



## **ABSWS & CASW Sign Historic Agreement**

OTTAWA - September 15, 2020 - The Association of Black Social Workers (ABSWS) and the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) today signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding for the profession that recognizes systemic racism and commits to joining forces to rectify wrongs and strengthen the lives of people of African descent in Canada.

“Social workers must speak out on injustice: we cannot remain silent,” states CASW President, Joan Davis-Whelan. “Today CASW formally joins ABSWS in their commitment to fighting the endured psychological trauma of racism and support the healthy development of African Canadian communities in pursuing justice.”

Both organizations are committed to promoting and strengthening the social work profession and key to this agreement is identifying areas for shared action and providing consultation, support, and resources to each other to advance initiatives.

“This formal understanding values our reciprocal relationship and the benefits inherent in exchanging information of mutual interest with an emphasis on programs and services that enhance the lives of people of African descent” stated ABSWS President, Rajean Willis. “Ratifying an agenda for mutual understanding and cooperation for the advancement of the social work profession in Canada and internationally.

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### **Background:**

#### **Association of Black Social Workers**

ABSWS is a volunteer charitable organization consisting of Black Social Workers and Human Service Workers throughout the Province. ABSWS was originally formed in Montreal, Canada in 1977. A group started in Nova Scotia in 1979, with a membership of 4. ABSWS was reactivated in 1987, and now has a growing membership.

#### **Canadian Association of Social Workers**

Founded in 1926, CASW is the national professional association. CASW promotes and strengthens the profession, supports its members, and advances issues of social justice

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