

March 2020

(The PDF is available for download under Social Justice Publications at bctf.ca.)

Black History Month has just drawn to a close, but just because it's no longer February, doesn't mean we should shelve the issue of race inequality or forget to celebrate the racial tapestry of our world until next year. This March, we invite you to explore the many current events that continue to make antiracism a topical classroom subject. These include the land back protests of the Wet'suwet'en people, the anti-Chinese and anti-Asian sentiment surrounding the COVID-19 virus, and the ongoing effects of climate change and over-consumption that disproportionately affect racialized people and people of colour in negative ways. Antiracism is an everyday social justice topic which deserves to be explored throughout the year.

As educators, we have a responsibility to our students and ourselves to unlearn racism and keep ourselves accountable both within and without the walls of our schools. We are often reminded that children are our future, but we, too, are responsible for a better tomorrow. With this in mind, the BCTF is working to update its antiracism workshops for its members to help us all move toward a more just world for all racialized people.

Have a look at these and other resources available for members in this edition of *Seeds of Social Justice* and on the BCTF [Antiracism webpages](#).

Chanelle Tye, Antiracism Action Group, Committee for Action on Social Justice.

BCTF Social Justice Program Calendar of Events



- For **International Women’s Week, March 5 to 11** and **International Women’s Day (IWD)**, on **March 8**, explore these Canadian Teachers’ Federation [IWD resources](#) and the BCTF [Status of Women webpages](#).
- **March 21**, the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**, kicks off the **Week of Solidarity with People Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination**, on **March 21–27**.
- This year’s theme for **World Water Day**, on **March 22**, is Water and Climate Change. More information is available in the [World Water Day Toolkit](#).
- **March 25** is the **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade**. The [International Decade for People of African Descent website](#) features information and resources.
- **March 31** is the **Transgender Day of Visibility**. Download the Vancouver Parks Board [guide](#) for resources and activities to help celebrate this day.
- **March 31, 2020** is also **Equal Pay Day**, roughly the day on which women’s earnings accumulated since January 1, 2019 finally reach the total amount that men earned over the 12 months of 2019.

Resources



Antiracism



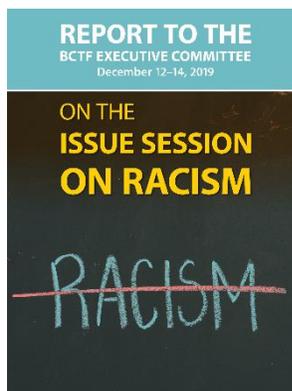
- The brochure [Are you Experiencing Racism in the Workplace](#), provides information on how members can find support from colleagues, local representatives, and BCTF staff to address workplace racism.
- The [Show Racism the Red Card](#) booklet is full of background information, lesson plans, and resources to support students from Kindergarten through Grade 12 in developing awareness and strategies to address racism.
- To order free copies of these and other antiracism resources, including [Beyond the Barriers](#), the [Racism in Canada timeline](#), [Silence Promotes Racism](#) posters, and the [Unlearn Racism stickers](#), fill in the [Social Justice Resource Order Form](#) on the BCTF member portal.

Equity and Inclusion



Antiracism





In November 2019, 40 BCTF members from around the province who identify as racialized or persons of colour participated in the **BCTF’s 2nd Issue Session on Racism**. Participants identified a number of concerns about the impacts of racism in their workplace and within their local and provincial teachers’ unions.

The [report](#) to the December 12–14, 2019, meeting of the BCTF Executive Committee, including a list of the follow-up Executive Committee decisions, is available on the [Equity and Inclusion policy page](#).

The BCTF Executive Committee is bringing several recommendations regarding the Member-at-Large equity positions to the 2020 BCTF Annual General Meeting. A few locals have also put forward resolutions addressing these positions. For more information, see pages 10–12 on the [AGM Reports and Resolutions booklet](#), on the BCTF [Member Portal](#).

Opportunities for Members



The Committee for Action on Social Justice will have openings for the 2020–21 school year on the Environmental Justice, Peace and Global Education, Status of Women, Antiracism, Economic Justice, and LGBTQ2S+ action groups. The posting for these positions will be launched during the 2020 BCTF Annual General Meeting. Look on the [BCTF Committees/Facilitators Postings page](#), under [Opportunities for Members](#) on the [BCTF Website](#).

Grants



Awards



Funds are still available from the [Provincial Social Justice Initiatives Grant](#). Up to \$5,000 is available through this grant to support social justice projects that have an ongoing and systemic impact on teachers and students across the province and in their community.

For more information on this and other BCTF grants that are still available, including [Local Social Justice Grants](#) and the [Ed May Social Responsibility Fund](#), visit the [Social Justice Grants and Funds page](#) on the BCTF website.

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