



# Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society

"Strengthening resiliency within our Aboriginal Urban Community"

June 8, 2020

The Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society (VATJSS) Team and Board of Directors stand in solidarity with the Black Community in their struggle for liberation, justice and equality. We fully support the 'Black Lives Matter Movement', and vow that we as an organization will not be silent and will help to give a voice to the injustices, dehumanization, systematic violence and discrimination faced by the Black Community. Our Indigenous culture tells us to go ask our elders, our advice is: "We need to bring it back to our ways, we start our lives from a place of respect: respect for ourselves and respect to others. Times like this have been predicted but we can heal through acknowledgment of history, correcting injustices and creating change for the now". Sandra Greene; Haida Elder and Board President.

VATJSS was established two decades ago with the Federal recognition of racism against Indigenous people in Canada, we acknowledge that shared experience of countless injustices of monstrous acts of Police brutality. We advocate for social justice that brings wellbeing and equality to community. We will continue to stand against systems of oppression that perpetuate violence against the Black community; we will continue to be agents of change for racial justice.

As we watch, the news and bear witness to the racism, violence and killings that are happening at a devastating rate, our hearts go out to the mothers, fathers, grandparents, and family members who have had a loved one mistreated, injured or killed. We acknowledge that these appalling acts are not new, it is only with technology that the world is unable to deny the truth. We call on all RCMP, Municipal and Tribal police to show transparency and accountability with mandatory use of body and dash cams.

This is a time for action, a time for every member of our community to act to their capacity. There are many things that every person can do enact change, and this can start with no more silence.

Knowledge that is applied is power; for more information on Black Lives Matter please find an abundance of information on their website <https://blacklivesmatter.com>.

Another powerful website that we encourage you to read and support is <https://www.thebipocproject.org/>.

## Black Lives Matter.

With love and solidarity,

*The Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society Board of Directors and Team*