

# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
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## CHURCH LEADERS CALL FOR YOUTH ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT PROPOSALS

*\$3 million grant will help fight youth violence*

TORONTO - The African-Canadian Christian Network (ACCN) is ready to receive proposals from Toronto churches and community organizations committed to helping young people lead lives free of violence, co-chairs Pastors Michael Morris and Alvin Nicholson announced today.

“With the support of the Ontario government and the Toronto Community Foundation, ACCN will strengthen the organizational and funding capacity of church organizations and community groups dedicated to serving Black youth,” said Pastor Morris.

The ACCN youth anti-violence project is focusing on four key areas: Family, Education, Employment and Crime Prevention.

In April this year, the McGuinty government announced a grant of \$3 million over two years to assist Black Christian leaders foster and enhance programs that help Black at-risk youth find alternatives to violence. The Toronto Community Foundation is partnering with ACCN as their financial Trustee.

“This is an important investment that will help us partner with churches and community groups, and complement positive initiatives currently underway, such as those of the Youth Challenge Fund,” said Pastor Nicholson.

Recently, well-known social worker and social service administrator, Leyland Gudge, joined ACCN as Program Manager for the project. Mr. Gudge has served children, youth and families in the Black community for many years through his work at the Children’s Aid Society, the YMCA and other community organizations.

The deadline for submitting grant applications is October 13, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

ACCN will host information sessions to assist church and community groups applying for grants on September 7, 2006, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., at Triumphant Church of Jesus Christ, 5 Greensboro Drive, Etobicoke, ON M9W 1C7 and on September 14, 2006, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., at Heron Park Baptist Church, 4260 Lawrence Avenue E., Scarborough, ON, M1E 2S6.

For more information please contact:

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