

From: Mayor Bonnie Crombie <mayor@mississauga.ca>

Sent: July 6, 2021 3:39 PM

To: Crombie, Bonnie <mayor@mississauga.ca>

Cc: claudia@upsurgence.org; Sara Alimardani <Sara.Alimardani@mississauga.ca>; BCE <BCE@mississauga.ca>

Subject: Thank you for supporting Mississauga's BCE Sessions



Hello Community Members, Residents, and Subject Matter Experts,

I would like to thank you for participating in our Black Community Engagement (BCE) Sessions. We had over 50 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and over 800 participants in our consultation sessions from May to June. I am grateful for your engagement and insights. As I have mentioned, I am committed to this process and ensuring that tangible and actionable items result from the consultations. And our engagement does not stop here and Claudia McKoy, our consultant and facilitator, will continue to connect with the Black Caucus, Subject Matter Experts and community partners to gain further insights as we develop our reporting and recommendations for the fall in addressing systemic barriers for Black Communities at the City and the Region. Please stay in touch and if you would like to provide further insights, kindly connect with Claudia, who is copied on this email.

I have attached our News Release from the BCE Sessions. Please feel free to connect with Sara Alimardani in my office if there is anything else that you wish to share or provide feedback on. Sara will be sharing highlights of the sessions in the coming days through video acquisitions we have made from the sessions and SME presentations.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and I look forward to our continued work together as we build a more accessible and inclusive City for all residents.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Crombie,
 Mayor

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Mississauga's Six Black Community Consultations Wrap Up: Overarching Theme is More Representation, Services and Programs Needed for Black Communities

MISSISSAUGA, July 6, 2021 - The City of Mississauga and Peel Region need to create more programs and strategies that specifically address the diverse needs of Black community members, while also actively working to build more Black community representation through inclusion on boards, advisory committees and in leadership positions across the City of Mississauga and Peel Region.

Those were the overarching themes raised during six Black Community Engagement (BCE) sessions hosted by Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie throughout May and June 2021, that saw hundreds of Black Community members and over 50 subject matter experts come together to discuss the most pressing issues facing the Black communities. The six sessions – Accessing Political Power in Canada, Accessing Mississauga's Resources, Policing, Designing Health Black Communities, Accessing An Age Friendly Society, and Economic Development – were designed by community engagement facilitator Claudia McKoy, along with members of Mayor Crombie's Black Caucus.

The feedback from Black community members during the BCE sessions will be included in a report, scheduled to be released this fall. This will include a set of action-driven recommendations that will be presented to Mississauga City Council and Peel Regional Council. The report will be written by McKoy – Principal at the engagement firm UpSurgence and BCE facilitator – with additional feedback from the Mayor's Black Caucus and subject matter experts.

"This was an eye opening experience, as these sessions were incredibly frank and sometimes very raw. It showed me just how much work we have to do at the City, and across the Region, to truly make our services and programs more inclusive and accessible to the Black communities. I thank everyone who came out and provided us with their honest feedback on how we can do better," said Mayor Crombie. "What makes me hopeful is that we will be taking concrete action – this was not a performative exercise. These sessions are going to result in tangible recommendations, based on feedback from the Black communities, that we can implement at the City and the Region and advocate for to other levels of government."

During the session on Accessing Political Power in Canada, there were calls for more Black representation within the City and Regional political infrastructure – both elected representation as well as on boards of directors. This issue was also repeated during the Policing session, where there was a lengthy and fulsome discussion on the need for Black community representation on the Peel Regional Police Services Board.

During the session on Accessing Mississauga's Resources, there were also calls to create a Black Advisory Committee, or committees, that would help Black communities

navigate the City's various program and services and promote Black History and culture.

Black community members also suggested more mental health resources are needed for the Black community, and that a Black Health Strategy would be an important step in the right direction. During the Accessing an Age Friendly City session, some community members suggested the need for Caribbean and Afrocentric programs and services in child welfare and long-term care facilities.

“What’s very clear is that the City and the Region need to take a much more holistic approach in ensuring the Black communities are better represented and that the right programs and services exist to address the diverse needs. Our report that we will be bringing back to the City and the Region will provide recommendations on how this can be achieved,” said McKoy. “And one thing I can’t stress enough is that community engagement with the Black communities can’t end here – it has to be a fluid and deliberate process that builds on the initial work we’ve done with these sessions and the recommendations that come out of the report.”

Mississauga’s BCE sessions came out of Resolution 207 that was passed unanimously by Mississauga City Council, which identified anti-black and anti-Indigenous racism as an historic and pervasive threat in Mississauga. As part of Resolution 207, the Mayor’s office convened a Black Caucus to advise on equity issues and priorities. The Black Caucus helped design the BCE sessions.

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