



TRUSTEE James Li MBA CPA CMA

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May 26, 2021

Dear Friends

Thank you for attending a special presentation on Anti-Asian Racism presented by Gary Yee, Vice-President of the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice. This was also a collective effort with Grace Wu, parent council chair at Shaughnessy Public School. On behalf of Ward 13, I would like to thank Gary and Grace for facilitating a constructive conversation on the meaning of being an ally, and challenging our own biases.

Please see a below for the minutes from our meeting.

Meeting Date/Time: May 19, 2021 6:30 PM

Meeting Location: Zoom Online Meeting hosted by Trustee James Li

Number of Attendees: Approx. 95 participants

Non-School Councils Members In Attendance: Honorable Han Dong (Member of Parliament), James Li (Trustee), Kiki Zhang (Trustee's Office Shared Services Liaison), Tania Jabbar (Trustee's Office Shared Services Liaison),

Items Discussed:

1. Individual and Systemic Racism
2. History of Anti-Asian Racism in Canada
3. Racism in the pandemic
4. Collaboration and community resilience

1. Individual and Systemic Racism

- a. Individual Racism includes factors such as:
 - Unconscious Bias
 - Empathy
 - Stereotypes – Perpetual Foreigner, Model Minority, Exotic and Unknown, Monolithic
 - Micro-aggressions
- b. Systemic Racism includes factors such as:
 - Poverty

- Employment
- Access to Services

2. History of Anti-Asian Racism in Canada

- a. Anti-Chinese Racism – Head Tax and Exclusion Act, W5 “Campus Giveaway”
- b. Anti-South Asian Racism – exclusionary immigration laws, SS Komagata Maru
- c. Anti-Japanese Racism – World War II internment
- d. Shared Experiences, Common Themes
 - Fear, Exploitation, Exclusion
 - Dehumanization and Othering

3. Racism in the Pandemic

- a. Rise in Anti-Asian Racism – Impact, Incidents, Reports
 - Differential impact on marginalized communities – health, employment, racism
 - 1,150 anti-Asian racism incidents reported between March 2020 and February 2021, to online reporting tools (covidracism.ca)
 - 60% of victims were women
 - 11% of all reports contained a physical assault, including being spat or coughed at

(Source – covidracism.ca – CCNC Toronto; project1907)

4. Collaboration and Community Resilience

- a. Individual Support
 - self-education and self-reflection
 - bystander training
 - amplifying voices of marginalized communities
 - avoid just performative actions
 - not enough to be tolerant or nice, or not racist – we must all be actively anti-racist
- b. Group Support
 - Networks and coalitions
 - Personal connections , access to insiders
 - Inclusive approach to working with supporters

The model minority myth can sometimes favor its targeted group, although racism does not get recognized until something tragic happens. Mindfulness and empathy are essential components to



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be anti-racist. These allow us to be proactive and deliberate in uncovering hidden biases (figuring out blind spots). Think about the lived experiences and stereotypes that influence your thinking. Are you aware of your first impressions and your gut reactions?

It's time to disrupt hidden biases as they impact individuals and communities. The Asian community has to work together to recognize the efforts of other racialized groups to learn more about each other's history in Canada, and moving in solidarity with other communities.

Please let me know if you have any questions to the meeting minutes as recorded above. I look forward to meeting you in our next Ward Council Meeting.

Sincerely,

James Li

Trustee, Ward 13 Don Valley North