

# Learnings from Bringing Together Representatives from Equity-Deserving Groups and Law Enforcement to Co-Develop Tools to Address Incidents of Racism in the Tri-Cities.

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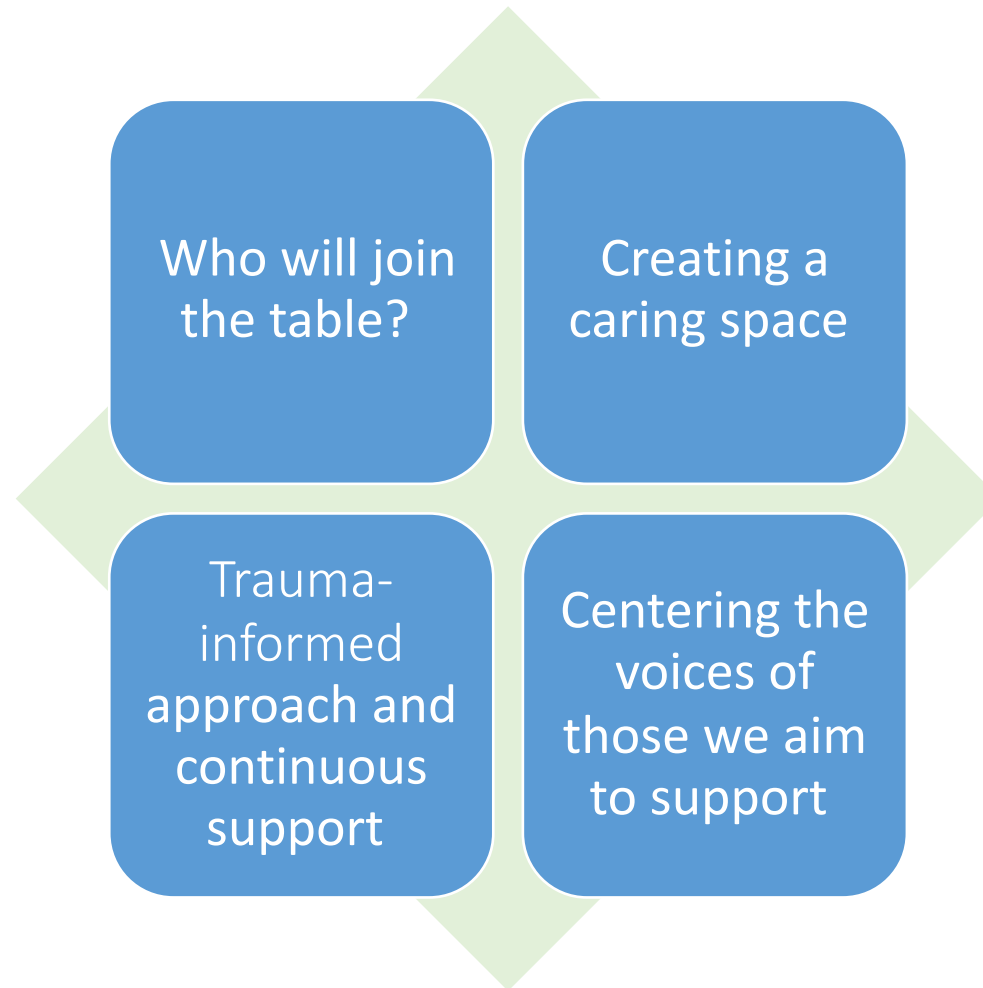
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- The Tri-Cities region comprises the municipalities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore and Belcarra. It is home to approximately 246,701 people, 40.6% of whom (2021 Census) were born outside of Canada[1]. The immigrant population in the Tri-Cities increased by 3% since the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) in comparison to Metro Vancouver at 8%[2]. Of the 100,210 Tri-City immigrants, 11,960 are recent immigrants who arrived between 2016 and 2021[3].
- We acknowledge that the work of the Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership takes place on the unceded traditional territory of the Kwikwetlem First Nation, which lies within the shared territories of the Tsleil-Waututh, Katzie, Musqueam, Qayqayt, Squamish, and Sto':lo Nations.
- This project was founded by Resilience BC. TCLIP is the spoke for the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network in the Tri-Cities.

# Why bring together individuals from equity-deserving backgrounds and law enforcement?

- Problematic responses to incidents of racism in the community
- Lack of understanding from law enforcement around nuances of racist incidents
- Recognition from law enforcement institutions on the need to engage “diverse” community members

# How to bring together individuals from equity deserving backgrounds and law enforcement without causing more harm to those impacted by racism?



# A tool to support victims of racism

- Understanding when you are a victim of racism
  - ❖ Nuance
  - ❖ Gaslighting
  - ❖ Confusion
- The importance of reporting:



## Where Does Racism Take Place?

Racist incidents can take place anywhere in the community. Here are some examples of places where incidents of racism happen in our community.

- Public transit
- Grocery stores
- At work
- From service providers
- At the hospital and other health services
- At schools, colleges, and other educational institutions
- At financial institutions
- At the library
- At community support services
- Community centres, sports facilities & parks
- Law enforcement & justice system
- Housing systems, e.g. rental properties

**Racism can manifest in individual interactions or through processes and systems that create additional barriers for specific groups.**

STOP RACISM



## Why Is It Important to Report Racist Incidents?

- Those impacted (victims) can receive support
- Negative power dynamics can be addressed
- Enables law makers to justify the need for anti-racism legislation
- Mobilizes the community to support victims and to develop anti-racism initiatives



## Purpose of the Brochure

**This brochure provides clear information about how to report incidents of racism.**

Developed in collaboration with Port Moody Police, Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership and Tri-Cities residents who have experienced racism, the content reflects real experiences of racism that have happened in our communities.



## What Is Racism?

**Racism** refers to a set of beliefs that asserts the superiority of one 'racial' group over another (at the individual as well as institutional level), and through which individuals or groups of people exercise power that abuse or disadvantage others on the basis of skin colour, racial or ethnic heritage, religion, or legal status.

**Systemic racism** occurs through inequities that are built into services, systems, and structures; these are often caused by hidden biases that disadvantage people based on their race. Visit [antiracism.gov.bc.ca](http://antiracism.gov.bc.ca) for more information.

**Intersectionality** is a term coined by Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw which describes "the interconnected nature of social categorizations, such as race, gender and class in creating overlapping systems of discrimination or disadvantage."

## Meet June\*

June was waiting for the bus to return home after a long workday. She waited in line with other people, but when it was her turn to board the bus, a man stopped in front of her and blocked her from getting on the bus. **The man started yelling racist slurs at her and said that people like her should not be allowed in this country.** Other passengers were staring, looking concerned – but no one did anything. June felt unsafe and decided to wait for the next bus.

\*This is a fictional character based on situations Tri-Cities residents with lived experiences of racism shared during the development of this tool.



June couldn't shake the negative emotions from the incident and decided that she needed to report the incident to the police.

**She carefully gathered her thoughts and wrote down details of what happened:**

- What was done/said by all: the attacker, herself, and others who witnessed the incident
- How the incident affected her
- Where and when the incident happened, including date, time and exact location
- Who was/were the attacker(s) – it is helpful to provide a physical description if possible
- Were there any witness(es)? Did they help or not?
- Suggestions on how to prevent similar incidents from happening



June reviewed her written notes and tried to remember what happened to her in detail.

**June contacted The Access Pro Bono Society of British Columbia** to have a lawyer review her statement at no cost for up to 30 minutes.

June mentioned the impact of the incident to the police officer and they referred her to Victim Services where she was able to receive support and referrals to the community.

Although June is aware that there are limitations to how racism or hate-motivated incidents can be actioned by police, she felt a sense of relief in reporting this incident. It allowed her to receive community support and enabled her to take action.

## How to Report an Incident of Racism



**Provide clear details to give police officers:**

- Date, time and exact location of the incident
- Names of witnesses (if any)
- What was done and said by all involved (attacker, witnesses and victim)
- Physical description of the attacker(s)
- How the incident affected the victim and the support they need

**Access to interpreters** - When reporting the incident to the police, you can ask for an interpreter. Stressful situations can make it easier for you to express yourself in your first language.

**Access to statement review by lawyers** - Access Pro Bono Society is a lawyer



### Did You Know?

**Providing clear facts** is important in situations where police officers need to understand what you describe as racism and how it affected you. This enables police to clearly state the perpetrator's motive and actions to the justice system as hate-motivated.

**Racism is not currently a criminal offence. Criminal offences committed when motivated by hate must have the aspects of hate clearly**



## Where to Report Incidents of Racism?

Reporting incidents of racism is a right for any community member. It is important to report racism because silence encourages the perpetrator(s) that there will be no consequence for them to treat other people poorly.

### Below are different options to report incidents of racism:

- **Call 911 if you are in immediate danger or you are witnessing a dangerous situation develop where others are getting hurt or property is being damaged.**

For incidents that have already occurred or there is no immediate danger, contact the Non-Emergency Line or go to the nearest police station.

#### Port Moody Police Department

- 3051 St Johns Street, Port Moody, BC V3H 2C4
- 604 461 3456
- portmoodypolice.ca

#### RCMP Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Belcarra & Anmore

- 2986 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC V3B 7Y5
- 604 945 1585
- coquitlam.rcmp-grc.gc.ca

- **Police - Victims Service Units**

The Victim Services unit responds to immediate crisis situations when requested by police members to attend on scene. Professional staff and trained volunteers will provide emotional support, information, and referrals to community resources.



SCAN ME  
FOR MORE ANTI-RACISM  
TOOLS

- **The BC Hate Crime Hotline** Supports the investigation of hate incidents and hate crimes.
  - BC\_HATE\_CRIMES@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
  - 1 855 462 5733

- **BC's Office of Human Rights Commissioner/ British Columbia** Support with education, research, advocacy, inquiry, and monitoring. Commissioner's office address:
  - #536, 999 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC V6C 3E1
  - 1 844 922 6472
  - info@bchumanrights.ca

- **BC Human Rights Tribunal** Support to file a Human Rights complaint or questions about whether a complaint can be filed.
  - www.bchrt.bc.ca/complaint-process/complain/index.htm

- **BC Human Rights Clinic** Free legal advice or support related to a Human Rights complaints. Free half-hour appointments with a lawyer or advocate.
  - www.sourcesbc.ca/our-services/community-law-clinic
  - 778 731 9768
  - gdhaliwal@sourcesbc.ca

### Community resources:

- **Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network** Anti-racism tools, reporting and other supports. resiliencebc.ca/find-your-community-network/ Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership (TCLIP) is the Spoke for Resilience BC in the Tri-Cities.
  - Henderson Place, 2058-1163 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam, BC V3B 8A9
  - 604 468 6001
  - tricitieslip.ca/about-tclip
- **The BC Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC)** If a community member experiences racism from the Police, a complaint can be made through the following channels:
  - 1 877 999 8707
  - opcc.bc.ca/complaints



Sharing our experiences in candid conversations



# Next Steps

Assessment  
of tool  
distribution

Tool update

Police  
training

# Thank you!

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You can find the Anti-Racism Toolkit: How to Report Incidents of Racism on TCLIP's website under "Community Protocol and Anti-Racism Tools"

<https://tinyurl.com/22mfh3xk>

Visit our website:

<https://tricitie Slip.ca/>



Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership



@TriCities\_Lip



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