



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toronto, ON. September 24, 2019:

The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) is deeply disappointed by the photos of Prime Minister Trudeau dressed in Blackface at multiple points in his past. While the Prime Minister has apologized for his individual actions, the ensuing public discussion presents an opportunity to collectively examine the larger systemic issues of anti-Black racism, lack of cultural understanding, and other forms of overt and subtle discrimination facing thousands of Black, African and Caribbean peoples every day.

The JCA believes it is incumbent on all elected officials and candidates to acknowledge and address racism and discrimination in Canada, to have honest conversations about their impact, and to demonstrate concretely through action, how they will work towards eliminating these barriers to full inclusion. The JCA holds all parties vying to form the Government accountable for upholding the values of inclusion and committing to eradicating anti-Black racism wherever it presents. This begins with recognizing the United Nations Decade of People of African Descent, and committing to financial investments that will help eliminate the systemic barriers that lead to higher rates of poverty, incarceration and access to progressive employment for Black, Indigenous and racialized people in Canada.

For 57 years, the JCA has worked to ensure that the Jamaican, Caribbean and African-Canadian communities are able to participate socially and economically at all levels of society, and are able to contribute to a strong diverse Canada. We look forward to working with the Prime Minister and Government to advance this vision through policy changes, and strategic financial investments that positively impact the wellbeing and meaningful participation of Black communities in Canadian society.

For more information contact: Kashane Denton, Director of Communications at communications@jcaontario.org.