WHY WE NEED A RACIALIZED COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “RACIALIZED COMMUNITIES”? 

Racialized communities refer to all people who do not consider themselves to be white. (First Nation, Métis and Inuit people are not considered racialized. To learn more about LAO’s Aboriginal Justice Strategy, please visit legalaid.on.ca/AJS.) We used to say “visible minorities” to refer to people who were non-white or non-European in ancestry, but increasingly, there are many places where people of colour make up the majority of the population.

A SNAPSHOT OF LEGAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS

Increased poverty rates 
Overrepresentation in jails and prisons 
Increased rates of homelessness 
Lack of access to education, fair work, healthcare or police protection for people without status 
Disproportionate rate of over-policing 
Disproportionality in school discipline 
Barriers to employment and overrepresentation in low-paying, unstable jobs

People of colour make up almost 76% of Ontario’s population. Ontario is the province of choice with 3.6 million immigrants — just over half of all newcomers to Canada call it home.

By 2017, more than half of Toronto’s population will be people of colour.

2X

NEARLY ONE IN FIVE immigrants experiences a state of chronic low income.

MORE THAN TWICE the rate for Canadian-born individuals.

19% of Ontario families from racialized communities live in poverty compared to 6% from non-racialized communities.

Sources:

11. Legal Aid Ontario and Jurisprudence Ontario. legalaid.on.ca/rcs