



7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE NCA HAMILTON HELD ON SAT  
23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019**

The entire members of the **Nigerian Canadian Association Hamilton** view with uttermost dismay the news as published in The Hamilton Spectator of 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2019 of the “temporary pause” of the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Center (HARRC) headed by the program manager Princewill Ogban.

The Nigerian Canadian Association Hamilton after extensive deliberations noted and resolved as follows:

1. In our opinion, the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Center (HARRC) was a valuable addition to the infrastructure of the city considering the serious issue of racism in our city, which negatively affects the lives of many of our citizens. HARRC has been viewed as a precedent setter for other cities in Canada, which makes the “pause” of the center a setback for the fight against racism in Hamilton.
2. The NCA Hamilton notes with grave concern that the reasons given for this “pause” does not seem plausible given that the very group the center was created for was already feeling its impact positively.
3. It notes that the center in its very short existence has without a doubt gone a long way in achieving the objective for which it was set up which is primarily to gather information about racism which for the avoidance of doubt is very much alive in our dear city of Hamilton. For a center that took almost 15 years to become a reality to then be shut down barely a year into a 3 years pilot project raises the inevitable question **“Is the city of Hamilton really serious about tackling/eliminating racism or was it just a political stunt?”**
4. It is our opinion that by this singular act the parties concerned have taken the fight against racism back many steps and by so doing has rendered the city’s vision of a diverse, all-inclusive Hamilton a mirage.

5. The NCA Hamilton therefore resolved that we strongly urge the partners, especially the City Council to as a matter of urgency revisit this issue with a view to reopening the center in the least possible time.
6. We also resolve that if we are to build a diverse, all-inclusive Hamilton, that equity and justice demands that such a resource center is very important bearing in mind that "Racism IS NOT EQUALLY paused".

Finally, the Nigerian Canadian Association Hamilton is committed to fostering a united, inclusive city where all feels welcome and accepted.

Signed,



Ike Agbassi

**President (NCAH)**



Henry Onwuka

**Vice Pres. (NCAH)**



Ronnic Sanyaolu

**Soc. Sec (NCAH)**