



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada



Government of
Northwest Territories



Joint News Release - BACupNorth, GNWT and RCMP met to discuss issues encountered by Black and Minority residents

Yellowknife (March 19, 2021) - Leaders from BACupNorth, the Honorable R.J. Simpson, Minister of Justice, and RCMP G Division Commanding Officer Chief Superintendent Jamie Zettler met on March 15, 2021 to discuss issues encountered by Black and minority residents in the Northwest Territories (NWT) when in contact with the justice system.

During this first meeting, important issues were raised by BACupNorth and solutions discussed to advance the work the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the RCMP are currently doing in relation to systemic racism, with the goal of encouraging positive change to support an inclusive and representative justice system. Items raised and discussed at the meeting identified areas requiring further discussion including: diverse populations being reflected in recruitment and hiring processes; tracking and being accountable for the effectiveness of cultural awareness and anti-racism programs; building on effective community partnership and outreach programs; and support for smooth transitions back into society for people released from Corrections facilities.

This first meeting was constructive and has set the stage for continued engagement between Leaders from BACupNorth, the Minister of Justice and the RCMP Commanding Officer. The parties have agreed to continue to engage in dialogue and have set fall 2021 as the next time they will meet.

The Minister of Justice and Northwest Territories RCMP Commanding Officer have committed to sharing information on relevant programs and services. The Minister has also committed to update BACupNorth at the next scheduled meeting regarding the work that it is underway at a national level to make changes to data collected through Statistics Canada and to engage his Ministerial colleagues in relation to other issues raised that are part of their respective portfolio responsibilities.

Quotes:

“BACupNorth is committed to advocate for justice, equity, equal representation and opportunity for Black and “minority” communities in the North. It is our duty to hold ourselves, our leaders and institutions accountable and we will deliver on that duty.”

- **Ambe Chenemu, President of BACupNorth**

“I am pleased with these first steps and look forward to continuing to engage in these constructive discussions with BACupNorth and the RCMP as we work together to address systemic racism.”

- **R.J. Simpson, Minister of Justice**

“Northwest Territories RCMP is committed to engage with community groups, and looks forward to developing a relationship with the newly formed BACupNorth. We welcome the opportunity to work with Department Justice for the Northwest Territories and BACupNorth to better the justice system in relation to minority communities in the Northwest Territories.”

- **Chief Superintendent Jamie Zettler, Commanding Officer Northwest Territories RCMP**

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