



May 29, 2020

Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General
Ministry of the Attorney General
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Joseph Martino
Deputy Director
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Hon. Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General
Ministry of the Solicitor General
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Dear Hon. Doug Downey, Joseph Martino, and Hon. Sylvia Jones,

Health Providers Against Poverty (HPAP) joins community members and organizations in expressing our deep anger, sadness, and concern over the death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet. As is well known by now, Ms. Korchinski-Paquet was a 29-year-old Afro-Indigenous woman who died at 100 High Park Avenue on the night of Wednesday, May 27, 2020 sometime after Toronto Police were called to and arrived at her residence.

As there are current allegations stating members of the Toronto Police Service caused Ms. Korchinski-Paquet's death, we understand that an investigation has been launched by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). We hope to see an investigation that is accountable to Ms. Korchinski-Paquet's family, and to Toronto's Black and Indigenous communities more broadly. However, we are also mindful that our legal justice systems remain entrenched in ideologies of white supremacy, settler colonialism, anti-Black racism, and anti-Indigenous racism and that this continues to create significant barriers to justice. As a result, we echo the growing call urging the Ministry of the Solicitor General to conduct a full, transparent, public, and independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding Ms. Korchinski-Paquet's death.

Whether at a societal, institutional, or interpersonal level, Black and Indigenous communities experience disproportionately high levels of discrimination. As health providers who practice in predominantly white institutions, we acknowledge our complacency in perpetuating these experiences of racism and discrimination. As such, we urge the Ministry of the Attorney General, SIU, and Ministry of the Solicitor General to proceed with diligent reflection and corrective action to limit and reverse the ways in which our current institutions, legal or otherwise, protect, promote, and perpetuate white supremacy. In doing so, we can all support the health of our communities by ensuring we protect and respect the experiences, needs, and safety of Black and Indigenous communities through this devastating loss.

Sincerely,

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