



BCHAT BULLETIN



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Community Highlights

RWANDAN CANADIAN HEALING CENTRE

On March 6th, 2024, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation posted a spotlight article on the work the Rwandan Canadian Healing Centre is leading to establish an African- Canadian housing village. The goal is to build 1,300 units by 2030. The work to do this was funded by CMHC’s [National Housing Strategy’s Solutions Labs](#). Executive Director, Kizito Musabimana notes that “The success of the project hinges on collaboration, community engagement, and policy advocacy.”



Black Opportunity Fund

The Black Opportunity Fund (BOF) is growing their role in affordable housing. This includes through their [program with Habitat for Humanity to support Black households to buy their first home](#). As part of their ongoing investment into housing, BOF is recruiting a Investment Principal to oversee a private equity fund to invest in increasing Black homeownership. [Click here](#) for more information.



Funding Opportunities

CMHC SEED FUNDING

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation recently launched their portal for organizations to apply for seed funding to cover the initial phases of the development process.

The offer:



up to \$350,000 in interest-free loans



up to \$150,000 in non-repayable contributions

You can learn more about the details [here](#).

This fund is quite competitive, so we encourage you take a look and build out your strategy soon if interested in applying.

If you'd like support, BCHAT member Isaac Francis from Tim Welch Consulting can provide you with services. Connect with him to inquire on the costs associated with their services. IFrancis@twcinc.ca





BNI Disbursements

BCHAT facilitated a conversation with BlackNorth Initiative (BNI), supporting the dispatchment of funds to Black-led faith groups and community organizations. The coordination process is ongoing, and reimbursements are expected to be complete by the end of the month.

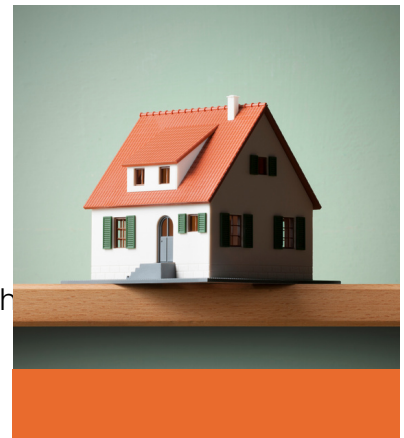
Black Carve Out

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation continues to have funds available via the Black Carve out of the Affordable Housing Fund. Black-led organizations are able to apply to a discrete \$50 million pool to cover capital funds for affordable housing development. Please visit the [Black Carve Out](#) website for more information.

BCHAT is in ongoing conversations with the Federal government in support of continuing the Black Carve Out program.

Canada Housing Plan

On April 12th, the Federal government announced the launch of [Canada's Housing Plan](#). This plan includes the creation of a new \$6 billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund. For more information, click [here](#).



Updates

DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF TORONTO

The BCHAT Steering Committee has agreed upon the next steps for formalizing how BCHAT and the City of Toronto will work to implement key items of the Strategic Plan in 2024. Key items include supporting Black-led affordable housing development and taking initial steps to build collaborations and partnerships to achieve housing goals.



Updates

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FROM CITY OF TORONTO TO BLACK-LED GROUPS

Black leaders from diverse organizations have been having ongoing conversations with Mayor Olivia Chow to secure reimbursements to cover the costs of providing emergency services for African asylum seekers and build systemic solutions to the crisis.

BCHAT members were active members in these critical conversations.

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECSC) passed the motion to "Reimburse black Churches and Community Organizations—supporting Refugee Claimants" on March 28th. This motion includes providing \$1,440,401 in reimbursements to organizations that previously received partial reimbursement incurred up to September 30, 2023. Next, the City Council will consider the motion on [April 17, 2024](#).



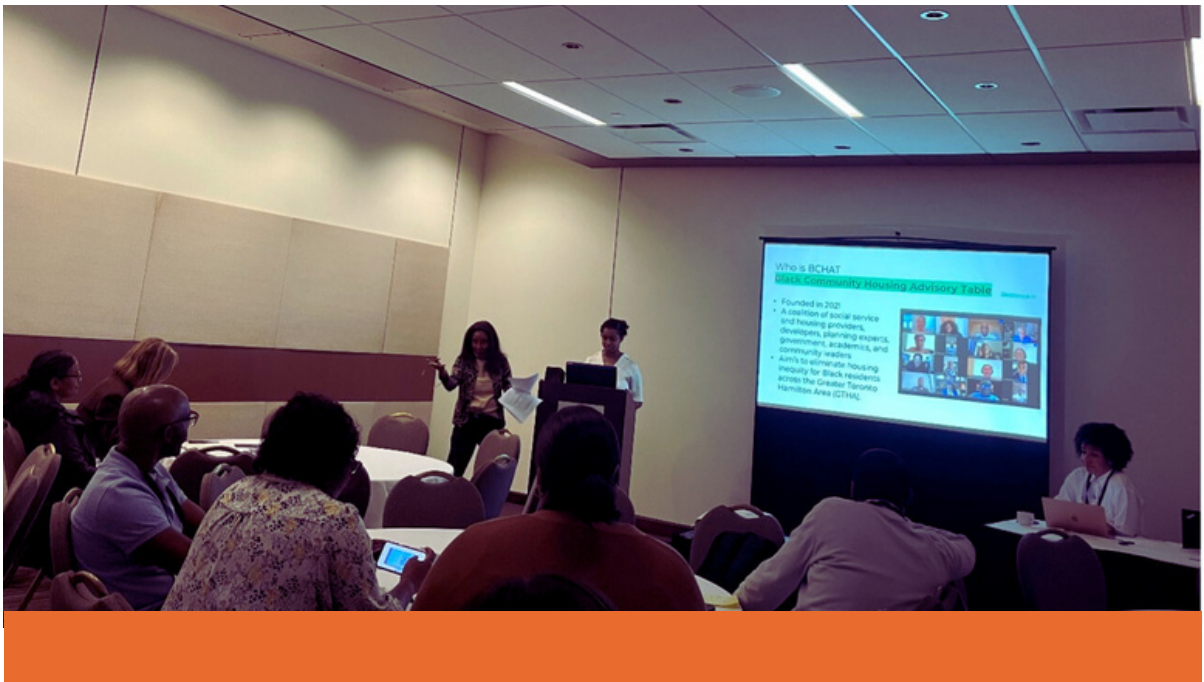
Presentations

UNITED WAY

On February 13th, BCHAT’s Co-Chairs, Cheryll and Diane, and James Atungo (Manager of Operations at Margaret’s) made a presentation to the Black Resiliency Cluster of the United Way on the crises impacting African asylum seekers and coordinated services taking place to address community needs. This included a summary of the ongoing bi-weekly meetings with Black-led faith groups, community organizations, and community health centres.

CANADIAN HOUSING RENEWAL ASSOCIATION CONGRESS

On April 9th, in Fredericton, New Brunswick, BCHAT Co-Chairs Cheryll and Diane presented on the 3-year journey of BCHAT, this community’s collaborative process of establishing our Strategic Plan, and our next steps for 2024. Participation in the conference included engagement in conversations to establish a Black Housing Caucus within the Canadian Housing Renewal Association.



About Us

THE BLACK COMMUNITY HOUSING ADVISORY TABLE (BCHAT)

The Black Community Housing Advisory Table (BCHAT) is a coalition of social service and housing providers, developers, planning experts, government and community leaders who aim to eliminate housing inequity for Black residents across the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA). The co-founders and co-chairs of BCHAT are Diane Walter ED Margarets Housing & Community Support Services and Cheryl Case of CP Planning. It includes a wide network of diverse Black community leaders and allies working towards achieving our shared vision of eliminating housing inequities and improving outcomes for Black residents. You can learn more about BCHAT here: <https://blackhousing.ca/> Read the Strategic Plan here: <https://blackhousing.ca/bchat-strategic-plan>

