



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 619983

September 8, 2021

Dear First Nations Leadership Council:

Thank you so much for meeting with me in the spring to provide your advice on how government could conduct broader engagement on our two anti-racism priorities: the implementation of race-based data legislation in 2022 and a new anti-racism act in 2023. I sincerely appreciated your time and contributions and am pleased to share with you a “What We Heard” document that summarizes the feedback we received (attached).

I am also pleased to share that opportunities for public engagement on the data legislation will begin this month and continue through November, 2021. Engagement on the data legislation will take place in several ways:

- On September 9, the Province is launching on-line engagement at: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/antiracism>. People from across the Province are invited to share their stories, experiences and thoughts related to providing government with information about their race, ethnicity, and similar identity factors. Participants will have a chance to share their vision for how data collection could be implemented in ways that build trust and are effective in addressing systemic racism. Building on recommendations made by BC’s Human Rights Commissioner in the *Grandmother Perspective* report, this engagement will allow us to better understand the key issues, concerns and hopes that British Columbians have about anti-racism data collection, so that we can create legislation that works for everyone.
- At the same time, the Province is launching an opportunity for Indigenous and racialized communities to lead their own engagement sessions on the data legislation in the months of October and November. Grants of between \$500 and \$30,000 will be available for organizations to hold sessions in their communities with support from an engagement specialist. Applications to receive government funding to host sessions will be solicited from September 9 until October 15, 2021, or until funds are fully allocated. Information about how to apply is available at: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/antiracism>.

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- To support more direct engagement with Indigenous peoples this fall, the Province is in the process of securing an Indigenous contractor to support us in engaging with individual First Nations across BC, as well as agreements with Métis Nation BC and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to lead their own engagement initiatives.

Feedback from all engagement opportunities will inform us on how we can collect, use and share data in ways that reflect the needs and experiences of Indigenous and racialized communities, creating a more equitable and inclusive province for all.

Thank you again for your advice and guidance on these initiatives. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you would like more information on our plans.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Singh', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Rachna Singh  
Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives

Attachment