



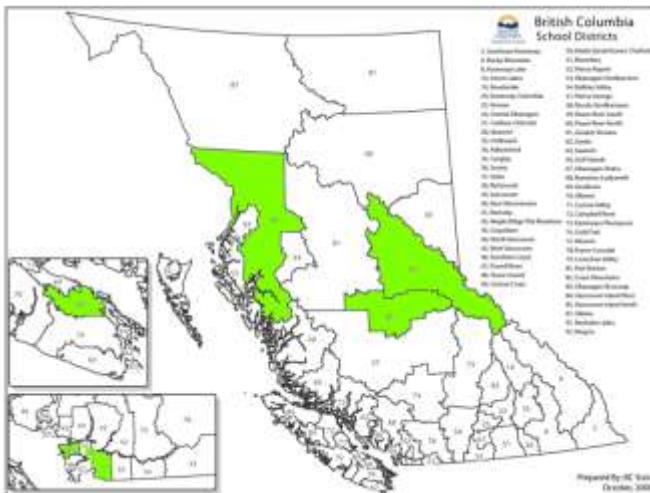
Spotlight on Racism



Racism is an important issue for teachers to address regularly throughout the year. However, with the **International Day for the Elimination of Racism on March 21** kicking off the **Week of Solidarity with People Struggling against Racism**, March is an excellent month for teachers to highlight this issue.

Racism often goes undetected by those not experiencing it themselves, but this does not mean that this issue no longer exists in Canada. The blatantly racist treatment of Muslims that has repeatedly surfaced, particularly since 9/11, highlights the degree to which racism is present in our society. Antiracism Action Group member, Nassim Elbardouh’s article on Islamophobia, on page 14 of the latest [Teacher Magazine](#), offers a very personal account of the devastating effects of racism. An expanded version of this article is the cover story in the next *Social Justice Newsletter*.

So what can BC teachers do? The members of the Antiracism Action Group of the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ) have developed a number of resources to help teachers support their students in developing inclusive, antiracist attitudes. Some of these resources are highlighted in this issue of *Seeds of Social Justice*. Others can be found on the [Antiracism web page](#).

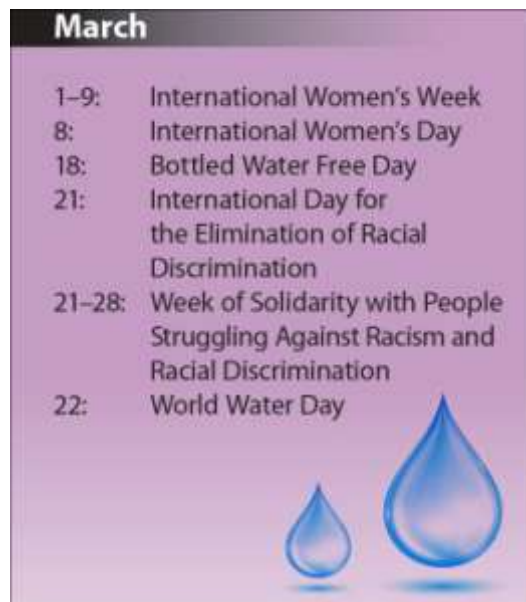


To address racism at a systemic level, teachers can work within our locals to encourage school districts to adopt an antiracism policy. BC Stats’ interactive map on the BCTF [Antiracism Policies and Regulations web page](#), shows that to date, only seven school districts in British Columbia have adopted an antiracism policy. The web page [Getting a Local Policy Passed](#) on the BCTF member portal, provides resources to help teachers advocate for this policy. These resources include a PowerPoint presentation and video to use in presenting to school board trustees.

BCTF Social Justice Program Calendar of Events

During **International Women's Week** from **March 1–9**, visit the CASJ [Status of Women web pages](#) for lesson plans and resources, including this [International Women's Day lesson plan](#).

On **March 18**, use our [Bottled Water Free Day poster and accompanying facts sheet](#) to explore the negative impacts of using bottled water with your students. [L'affiche est aussi disponible en français.](#)



The **Week of Solidarity with People Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination** begins on **March 21** with the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**. The CASJ [Antiracism web pages](#) contain a variety of resources to support you in addressing racism during this week and throughout the year.

March 22 is **World Water Day**. Consider booking the Water Rights module of the [BCTF Teaching Green workshop](#) as a professional development activity for teachers in your school or local.

The [Fracking Town Hall](#) module in the BCTF - Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives teaching resource, [Climate Justice in BC: Lessons for Transformation](#), addresses the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on water sustainability.

Antiracism Resources



The Antiracism Action Group recently developed the poster [Beyond the Barriers](#). The back of the poster includes lesson plans and activities for your classroom.



The **Racism in Canada** poster provides a timeline of examples of racism in Canada, from 1746 to the present day. The BCTF video [History of Racism in Canada](#) can be viewed in conjunction with this resource.

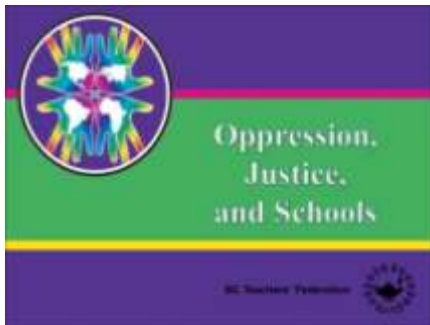
Download PDF versions of these and other antiracism posters on the [Antiracism posters, booklets, and brochures page](#).

To request hard copies of these and other BCTF antiracism resources, email socialjustice@bctf.ca. Please include the name and number of each item along with your mailing address.

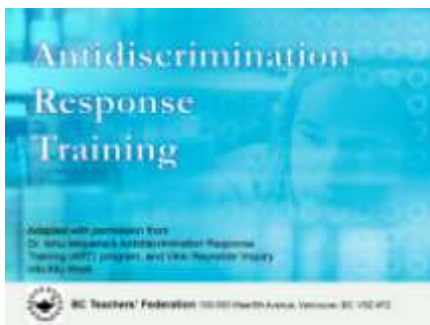
The Antiracism Action Group has recently developed an [Islamophobia web page](#), which includes lesson plans, resources, and activities to support teachers in developing welcoming and inclusive attitudes toward people of the Muslim faith. The new Islamophobia curriculum resource is one of the resources featured on this web page.

Antiracism Workshops

The following antiracism workshops can be reserved free of charge for your school or local using the [Faxback Workshop Request Form](#). ✂



This workshop looks at privilege in society and how the legacy of our colonial past has shaped our present. It provides some youth perspectives on racism in schools, and explores strategies to recognize and eliminate racism in society, classrooms, schools, and communities.



This skills-based workshop is a powerful, practical way to promote awareness and empathy, and to develop the skills to effectively respond to discriminatory remarks and incidents of racism, sexism, and homophobia in the classroom and the workplace.



Discussing controversial issues with students is an important part of social justice, the inquiry process, and building the skills for students to become active, engaged, and critically-minded democratic citizens. This workshop provides practical classroom strategies to discuss controversial issues in a respectful manner.



This workshop teaches the key principles of communication by exploring the differences between passive, aggressive, and assertive communication styles. Participants will develop skills through a variety of exercises, role play, and practice, in order to effectively communicate in their classroom, schools, union, work, or personal lives.

Antiracism Resources in the Works

Japanese Internment lesson plans and field study guide: Submitted by the Antiracism Action Group

The Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association and the CASJ Antiracism Action Group are working together in the creation of a curriculum guide to accompany a series of commemorative plaques at Hastings Park in Vancouver about the Japanese Internment during World War II.

The plaques point out the buildings—the ones that are still standing—that were used for internment, and describe the living conditions at the time of imprisonment. In addition, the commemorative plaques refer to the fact that Japanese Canadians were subject to racist policies and seen as “enemy aliens,” and that, years later, there was a government apology for the internment.

Japanese Internment during World War II is an example of institutional racism in Canadian history. The Antiracism Action Group's objective is to create lesson plans and a field study guide that would be a resource for teachers and students to look at the Hastings Park site, either online or in person. The goal is not only to teach about injustices in Canada's past, but also to provide a critical social justice lens for students to consider current government and institutional policies that continue to target and marginalize certain groups.

Antiracism Alliance Partners



The BCTF is collaborating with the Vancouver Whitecaps Football Club to raise awareness of **March 21, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**. All schools in the province are invited to participate in the [Show Racism the Red Card contest](#).

The BCTF curriculum guide [Show Racism the Red Card](#) has lesson plans to teach antiracism in your classrooms and schools, and is a good companion guide for this contest.

Sharing Social Justice Resources on TeachBC



The [TeachBC website](#) contains lesson plans for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Lessons addressing all areas of the curriculum can be found on this site and downloaded for free.

The Creative Cultural Collaborations Society's [BlackStrathcona](#) project is an online resource, including ten video stories, that offers students a window into the social history and geography of the African-Canadian community in Vancouver's Strathcona neighbourhood.

We invite you to take a few minutes to explore this and other antiracism lesson plans on the TeachBC site, and to post some of the social justice lessons you are using in your classroom.

Social Justice Grants



The **April 15 deadline** to apply for **Local Social Justice Grants** is fast approaching. This grant provides seed money for projects involving multiple schools within a local or sub-local, with the goal of effecting systemic change for social justice. For more information, an application package, and examples of past projects, see the [Grants and Funds page](#) of the BCTF website. For additional information or support with your application, please contact Barb Ryeburn at bryeburn@bctf.ca.

Barb Ryeburn
Assistant Director of Social Justice
BC Teachers' Federation
100-550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5S 4P2
604-871-1821
Toll free: 1-800-663-9163
bryeburn@bctf.ca

c3748110
BR:Uniform/lt:tfu