

# Health Equity & Anti-Black Racism in Ontario, Canada

**Investigative Report:** The Gap Between Policy Rhetoric and Lived Protection

Birth

Elderhood



# The Promise: Universality and Equity

- • **The Mandate:** Ontario Health is legally tasked to reduce disparities and recognize diversity.
- • **The Definition:** Access based on need, not ability to pay.
- • **The Rhetoric:** A “one-size-fits-all” system marketed as fairness.

CONNECTING CARE ACT,  
2019 - OFFICIAL FILE

The public health care system should be guided by a commitment to equity and to the promotion of equitable health outcomes.



EVIDENCE

# The Reality: A Shameful Admission

CONNECTING CARE ACT,  
2019 - OFFICIAL FILE

The public health care system should be guided by a commitment to equity and to the promotion of equitable health outcomes.



Pandemic didn't create the gap. It exposed it.



# The Mechanism: Blocked Pathways to Care

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White Canadians

8 MONTHS

Black Caribbean Canadians

16 MONTHS

Immigration  
Status Delay  
(3 Months)

Financial  
Cost

Lack of Culturally  
Safe Providers

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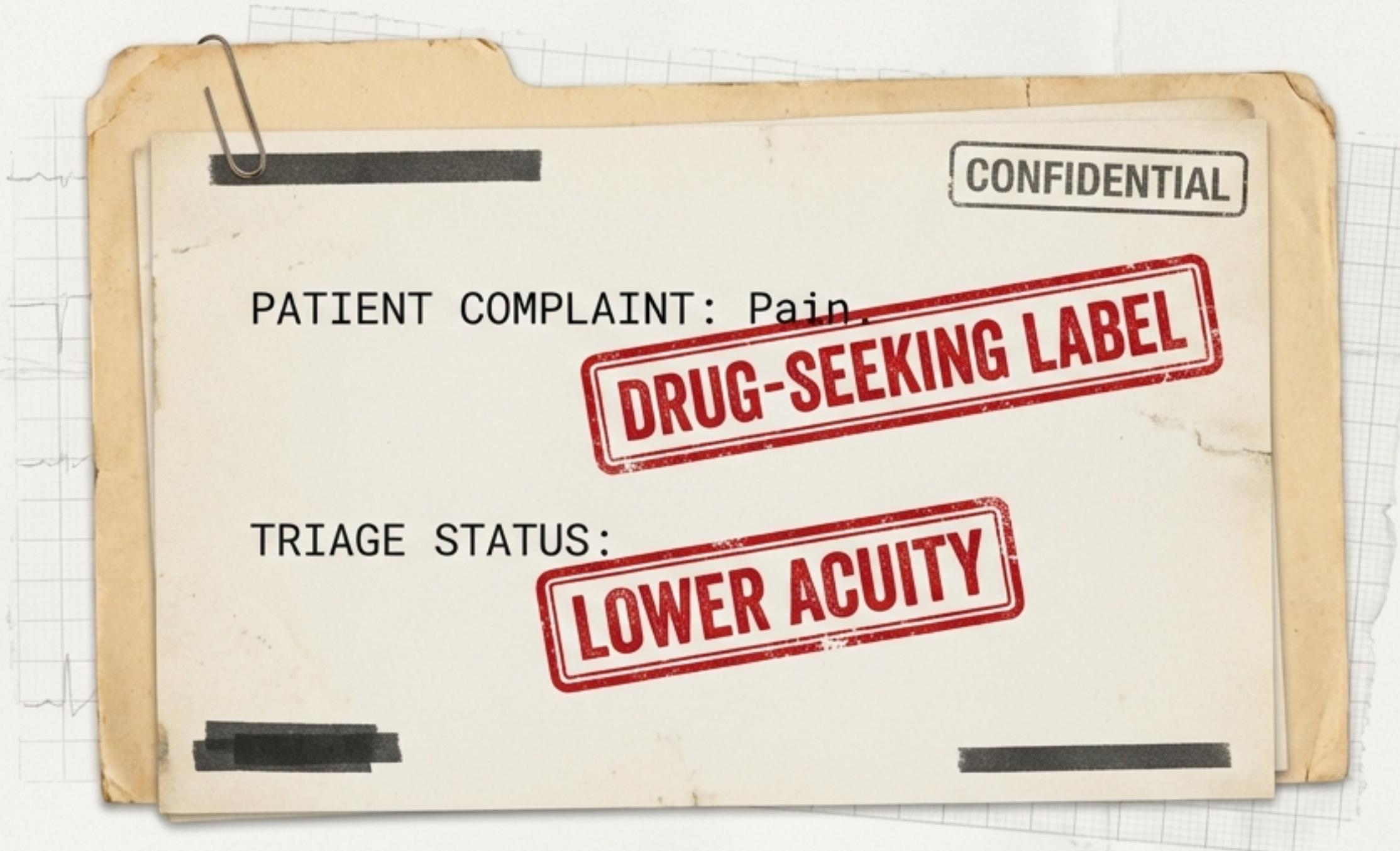
Hope, A. (2018). *Health Disparities in Black Canadians*. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

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**Structural Barriers:**  
3-month OHIP wait  
periods delay HIV and  
chronic disease  
treatment, forcing  
patients to wait for  
emergency status.

Investigative Editorial

# The Clinical Environment: Dismissal and Delay



## Consequences of Racism in Care

- Systemic stereotyping leads to inadequate pain management.
- Higher rates of adverse effects post-surgery.
- The Joyce Echaquan Case: Death resulting from overt racism in care.

*'Colourblind' medicine creates a data vacuum where harms go unmeasured.*

# Lifespan Impact: The 'Weathering' Effect



# The Scope: Ontario as a National Mirror



We cannot fix what we refuse to measure.

## Fact Box: The Systemic Echo

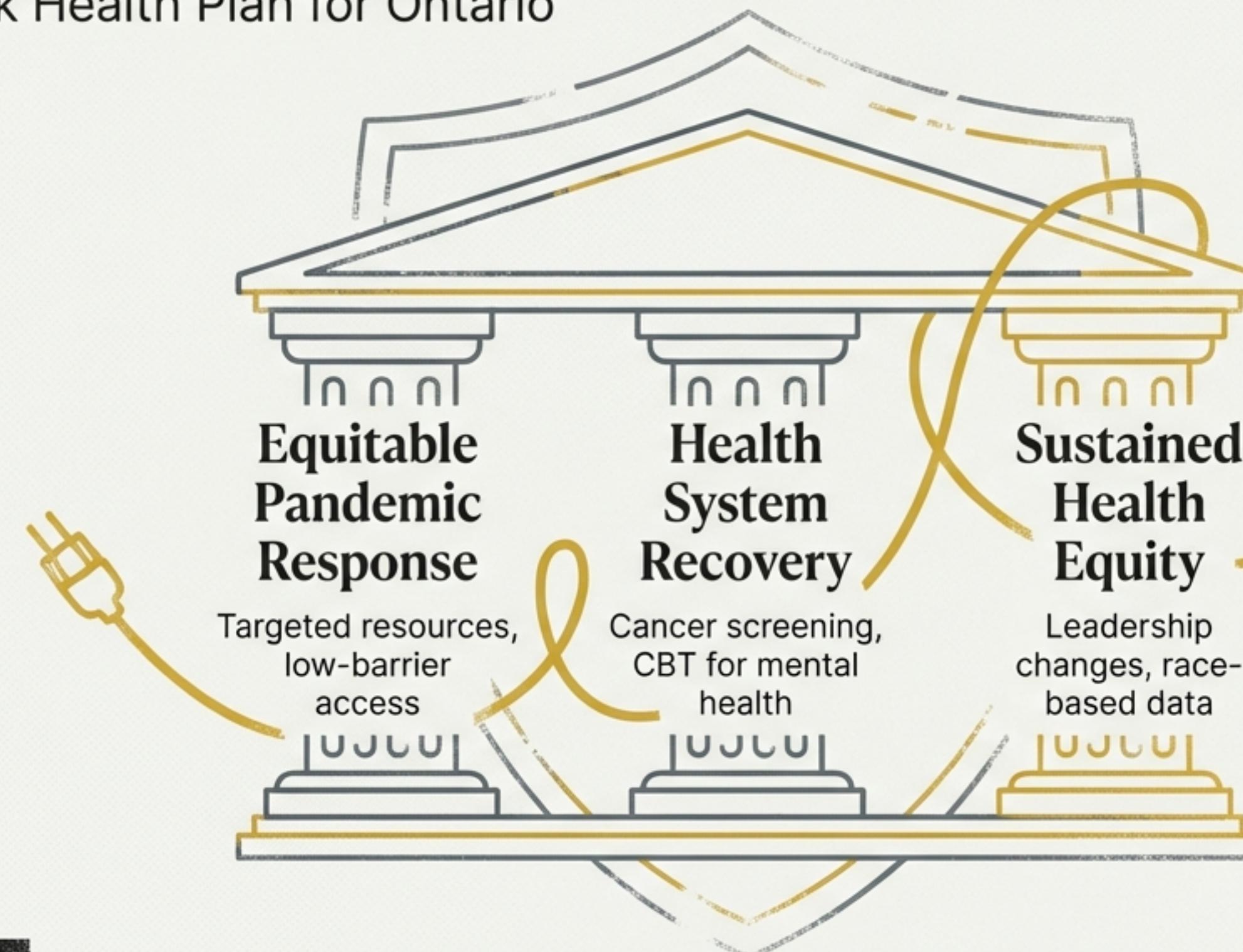
**Credentialing Barrier:**  
Internationally trained  
physicians (ITPs) licensure  
rates:

Immigrant IMGs  
abroad: **84.7%**

Securing licensure in  
Canada: **13.6%**

# The Solution: Protection Through Accountability

The Black Health Plan for Ontario



**MANDATORY:**  
**Race Impact Assessments**  
before new policy implementation.

# Data Sovereignty: The EGAP Framework

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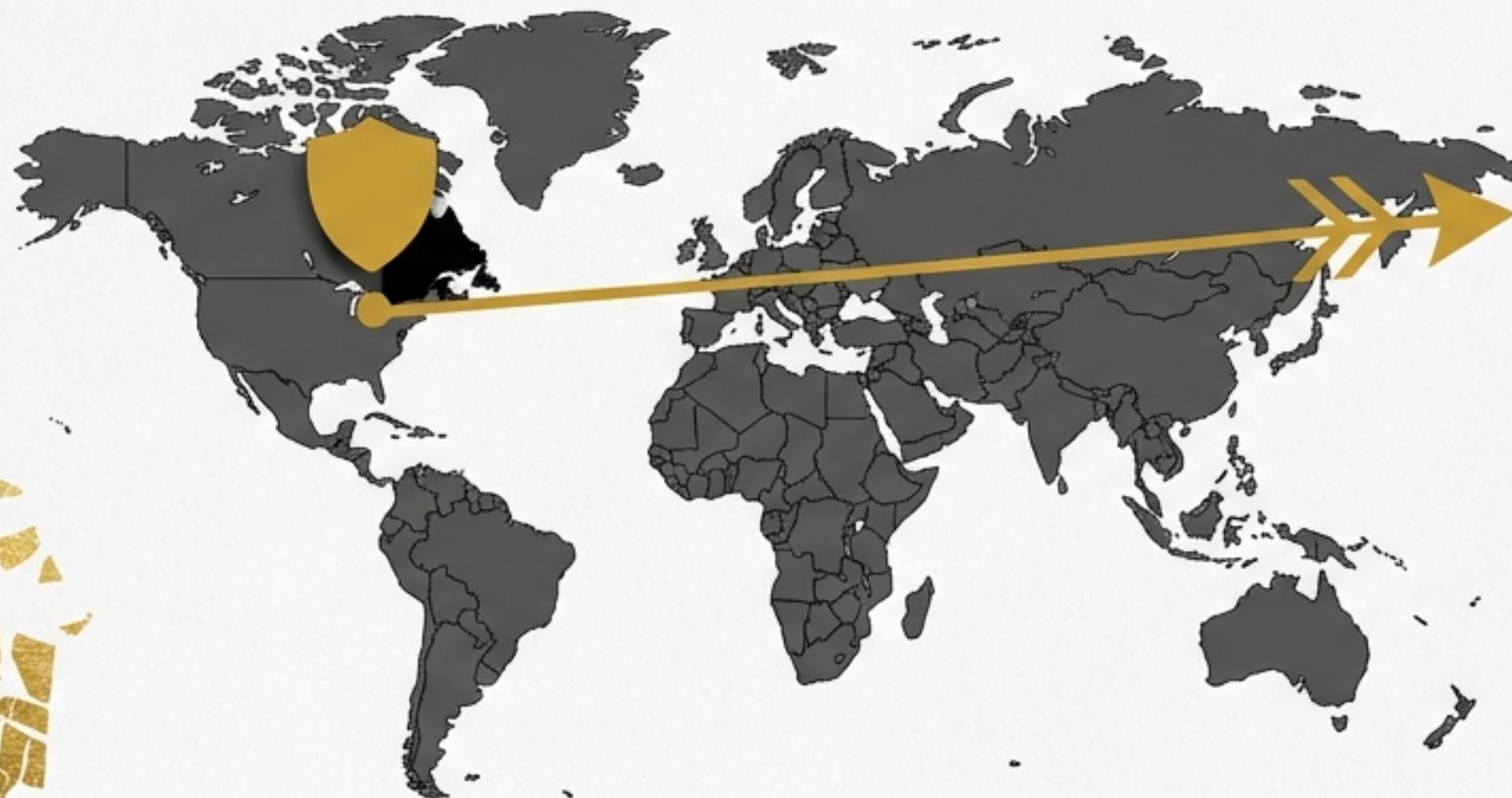


**Objective:** Black communities must own and control their collective data.

**Shift:** From "Consultation" to "Leadership".

**Action:** Promote Black staff to senior positions to reflect the community served.

# Sustaining Equity: The Global Journey Continues



## Transformational Shift

FROM → TO →

<b>Victim-Blaming</b> (Diet/Exercise)	→	<b>System-Fixing</b> (Housing/Access)
<b>Rhetoric</b>	→	<b>Funded Policy</b>
<b>Survival</b>	→	<b>Health Sovereignty</b>

Ensuring Black families have the institutional support to thrive.

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# **“PROTECT YOUR HEALTH. KNOW YOUR SYSTEM.”**

Afro Mosaic: The Global Black Lifespan Journey



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“Health is a human right. Protection is a community duty.”

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