



BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 8, 2021

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Attention: First Nations Leadership Council

Re: Engagement on new provincial anti-racism legislation

I am writing to invite you to discuss opportunities related to two pieces of anti-racism legislation that the BC government plans to introduce: one on disaggregated race-based data and the other to establish an Anti-Racism Act for BC.

In keeping with BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, I am committed to engaging with Indigenous peoples to ensure that both pieces of legislation align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is with this spirit that I am reaching out to see if we could meet to discuss your and your members' interest and availability to collaborate with me on these two initiatives.

As you may be aware, in November 2020, I was appointed as BC's first Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, supporting Attorney General David Eby with the mandate commitments to:

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- Work with the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner and other stakeholders to introduce legislation that will help reduce systemic discrimination and pave the way for race-based data collection essential to modernizing sectors like policing, health care and education.
- Conduct a full review of anti-racism laws in other jurisdictions and launch a stakeholder consultation to inform the introduction of a new Anti-Racism Act that better serves everyone in BC.

With this work, I hope to build on the findings and recommendations of two key reports released in 2020: *In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care* and *Disaggregated demographic data collection in British Columbia: The grandmother perspective*. I also see this as an opportunity to build on advice and recommendations the provincial government is currently receiving through the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act. Both reports can be found here:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/613/2020/11/In-Plain-Sight-Full-Report.pdf>

https://bchumanrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/BCOHRC_Sept2020_Disaggregated-Data-Report_FINAL.pdf

Racism against Indigenous peoples has been a persistent, destructive force throughout this Province's history. I am hopeful that these new legislative initiatives will provide important tools in our journey to address racism in BC in all its forms, both individual and systemic.

Ministry staff will follow up with you shortly to see if you or your delegates may have time to meet with me. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to have your staff reach out to my Ministerial Assistant, Haiqa Cheema, directly by email at: haiqa.cheema@gov.bc.ca at their convenience.

With appreciation,



Rachna Singh
Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives