

The Word

The latest CRIB news, views and announcements

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**THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH &
INNOVATION FOR BLACK
SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS**



**FACTOR - INWENTASH
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

Dr. Sharpe Receives Aaron Rosen Lecture Award



The CRIB is thrilled to congratulate Dr. Tanya L. Sharpe on being awarded the Society for Social Work and Research and the Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, 2023 Aaron Rosen Lecture Award! Dr. Sharpe will present her lecture titled **Beyond a Seat at “The Table”: Building a Legacy of Research for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims**, virtually on **Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, EST**. Free registration is required, if you wish to reserve your spot please follow the link below!

[REGISTER NOW](#)



CRIB EXECUTIVES PAY COURTESY CALL TO Ontario's Associate Minister of Mental Health & Addictions



Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, the Honourable Michael A. Tibollo, MPP; Founder & Director of The CRIB, Dr. Tanya Sharpe; and Assistant Director, The CRIB, Dr. Khellon Q. Roach

The Centre for Research & Innovation for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims (The CRIB) thanks the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, the Honourable **Michael A. Tibollo**, MPP for the warm welcome to his office at Queen's Park, Toronto. It was great to learn more about the important work the Government of Ontario is engaged in with the intent of supporting those that are faced with mental health and addiction challenges. The CRIB looks forward to forging a meaningful partnership with the Ministry of Health and other ministries, so that we can continue to be of service to the people of Ontario, and in particular, Black survivors of homicide victims.



Launch of Tracking (In)Justice

While vital grassroots efforts have been made to keep track of police violence, there is no national government or civil society body tracking police-involved deaths in Canada on a consistent basis. It is against this backdrop that on February 23, 2023, **Tracking (In)Justice: A Law Enforcement and Data Transparency Project** that tracks police-involved deaths and deaths in custody across Canada was launched. The project aims to provide access to data and analysis so individuals, organizations and communities can collectively advocate, shape policy, and create accountability. **Tracking (In)Justice** is a collaborative project with interdisciplinary partners from the Data Justice and Criminology Lab of the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Carleton University, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Ethics and Technology Lab at Queen's University, and The CRIB at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. To learn more, please visit TrackingInjustice.ca.



View Dr. Sharpe's interview with CBC Newsroom discussing the details and importance of the project



Watch Carleton University's Dr. McClelland of the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice speak with Global News about Tracking (In)Justice



Here are a few startling facts from the **Tracking (In)Justice** data, February 2023:

- Since 2000, 704 people have died during police use of force encounters across Canada.
- Last year (in 2022), 69 people died from such interactions, setting a grim record as the highest number in the last 20 years.
- On average, 22.7 people died in association with a police use of force encounter between 2000 - 2010. In comparison, from 2011-2022, an average of 37.8 people died each year. This represents a 66.5 percent increase.
- There are persistent racial disparities. Black and Indigenous people comprise around 8.7% of the Canadian population but account for 27.2% of police-involved shooting deaths.



SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES: Midaynta & Black Youth Jobs Submit Final Reports

On February 2, 2023, The CRIB visited the offices of community partner institutions - Midaynta Community Services and BYJ Community Services.

On this occasion, Dr. Roach received the final reports of both community organizations, “Healing Network Circle”

Executive Director of Midaynta, Mahad Yusuf; Assistant Director, The CRIB, Dr. Khellon Roach; Program Manager, Amina Noor; and Case Worker, Project Turnaround, Ahmed Mohdhar

and “BYJ Black Community Violence Survivor Supports” respectively. These reports were completed in response to The CRIB's Request for Proposals (RFP) entitled, “Creating Culturally Responsive Services for Indigenous; African, Caribbean, Black (ACB); and Racialized Survivors of Homicide Victims”. As an extension of the Survivors of Homicide...



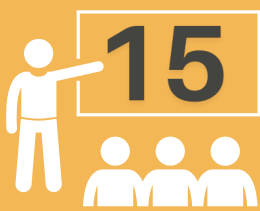
Executive Director of Midaynta, Mahad Yusuf (3rd from left standing); and Assistant Director of The CRIB, Dr. Khellon Roach (5th from left standing); and Program Manager, Amina Noor (5th from right standing) with mothers who participated in the “Healing Network Circle” project

Victims and Mental Health (SHVMH) project, conducted in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Ontario, these subgrants were made possible through funding support from the Anti-Racism Directorate of Ontario. “It was an honour to meet with and hear directly from the community members themselves. Listening to their stories often helps to give one a deeper level of understanding and appreciation not only for the hardship they often have to endure, but also for the important role grassroots organizations play in their respective communities,” said Dr. Roach.

PROJECT IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS - BY THE NUMBERS

MIDAYNTA COMMUNITY SERVICES

Awarded a subgrant for their project, “Healing Network Circle”, which created safe and inclusive spaces for families and individuals impacted by grief and the loss of loved ones as a result of gang and gun violence.



Community presentations delivered on topics including Addiction & Mental Health, Coping with Trauma, Grief, & Loss, & After Gun Violence

Community members benefited from attending the various presentations delivered.



Black led organizations served on the project steering committee, strengthening partnerships & collaboration

Project Coordinator hired to lead the community project.



BYJ COMMUNITY SERVICES

“BYJ Black Community Violence Survivor Supports” supported Black youth and their families with culturally responsive mentorship and wraparound care to navigate the barriers of access to homicide survivor supports, in partnership with funeral homes, hospitals, and service providers to support Black families financially through a recovery fund.



Referral Partners & Service Agencies engaged, deepening community partnerships

Survivor clients/families received wraparound support (e.g., mental health and housing)



Families received Recovery/Benevolent Funding (for funerals, vigils, transportation, clothing)

Black Survivor Resource Guide created



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER

Dr. Thabani Nyoni combines eight years in frontline community practice and social justice advocacy in Zimbabwe with six years of global research experience. Broadly, his research seeks to evaluate or inform the development of programs and policies that promote health equity and mental and sexual health outcomes among African, Caribbean, Black (ACB) and racialized populations facing multiple intersections of marginalization.



Dr. Nyoni's doctoral dissertation used social support theory to examine the role of HIV-related stressors and psychosocial resources as risk and protective factors for mental health and HIV treatment adherence outcomes of Black adolescents living with perinatal HIV in South Africa. During his postdoctoral fellowship, Dr. Nyoni will conduct community-based research using qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods to explore how contextual stressors embedded in multiple forms of marginalization individually and collectively produce distinct sexual and mental health experiences and outcomes among ACB and racialized populations.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT TAKES ON NEW ROLE AT CITY OF TORONTO



We extend congratulations to our long serving Research Assistant and Invisible Wounds Project Coordinator, **Jheanelle Anderson** as she begins her new role at the City of Toronto as a Policy Development Officer, where she'll help build policies to support Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility within the Children's Services division. Mentorship and building a pipeline of young researchers is important to The CRIB as we contribute towards developing global citizens to make a meaningful contribution to society. Check out this [Q&A with Jheanelle](#) on realizing structural changes and forming community at the intersection of Blackness and disability.

KEEPING UP WITH THE CRIB COMMUNITY

CRIB Director Receives 2023 Social Policy Researcher Award

Dr. Tanya Sharpe received the 2023 Social Policy Researcher Award for her extensive career of research in social policy on survivors of homicide victims. The award was announced during the 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) which was held January 11-15 in Phoenix, Arizona. The CRIB congratulates, Dr. Sharpe on receiving this prestigious award!



Dr. Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, CRIB Faculty Affiliate & Associate Professor of Sociology at UofT Mississauga (photo by Brian Summers)

CRIB FACULTY AFFILIATE Professor Akwasi Owusu-Bempah Tapped to Co-author Canada's New Black Justice Strategy

The CRIB extends sincere congratulations to its faculty affiliate, Dr. Akwasi Owusu-Bempah on being named to Canada's new Black Justice Strategy steering group. Dr. Owusu-Bempah who is an associate professor of sociology at University of Toronto Mississauga, will also be the co-author of the recommendations that will be put forward to

the federal government by the Black Justice Strategy steering group. The official announcement was made on Parliament Hill last month (February 2023) by a panel that included Minister of Justice and Attorney General, David Lametti, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion Ahmed Hussen, and Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, Marci Ien.



Professor Charmaine Williams

CRIB Faculty Affiliates Professors Charmaine Williams & Njoki Wane Speak at Black History Month Symposium

FIFSW Dean, Professor Charmaine Williams and Professor and Chair of the Department of Social Justice Education at OISE Njoki Wane provided opening remarks at last month's Black History Symposium entitled, "What Has Changed: The Role of Attitudinal Barriers to Advancing Black Inclusion". Hosted by the Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office (ARCDO), the event sought to (1) understand attitudinal barriers that manifest in current and historical perceptions about Blackness and Black communities; (2) identify and discuss the role of post-secondary environments and attitudinal barriers that impact efforts to address systemic anti-Black racism; and (3) identify and discuss the strategies, tools and resources to strengthen advocacy and EDI transformation efforts to address intersectional forms of anti-Black racism in post-secondary environments.



Professor Njoki Wane

C. Shawn McGuffey Returning to Transylvania University as Kenan Distinguished Visiting Professor

The CRIB congratulates its faculty affiliate C. Shawn McGuffey who will be returning to his alma mater, Transylvania University as the Kenan Distinguished Visiting Professor. The visiting professorship is made possible by the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust and the Kenan Fund for Faculty and Student Enrichment at Transylvania. The program brings to campus nationally recognized scholars with fresh points of view to invigorate current faculty and provide students access to a learning experience they would not have under other circumstances. McGuffey is an associate professor of sociology and past director of African and African diaspora studies at Boston College.

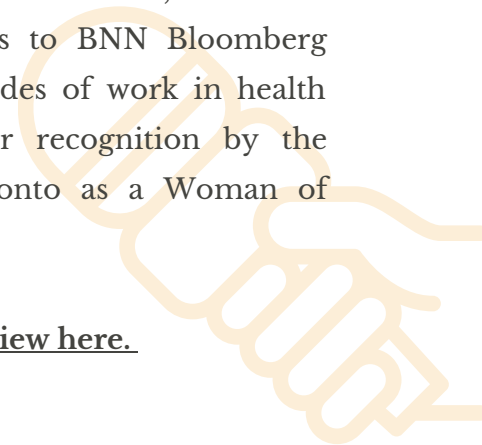




In The Media

CRIB Faculty Affiliate, Notisha Massaquoi talks to BNN Bloomberg about her decades of work in health equity and her recognition by the YWCA of Toronto as a Woman of Distinction.

[View the interview here.](#)



The CRIB is located within the number one ranked university in Canada (University of Toronto) and more specifically within the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, which is ranked second in the world among schools of social work according to the Center for World University Rankings.

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