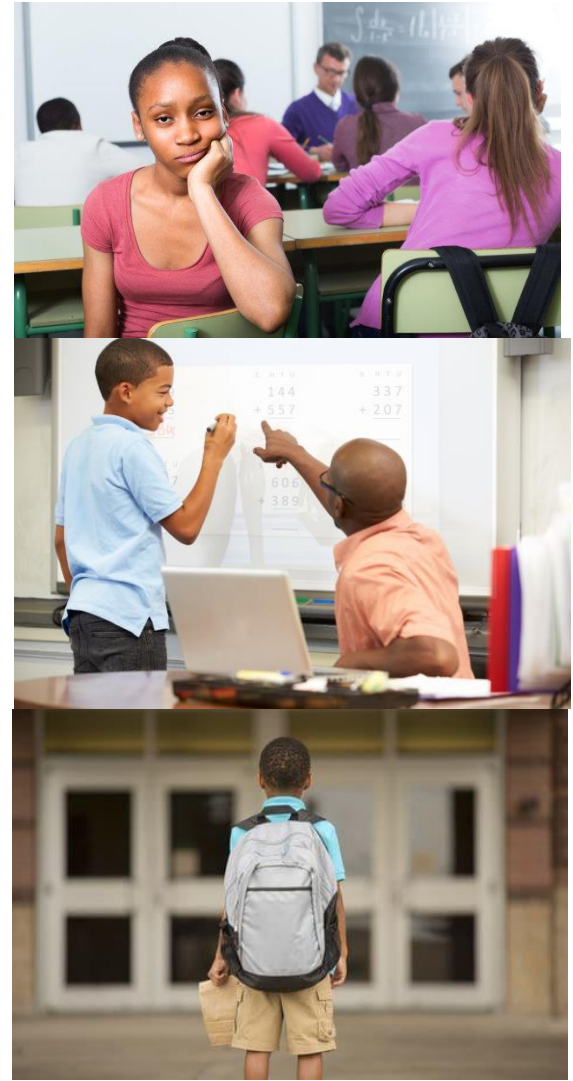
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Healthcare

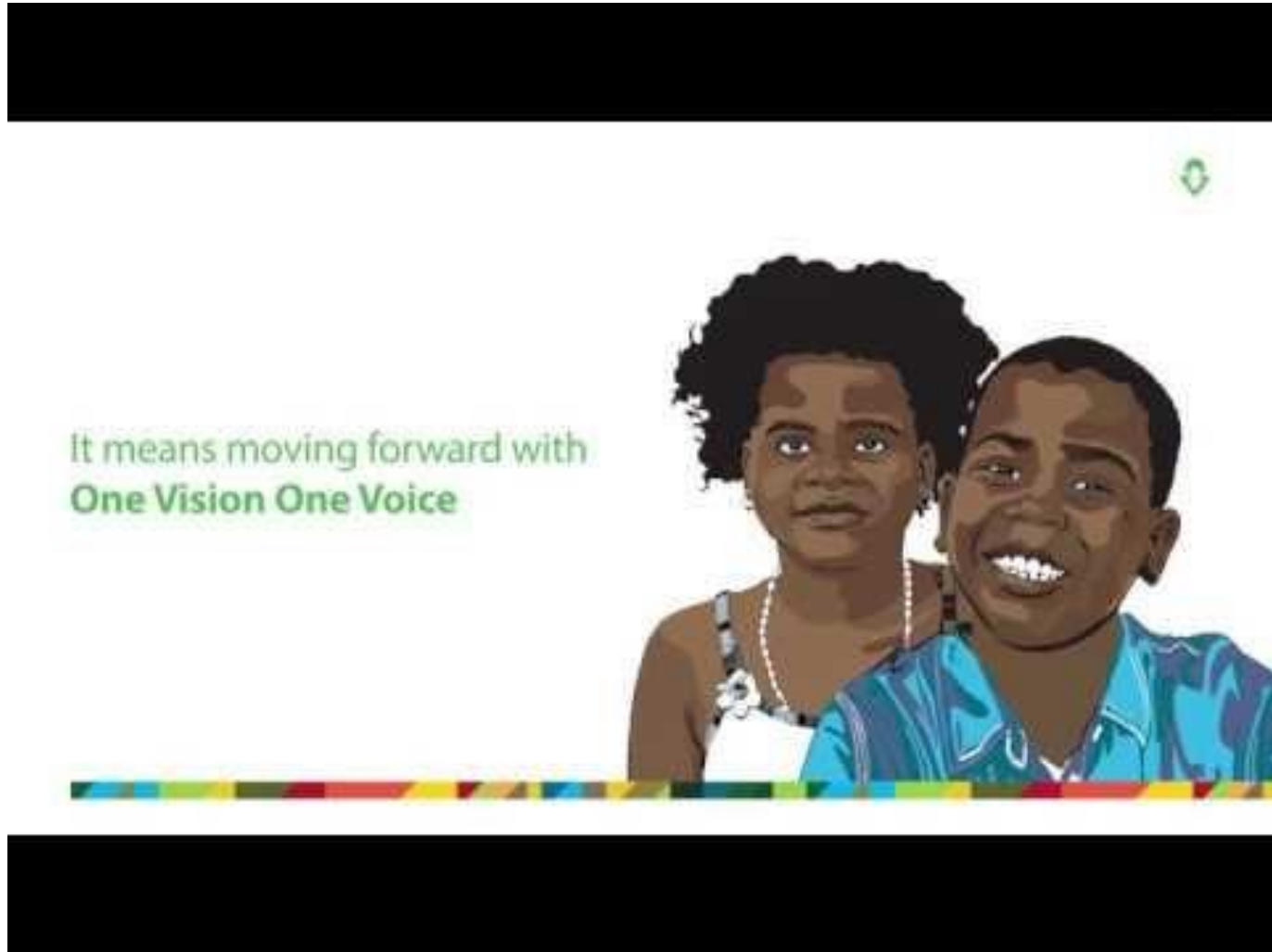
- Inequities in access
- Oversurveillance and apprehensions
- Over referrals to hospital Social Workers
- Poor treatment/ mistreatment, under medicating/ over medicating

Education

- Teacher Biases
- Trite Reporting
- Cultural Gap
- Parenting Styles
- Stress of Microaggressions
- Overreporting



Our path to sustainable change – OVOV Phase II





Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies

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