



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CDI hosts live Ask CDI event on the intersection of anti-Black racism and Black mental health this Thursday, October 8

TORONTO, ON—Systemic anti-Black racism has existed for generations and has had a devastating impact on all aspects of life within Black communities. As a part of our ongoing commitment to combatting anti-Black racism, as well as our mission to support the mental health of children, youth and families, Child Development Institute (CDI) is pleased to be hosting *Anti-Black Racism and Its Impact on Black Mental Health*, the latest expert talk in our **Ask CDI** live event series on Facebook this **Thursday, October 8, at 7 pm**. This online panel discussion will be co-hosted by Shawnee Hardware, PhD, Researcher with the CDI SNAP, Research and Evaluation Team; Janelle Brady, Anti-Racist Educator and Researcher and CDI SNAP Homework Club Curriculum Developer and Academic Support; Annette Walker, trained teacher and PhD candidate; and Leo. D Edwards, PhD, a Clinical Therapist and Academic.

Our **Ask CDI** series features expert CDI clinical staff and psychologists, and their colleagues in the field, who offer a breadth of knowledge to support families and communities through challenging issues. At the end of each **Ask CDI** event, participants are encouraged to ask questions, which are answered live by our panel experts. Our team is comprised of subject-matter experts and are available to media upon request.

The CDI team has expertise in the following areas:

- Children, Youth and Family Mental Health
- Anxiety and Depression
- Stress Management and Coping Skills
- Building Family Connections and Healing
- Learning Disabilities and Mental Health
- Emotional Regulation
- Early Intervention
- Childhood Development
- Trauma and Abuse
- Mindfulness
- Executive Functioning

Ask CDI events are free, interactive and a wonderful opportunity to connect with experts from CDI as well as other reputable Canadian organizations. Families can participate in this event by clicking onto CDI's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/childdevelop.

To view a library of previous Ask CDI expert talks, [click here](#).

About Janelle Brady

Janelle Brady (she/her), CDI SNAP® Homework Club Curriculum Developer and Academic Support, is an award-winning Anti-Racist Educator, Activist Researcher and Community organizer. She is completing a doctoral degree in Social Justice Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. Janelle is a post-secondary educator who teaches at the college and university level and is engaged in several community projects and is also a board member for various organizations. She publishes extensively in academic and accessible platforms, frequently speaks as a keynote and panellist for several organizations and is featured in local and national news outlets due to her commitment to racial justice and equity. Her latest publication, [Critical Schooling: Transformative Theory and Practice](#), was co-edited alongside Dr. Francisco Villegas.

About Leo. D Edwards

Leo. D Edwards is clinical therapist and educator with more than 10 years' experience in the social service field. An impressive academic career, having received his Community Work Diploma from George Brown College, bachelors in social work (BSW) and professional certification in Anti-Racist Research and Practice (CARRP) from York University and masters in social work (MSW) from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. in Social Justice and Education from Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. Leo is a clinical therapist in private practice providing psychotherapy and counselling (strong emphasis on decolonizing therapy) with adults living with mental health and other life challenges. He is also a clinical social worker at one of Canada's largest mental health teaching hospitals and one of the world's leading research centers. When Leo is not doing his clinical work he can be found lecturing at a community college in Toronto.

About Shawnee Hardware

Dr. Shawnee Hardware is a Stop Now And Plan (SNAP®) Research Project Lead at Child Development Institute (CDI), Toronto, where she is developing resources for the [SNAP program](#). She is also a Course Instructor at Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN).

Shawnee holds a PhD in Language, Culture and Teaching from York University, Toronto, and an M.Ed. in Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Studies from MUN, Newfoundland. Her interests include student engagement, youth civic engagement, and curriculum development from an anti-racist and culturally responsive lens. Moreover, Shawnee is a community leader who served as a member of boards and led numerous committees in the Black community.

About Annette Walker

Annette Walker is a Ph.D. candidate in Education Critical Policy, Equity, and Leadership Studies at the Faculty of Education, Western University with a focus on well-being. Annette is also a trained teacher with experiences supporting teachers, students, and principals from marginalized groups. She has worked on several projects focused on Ontario school principals' work and occupational well-being.

Annette has also volunteered in different organizations to support students' and adults' learning from different racialized groups.

ABOUT CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Child Development Institute (CDI) is an accredited children's mental health organization in Toronto, Ont., mandated with the mission to support the healthy development of children, youth and families. A leader in the field, CDI develops and delivers world-class, evidence-based mental health programs and services across four streams: Early Intervention, Family Violence, Integra Learning Disabilities & Mental Health, and Healthy Child Development.

For more information about CDI, please visit: childdevelop.ca.

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