

# 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](http://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.



Over the past 20 years, there has been an **OVERREPRESENTATION OF RACIALIZED COMMUNITIES IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

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**



Discrimination in  
**SCHOOL  
DISCIPLINE**



Barriers to employment  
and overrepresentation in  
**LOW-PAYING,  
UNSTABLE JOBS**

People of colour make up almost 26% 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.

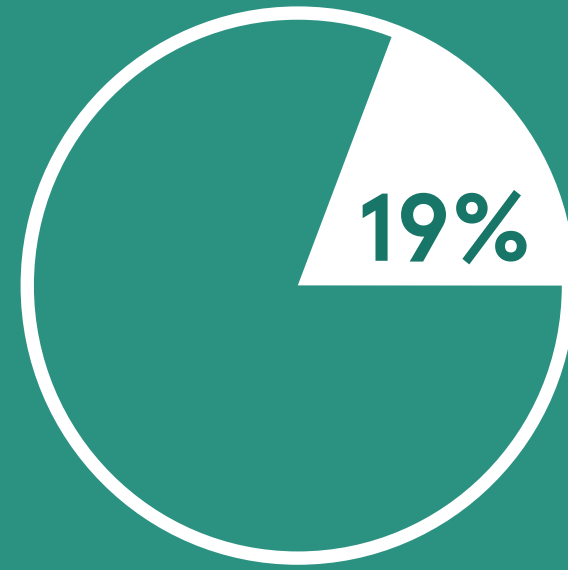
**BY 2017, MORE THAN  
HALF OF TORONTO'S  
POPULATION WILL BE  
PEOPLE OF COLOUR**



**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



[legalaid.on.ca/rcs](http://legalaid.on.ca/rcs)

## SOURCES:

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