
I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN:

PAVING THE WAY TOWARDS ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION IN
K-12 CLASSROOMS AND SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

MOSAIC CENTRE FOR DIVERSITY



Facilitators:
Haebin Pan
Valeria Alcaraz



MOSAIC

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



In the spirit of respect and truth, we acknowledge that we are facilitating this roundtable session from the traditional and occupied Indigenous territories belonging to the Coast Salish peoples.

This includes the territories of the

q'wá:n̓'ən' Kwantlen Nation

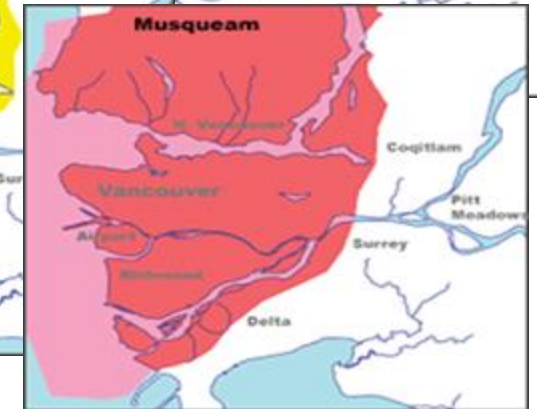
K'wík'wə̌əm Kwikwetlem Nation

x'wə̌mθk'wə̌y'əm Musqueam Nations

S̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw Squamish Nation

sə̌ilwə̌təʔt̓ Tseilwaututh Nation

In the chat, please share the Indigenous territory you are joining this session from.



Learn more about it at <https://maps.fpcc.ca/languages>
www.firstvoices.com

INTRODUCTIONS

▣ **Haebin Pan (she/her) – Facilitator/Moderator**

Coordinator, MOSAIC Centre for Diversity

▣ **Valeria Alcaraz (she/they) – Facilitator/Moderator**

Instructional Developer, MOSAIC Centre for Diversity




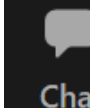
MOSAIC CENTRE FOR DIVERSITY

The **MOSAIC Centre for Diversity** is a leader in the provision of truly transformational inclusion training.

We have experience offering these services in-person, on-site, and virtually to public and private sector organizations in British Columbia and throughout Canada.



ABOUT THE ROUNDTABLE:

- We encourage everyone to please turn on their video during the session. 
- You can also ask questions or provide a comment/feedback by Zoom chat. 



OBJECTIVES

- The **objectives** of this session are to:
 - Discuss the anti-racism education campaign and the importance of anti-racism education in K-12 classes
 - Discuss ideas for the anti-racism class sessions



CONSIDERATION

- This event includes discussions about racism and experiences of discrimination. We want to acknowledge that the content might be distressing for some individuals.
- We encourage everyone to engage with the material at their own pace and to prioritize their emotional well-being throughout the event.
- If at any point you find the topics discussed to be overwhelming, please feel free to take a break or reach out to a support person.
- We aim to create a respectful environment for sharing and learning from each other's shared experiences and ideas.





MOSAIC

MANDATING ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION IN K-12 SCHOOLS

MANDATING ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION IN K-12 SCHOOLS



- In early 2023, MOSAIC released a letter to the Minister of Education and Child Care, Rachna Singh, calling for the provincial government to mandate anti-racism education in schools across B.C.
- The letter, and its associated calls for action, were in response to increased incidents of racism post pandemic as well as the B.C. government's launch of its Anti-Racism Action Plan, released in January 2023.
 - The Anti-Racism Action Plan aims to create change in primary and secondary schools by raising awareness and introducing resources to improve the educational experiences of racialized students.



REASONS FOR REQUESTING THE MANDATE



- **To combat racism proactively**, as Canada expects to welcome 500,000 newcomers annually until 2025. As immigrant numbers increase, we may witness a rise in racism and hate crimes
- **To consolidate resources**, as information is currently “scattered”, making it difficult for teachers to implement into their syllabus;



REASONS FOR REQUESTING THE MANDATE



- **To avoid tokenism** – Making anti-racism education mandatory in student coursework. Simply implementing anti-racism education and resources to commemorative dates only makes the educational response, superficial at best;
- **To ensure safety in schools** as the pandemic has seen an increase in hate crimes, particularly toward Black, Indigenous and Asian communities.



THE CONNECTION WITH INDIGENOUS LEARNING



- BC school system has successfully integrated Indigenous education over the years leading up to the recent requirement of successfully completing 4 credits in Indigenous-focused coursework to receive a BC Certificate of Graduation.
- Anti-racism education complements the Indigenous curriculum already implemented in BC schools. The Indigenous curriculum is a successful template that can be used to design an anti-racism curriculum.

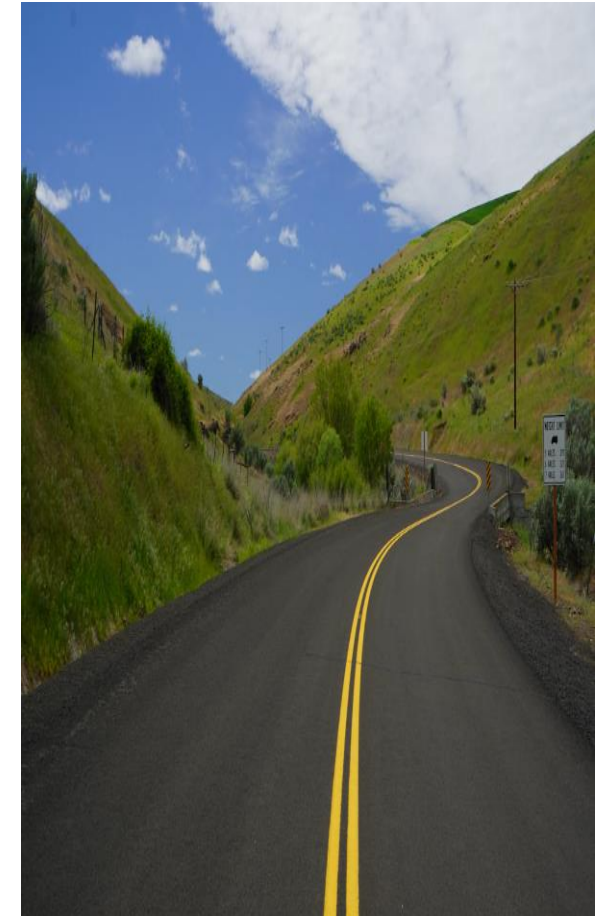


ACTION PLAN



Drawing from the experiences in mandating anti-racism education, the government needs to:

- **Form a committee** of experts and folks with lived experience, which will gather the available anti-racism education resources and create new ones, specifically for each grade level.
- **Modify the BC curriculum** to incorporate anti-racism education components and resources.
- **Provide professional development opportunities** to teachers as well as student teachers for integrating anti-racism education into their teaching practice.



A photograph of a red apple resting on a stack of three books on a wooden desk. The top book is white, the middle one is black, and the bottom one is light brown. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. In the bottom right corner, there are several colored pencils (blue, yellow, red) lying on the desk.

INTEGRATING ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION IN CLASSES

- MOSAIC Centre for Diversity has been providing anti-racism education sessions to children and youth in schools in alignment with the BC curriculum guidelines.

IDEAS FOR INTEGRATING ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION IN CLASSES

Some effective teaching methods we found were:

Having students reflect on their own cultural background and identity

Facilitating discussions based on real-life scenarios that could happen in and out of schools to students

For older grades, connecting the situations within schools with current and historical events in Canada and in the world (e.g., genocide against Indigenous children, wars, head tax, etc.)

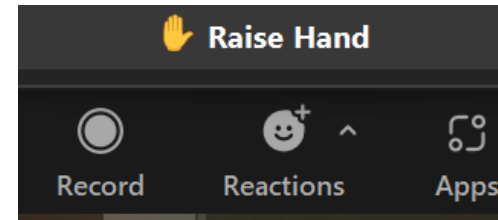
Having students create an action plan for building a school community based on racial equity.



MOSAIC



To ask a question or provide a comment/feedback, you can click the "Raise Hand" button on Zoom.



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION



ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS

We know that incorporating an anti-racism curriculum into K-12 education is a potent tool to combat and continue dismantling structural colonial legacies in Canadian education.

Has your province implemented an Action Plan to combat racism in the context of education? If so, how was it implemented for primary and secondary schools?



ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS

The federal government plans to invite 500,000 immigrants between 2023 and 2025, many of whom will settle in BC. Integrating anti-racist education will lessen the cultural tensions that could result in racist behaviours or bullying within school settings.

What are some other benefits of incorporating anti-racism into the school curriculum?



ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS

What would be the common critiques or concerns on mandating the K-12 anti-racism education and what would be the best ways to address them?



ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS

One of the immediate benefits of mandating Anti-Racist Education in BC would be to concentrate anti-racist resources, making it easier for school staff to access anti-racist educational material. The inventory of curriculum resources aims to consolidate the help in one place. Still, there is a need to detail on how to bring IBPOC voices into school subjects. For instance, in the case of the English subject, a way to get IBPOC voices could be incorporating works of literature from different English-speaking countries.

Thinking about your own educational experience, how would you recommend engaging with bringing IBPOC voices into the school curriculum?



ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS

Mandating anti-racism education on the provincial level will support the already established collaborative initiatives (Community Roundtables in 2020, 2021, the Minister's Youth Dialogue Sessions). All these initiatives demonstrate the necessity to create anti-racist and equitable learning spaces for British Columbians. This reality can happen with provincial leadership.

How does collaboration among community organizations, students and school staff, do you think, increase a culturally sensitive education across provinces?



ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS

In addition to mandating K-12 anti-racism education in schools, what are other ways to ensure and foster anti-racism in school settings?



MOSAIC

thank you

tusind tak
謝謝 dakujem vám
ngiyabonga
dziękuję
merci
baie dankie
धन्यवाद molte grazie
suksema
danke
gracias
obrigada
obrigado
takk
y
gràcies
tänan
dank u
teşekkür ederim
شكرا
tack så mycket
teşekkür edire
mahalo