

To: University of British Columbia Black Faculty Network and Black Caucus

From: Terri Givens, Professor, Department of Political Science

Re: 2026 INTER-INSTITUTIONAL FORUM OF THE SCARBOROUGH CHARTER ON ANTI-BLACK RACISM AND BLACK INCLUSION IN CANADIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

The Scarborough Charter Forum was held March 14-15, 2026. I attended the event with Associate Vice-President, Equity & Inclusion, Arig al Shaibah. As of this year, 63 Canadian universities and colleges have signed the Scarborough Charter. The charter outlines concrete principles and accountability measures to combat anti-Black racism and foster Black inclusion in higher education. It has steadily grown from its original 46 signatories in November 2021. The current President of Carleton University, Wisdom Tettey, has played a key role in the launching and development of the Charter. He has also played a key role in providing the current home of the Secretariat at his institution. This year's forum was held at both Carleton University and University of Ottawa. The Executive Director, John Ariyo was hired in July of 2024.

The first inter-institutional forum was held at the University of British Columbia in May of 2022. I was in attendance that year in my capacity as the Provost's Advisor on the Strategy to Address Anti-Black Racism at McGill University along with our Principal, Suzanne Fortier. The first meeting was important in setting up the foundations for a secretariat, including requiring annual payments from each of the signees (on a sliding scale basis), to ensure ongoing funding as well as developing the bylaws and other structures. I also attended the forum in May of 2024 at University of Waterloo.

In general, the business meeting portion of these forums are focused on setting up the institutional structure for the Charter's Secretariat. The balance of the forum focuses on a variety of topics relevant for Black faculty, staff and students, including Black Studies, research, leadership and the challenges we are all facing in higher education. Music, poetry readings and networking opportunities are another important component of the two-day event. I have included the slides from Malinda Smith's important keynote and will send more materials as they become available.

Our continued participation in the forum is an important connection to our partner institutions, and a reminder of our university's commitment to Black flourishing. We need to ensure that we are vigilant in ensuring accountability, and we need to provide more opportunities for connectivity with our partner institutions. I encourage colleagues, including our students, to follow developments with the charter and to be involved where possible.

Links and Resources

Secretariat: <https://scarboroughcharter.ca/about/scarborough-charter-secretariat/>

This year's forum: <https://carleton.ca/equity/2026-scarborough-charter-forum/>