

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the  
Upcoming Federal Budget by**

**Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice**

August 7, 2020

**List of Recommendations to Combat Racism:**

- Create a federal Anti-Racism Act to legislatively enshrine the Anti-Racism Secretariat; and ensure the Secretariat will receive long term stable funding and resources to effectively meet its legislative objectives. Ensure the Anti-Racism Act will be drafted to explicitly recognize all forms of racism, including anti-Asian racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, and Islamophobia.
- Create a National Action Plan Against Racism to accompany the federal government's Anti-Racism Strategy; this Plan should be created in partnership with the affected communities, and have concrete goals and actions with measurable targets and timetables, and the necessary long term resource allocation to address all forms of racism.
- Provide core funding to non-profit organizations to educate and engage communities to combat racism.
- Provide leadership and devote resources to revamp education curriculum to validate the experiences of all Canadians and to provide space for the growth of multiple Canadian identities that is grounded on true inclusion.
- Provide resources to ensure timely prosecution of hate crimes and to ensure victims of hate crimes are well supported.
- Provide resources to collect, analyze and share data disaggregated based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and other analogous grounds. The responsible collection of this data is required to develop effective strategies to address disparities in different communities.

**Submissions:**

Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice's mission is to educate, engage and advocate for justice and equity for all in Canada. Since January of this year, there has been a rise of anti-Chinese and anti-Asian incidents across Canada in connection with the Coronavirus. This racist hate intensified as the outbreak evolved into a pandemic. CCNC-SJ has been raising public awareness and rallying community support to combat the rise of anti-Chinese and anti-Asian racism. Our efforts have received national and international media attention.

We know the situation is getting worse for our communities not only from glancing at the individual reports of racism, but also from polls that have been

conducted to date about the public perception towards Chinese and Asian Canadians.

The first poll in February 2020 by Post Media Inc. found 18% of Canadians said they would NOT sit beside someone who appeared to be a Chinese on a public bus even though, according to the poll, the majority of Canadians, about 65%, were not even concerned about the spread of Coronavirus at that time.

The irrational fear about Asian Canadians has since increased. In a recent poll commissioned by the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice, 21%, or more than 1 in 5 respondents, think it is not safe to sit next to an Asian or Chinese person on a bus if they have no mask, and another full quarter, 24%, don't know if it is safe to do so. In other words, almost one in two Canadians think it is either not safe, or don't know if it is safe just to sit beside a Chinese or Asian person.

The CCNC-SJ poll was conducted on April 24 with a sample of over 1,100 adults living in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal through automated telephone interviews.

The same poll found that 1 in 8 respondents were aware of incidents of racial bias in their neighbourhoods because of COVID-19.

But the most astonishing finding of the poll is that about 14% of the respondents either agree with, or refuse to dismiss as false, the statement that ALL Chinese or Asian people carry the Coronavirus.

This pandemic has provided an excuse for those who harbour racist and xenophobic views about Chinese Canadians to act on their beliefs.

Over 400 incidents have been reported through the online tool developed by CCNC-SJ's partner organization, Chinese Canadian National Council, Toronto Chapter, from February to July. These individuals have either experienced first-hand or have witnessed racist verbal or physical abuse/assaults in person or online. Anxiety is rising amongst Chinese and East Asian Canadians who are concerned about both their own safety and also that of their loved ones. These concerns will increase in relation to children when the schools are re-opening.

To truly address anti-Asian racism, we must begin by acknowledging the entrenched and systemic nature of racism in Canada, and take concrete actions through allocation of adequate resources towards implementing effective measures.