



RUBY SAHOTA

Member of Parliament – Brampton North
Députée - Brampton Nord

News Release

For Immediate Release

The Importance of Conversations: Black History Month Roundtable

25/02/19 – Ms. Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North held a roundtable discussion this week with prominent members of Brampton’s Black Canadian community.

“Black History Month provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the remarkable achievements of Black Canadians and the contributions they have made to this country,” said MP Sahota. “It is also an opportunity for us to reflect on, both past and present, systemic racism and discrimination, and work together as a community to address these concerns.”

The theme for the Government of Canada’s 2019 Black History Month campaign is “Black Canadian Youth: Boundless, Rooted and Proud.” MP Sahota’s roundtable discussion revolved around how we can better support the next generation of Black Canadian youth – through education, economic opportunities, community spaces, non-profit organizations, etc.

“Anti-Black racism is still a reality for many and the obstacles they continue to face are real and often overlooked,” concluded MP Sahota after the roundtable. “It was evident from our discussion that many young Black Canadians are struggling with their identity and a desire to fit in but also recognize their roots.”

Since being elected in 2015, the Trudeau government sought to help build a sense of belonging and pride among our Black Canadian youth, including:

- officially recognized the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent;
- creating the “Community Support for Black Canadian Youth Initiative;”
- featuring Viola Desmond and her story on Canada’s new \$10 bank note;
- investing \$10 million on more culturally focused mental health programs; and
- working with community groups to combat anti-black racism and discrimination with a commitment to a future where Black Canadians experience full and equal participation in society across political, social and economic life.

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