



# **SEEING IN COLOUR: A FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS ANTI-BLACK RACISM IN HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS**

## **Presenter:**

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# **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

1. Context: Canadian Black History
2. Anti-Black Racism: Impacts on Housing
3. Research Project: Towards a New Framework
4. Takeaways
5. Questions

A collage of historical Black Canadian portraits and a family photo. The background features several faded, overlapping images: a woman in a high-collared dress (top left), a young girl in a dark dress (top center), a man in a suit and hat (top right), a man with a mustache in a suit (bottom left), and a man in a suit (bottom center). A central, slightly larger image shows a family of five (a man, a woman, and three children) in formal attire.

# CANADIAN BLACK HISTORY

*“A people without the knowledge of their  
past history is like a tree without roots.”*

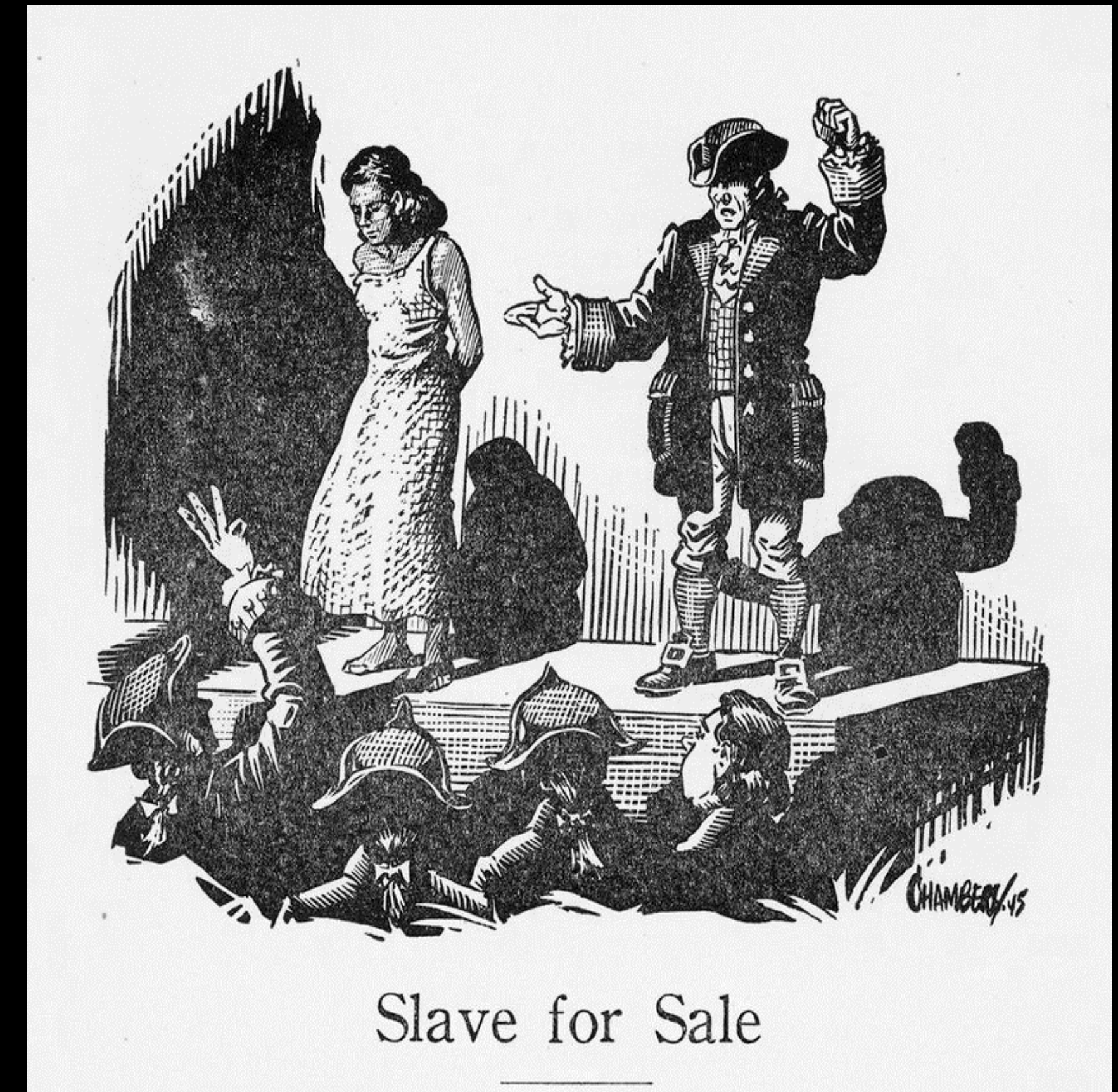
-Marcus Garvey  
Jamaican Activist



# SLAVERY

*"Procure for me two stout young fellows (and) buy for each a clean young wife, who can wash and do the female offices about a farm, I shall begrudge no price."*

**- James Murray**  
(Governor of Quebec, 1763)



Source: Halifax Bureau, 2021

1600s

Paisley, Lawrence Dooling, for Jamaica.

**ADVERTISEMENTS.**  
**TEN DOLLARS REWARD.**

**R**UN-AWAY from the Subscriber, A Negro Slave named *Ismail*, about 35 years old, 5 feet 8 inches high, pretty much marked with the Small-pox, wears his own Hair which is black, long and curly; has black Eyes, broad Shoulders, and tone of voice peculiar to New-England, where he was born; reads English tolerably well, and can speak a little French: He had on an old Hat bedawbed with white Paint, an Oxenbrig Frock and Trowsers, a check Shirt, a short white flannel Jacket, and a pair of Moccasins.

If any person apprehends said NEGRO, and gives notice thereof to the Subscriber living at the Batoc-gate, he or she shall receive **TEN DOLLARS** Reward, besides all reasonable Charges; but, whoever carries him off, entertains, or employs him after this public notice, will be prosecuted according to Law.

**JOHN TURNER.**

*Montreal, July 16, 1779.*

**THIS is to inform the Public, that JOHN DOYLE,**

Source: Halifax Bureau, 2021

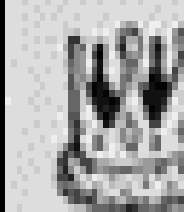
**A** Gentleman going to England has for sale, a Negro-wench, with her child, about 26 years of age, who understands thoroughly every kind of house-work, particularly washing and cookery; And a stout Negro-boy, 13 years old; also a good horse, cariole and harness, - For particulars enquire at Mr. William Roxburgh's, Upper-town

*Quebec, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1785.*

**U**n Monsieur, qui va partir pour Angleterre, a pour vendre, une Nègresse avec son enfant. Elle est âgée d'environ 26 ans, entend parfaitement tous les ouvrages du ménage, surtout le blanchissage et la cuisine; aussi un Nègre robuste de 13 ans; De plus un bon cheval avec carriole et le harnois. Pour information on s'adressera à Mr. William Roxburgh, à la Haute-ville.

*Québec, 10 Mai, 1785.*

Source: Halifax Bureau, 2021



## Slavery Abolition Act 1833

- Abolished slavery throughout most of the British Empire
  - (with the notable exceptions "of the Territories in the Possession of the East India Company," the "Island of Ceylon," and "the Island of Saint Helena")
- But in practical terms, however, only slaves below the age of six were freed, as all slaves over the age of six were redesignated as "apprentices". Apprentices in the UK were trainees but were not free but were bound to their master for a fixed number of years - just like slaves.
- The Act also included the right of compensation for slave-owners who would be losing their property - this amounted to claims worth £20 million - 40% of the Government's income for that year! Equivalent to £270 billion if it was today's government.

Source: African American Registry, 2022

1834



# IMMIGRATION

*"Let us preserve for the sons of Canada the lands they propose to give to the negros."*

**- William Thoburn**

(Member of Parliament from Ontario, 1911)

**CANADA WILL BAR  
THE NEGRO OUT**

Official Notice Given by  
Dominion to United

Source: Telus Optik Local (2017)

EDMONTON DAILY CAPITAL 25 APRIL 1911

**PETITIONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST  
NEGRO IMMIGRATION ARE CIRCULATED**

This morning the distribution of petitions against negro immigration, which have been in course of preparation by Secretary Fisher of the Board of Trade for some days past, in accordance with the recent resolution of the board, was commenced in the city. Several copies of the petition have been placed in the following public places and business houses, during the course of the day, an additional number will be sent out for circulation in the city and province. Copies are now being signed at the following places: Board of Trade offices, Union Bank, Hotel, etc.

here was most unfortunate for the country, and that further arrivals in large numbers would be disastrous. We cannot admit as any factor the argument that these people may be good farmers or good citizens. It is a matter of common knowledge that it has been proved in the United States and Italy without the occurrence of revolting lawlessness, and the development of bitter race hatred, and that the most serious question facing the States today is the negro problem.

not be introduced into this lawlessness as has developed in all sections in the United States where there is any considerable negro element. There is no reason to believe that we have here a higher order of civilization, or that the introduction of a negro problem here would have different results. We therefore respectfully request the Government to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent any further immigration of negroes.

1900s

P. C. 1324

AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT OTTAWA.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY

IN COUNCIL:

His Excellency in Council, in virtue of the provisions of Sub-Section (c) of Section 38 of the Immigration Act, is pleased to Order and it is hereby Ordered as follows:-

For a period of one year from and after the date hereof the landing in Canada shall be and the same is prohibited of any immigrants belonging to the Negro race, which race is deemed unsuitable to the climate and requirements of Canada.

W. J. A. Macdonald  
Approved  
G. H. 12/11

1967

Source: Telus Optik Local (2017)

Source: Yarhi (2020). The Canadian Encyclopedia



# RACIAL SEGREGATION

*“Prevent Black people from using public swimming pools due to fears of mixed-race bathing.”*

- Edmonton City’s Council Ordinance (1923)

**The last segregated school in Canada closed in 1983 in Nova Scotia.**



1700s



## Black had no case when refused beer

In the late 1880s, a fellow by the name of Fred Christie walked into a Montreal tavern and ordered a glass of beer. Because Fred Christie happened to be black, the waiter refused to serve him.

Montreal Gazette, May 16, 1973



1980s

# PLANNING AND SEGREGATION

*“That the Grantee or his heirs,... will not sell to,...rent to,... or permit to occupy, the said lands and premises, or any part thereof,... to any...  
Negro.”*

**-Vancouver Real Estate Deeds (1928 to 1965)**

1900s



Boil water advisory: Africville residents did not receive water and sewer services. They relied on wells for their water supply.

Source: McRae (2022)



A freight train passing through the community of Africville.

Source: McRae (2022)

Present

# ANTI-BLACK RACISM: IMPACTS ON HOUSING

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# WHAT IS ANTI- BLACK RACISM?

Policies and practices embedded in Canadian institutions that reflect and reinforce beliefs, attitudes, and/or discrimination directed at people of African and Caribbean descent and rooted in their experience of enslavement and colonization here in Canada (Source: Dr. Akua Benjamin).





# ANTI-BLACK RACISM AS A PATHWAY TO HOUSING INSTABILITY

- In 2009, 1 in 4 Black single parents experienced housing discrimination in Toronto.
- In 2021, Black Canadians were 2 times more likely to be evicted.

- In 2018, Black adults were 2.8 times more likely to experience food insecurity.

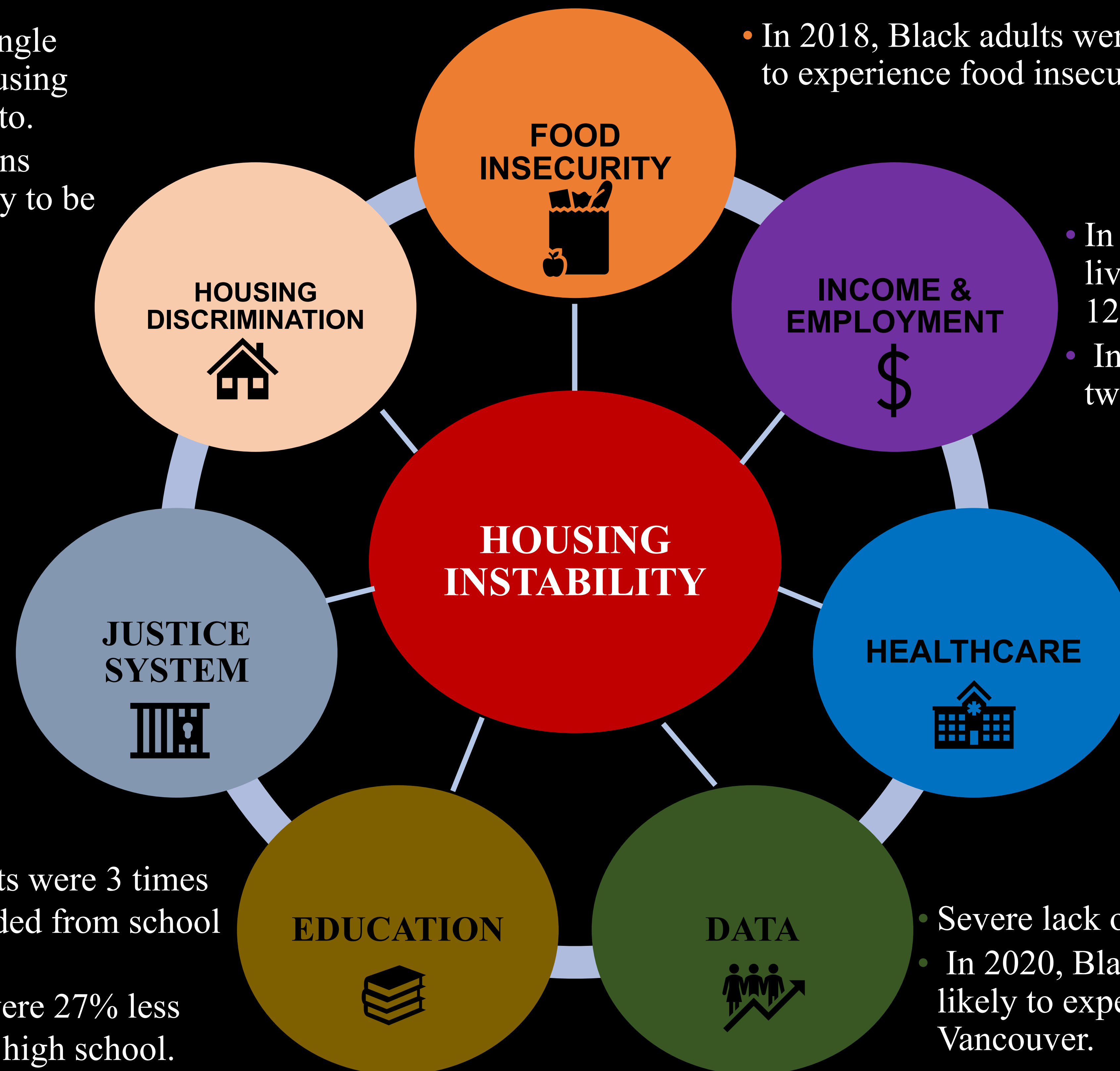
- In 2016, 21% of Black adults lived in low-income, compared to 12% of non-Blacks.
- In 2016, Black people were twice as likely to be unemployed.

- In 2020, Black people living in low income were 3.5 times at risk of dying from Covid-19.

- Between 2003 and 2013, the incarceration rate among Black people increased by nearly 90% in federal prison.

- In Toronto, Black students were 3 times more likely to be suspended from school in 2006-07 school year.
- In 2016, Black women were 27% less likely to have completed high school.

- Severe lack of data on Black Canadians.
- In 2020, Black people were 3.7 times more likely to experience homelessness in Vancouver.







# SEEING IN COLOUR IN CANADA

DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROJECT



# **RESEARCH PROJECT**

## **ANTI-BLACK RACISM**

- An embedded feature in Canadian society
- Intersectionality

## **OBJECTIVE**

Develop a planning practice framework to address anti-Black racism in housing and homelessness.

## **PURPOSE**

Raise awareness and address discriminatory housing practices and inequities amongst Black Canadians.





# METHODOLOGY

- Design Science Research and Autoethnographic Research Methodology

- Three Phases:

- 1. Research Parameters:**

- Reflect on experiences
- Literature reviews
- 1<sup>st</sup> interviews:
  - Black key informants
  - Black people with lived/living experiences

- 2. Iterative Framework Development:**

- Gather information from phase 1
- Curate community of practice
- Test and iterate the framework

- 3. Validate Framework:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> interviews:
  - Black key informants
  - Black people with lived/living experiences
- Finalize framework development





# PROJECT IMPACT

## MY PRACTICE

- Greater awareness and sensitivity to Black Canadians' experiences, perspectives, and intersectionality
- Adapt processes and practices to facilitate better outcomes
- Curate a new community of practice

## PROFESSION

- Introduce a paradigm shift to facilitate Black Inclusion
- Bring awareness to the gaps in policies, program design and delivery
- Potential to improve housing outcomes for Black Canadians





# TAKEAWAYS

- Canadian Black history consists of racial inequities deeply rooted in a colonial legacy of legalized slavery, dispossession, racial segregation, and discriminatory practices
- Anti-Black systemic racism acts as a pathway to housing instability and homelessness
- The impact of racism and inequities affects generations
- Substantial gaps in data and research
- Black communities are diverse, and demand targeted responses
  - Consider the role of intersectionality
- Acknowledge the existence and impacts of anti-Black racism and work towards redress







**THANK YOU**

*“In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist. We must be anti-racist.”*

– Angela Davis

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