

Request to Speak

Session: Health, Well-Being, and Intergenerational Trauma

Organization: National Healing Journey

Speaker: Dr. Joan Samuels-Dennis, Chair, National Healing Journey

Transcript:

Madame Chair, thank you for the opportunity to address this assembly.

Yesterday, as you opened this meeting, I listened to the call for practical solutions. I also take note of the priority given to reparative justice.

From Canada, a coalition community repairers has formed and is embarking on a 30-year journey to repair the harms done by enslavement and post-enslavement experience, colonization, and the intergenerational harms that have occurred and continue to occur.

We are assembling a team of health economists, community developers, and health promotion experts from various disciplines to complete an analysis of the financial cost of moving every Afro-descendant Canadian through a trauma recovery journey.

I have heard the call for unity and community cohesion. The National Healing Journey will address the question: What would it cost for us to individually and communally embark on a Pan-African healing journey?

Once our holistic analysis is completed, we will work with Afro-Descendant communities to implement a strategic trauma recovery roadmap that holistically addresses health and wellbeing.

Madame Chair, the goal of the National Healing Journey (NHJ) is to end poverty by healing the African Nation and finally allow every member to own and create their destiny.

I have included in the records for this meeting a link to the [NHJ's declaration and vision](#) for reparative change.

Madame Chair, we invite every member present to join us as we model this approach to reparations.

Thank you.

Dr. Joan Samuels-Dennis