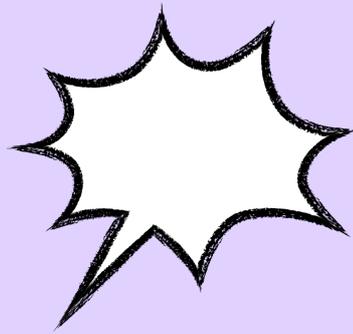


Addressing Anti-Asian Racism

Anti-Asian Racism

“Having or showing a strong dislike of Asian people, or treating them in a cruel and unfair way”¹



- Can include stereotyping and discriminating against Asian people



It's important to name specific forms of racism and discrimination so that we can acknowledge the issue, address and examine the roots of it, and propose specific solutions and approaches

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1. Cambridge Dictionary. n.d.

Instead of thinking *only* about everyday acts of interpersonal and open and undisguised acts of anti-Asian racism, we need to think about and examine **structural** anti-Asian racism



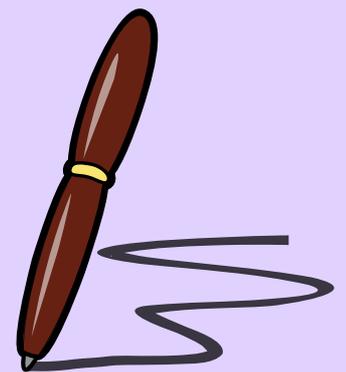
Structural anti-Asian racism is embedded in the **institutions, systems, and processes** in society



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This structural racism produces inequities for people of Asian descent and can be traced to Canada's history



Content warning: The following sections will include discussion of violence and discrimination against Asian people

Canada: A long history of Anti-Asian racism

Canada has a **long** history of creating racist and exclusionary laws



- These laws have **purposely** been used to keep non-white folks outside of Canada



They have also excluded non-white people from being associated with the Canadian image

These laws continue to depict white immigrants and white Canadians as **'good'** in contrast to Asian immigrants and Canadians, who are **'bad'** and **'threatening'**

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Racist and exclusionary laws:

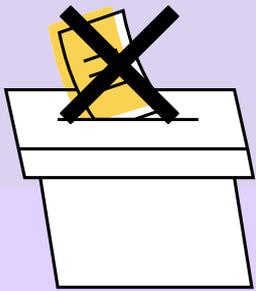


Chinese Immigration Act of 1885

- Hoped to discourage Chinese immigration by making Chinese immigrants pay a head tax (a fixed fee) for entry

The *Chinese Immigration Act (1923)*, also referred to as the Chinese Exclusion Act

- Completely prohibited Chinese people from immigrating to Canada



Similar immigration controls were placed on Japanese and South Asian peoples

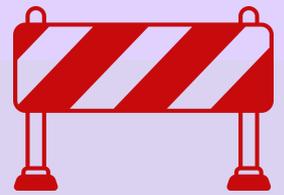
Various discriminatory voting, housing, and employment laws were aimed at people of Asian descent, including many Chinese, Japanese, and South Asian people

- In cases where laws weren't made, social restrictions & norms continued to be discriminatory

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World War II and Japanese internment (1942-1949)



Disguising their racism as concern for 'national security' the government used the *War Measures Act* to send **90%** of the Japanese Canadian population to internment camps ²

- Many of these Japanese Canadians were born in Canada



Meanwhile, the government stole and sold Japanese Canadians' property and forced many (even those born in Canada) to return to Japan after the war ³

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2. Yao, D., 2022

3. Ibid.

Anti-Asian Racism today



With Canada's history of anti-Asian racism, Asian people have often been seen as **threats** and depicted as inferior to white Canadians



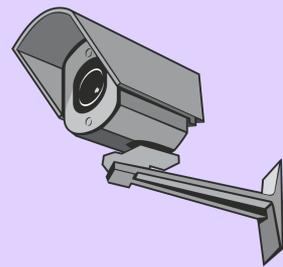
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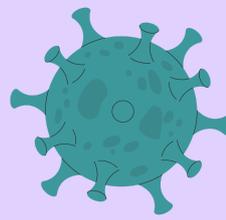
Rooted in this history, anti-Asian racism continues today

- Although many Asian communities are impacted by anti-Asian racism, they are *differently* impacted because of their different histories with anti-Asian racism and exclusion in Canada

Following 9/11 (September 11, 2001), Sikhs, Muslims, Arabs, and South and West Asians have also faced increased **violence, discrimination, and surveillance** from the government⁴



COVID-19



In the face of a global pandemic, many people of East and Southeast Asian descent were **targeted** for hate and harassment, depicted as dirty and inferior, and subject to increased violence and discrimination

Gathering crowd-sourced data on anti-Asian discrimination, harassment, and assault, CCNCTO found that a total of **943** racist incidents were reported in Canada in 2021⁵



This was a **47%** increase compared to 2020



There was a **286%** increase in anti-Asian racism incident reports from children and youth under 18, with many incidents occurring in schools⁶

Compared to 2019 statistics, hate crimes against East and Southeast Asian populations increased by **301%** in 2020⁷

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5. CCNCTO & Project 1907, 2022

6. Ibid.

7. Yao, D., 2022

2021 Atlanta spa shooting

The murder of 6 Asian women

The victims who were murdered:

Daoyou Feng, 44
Delaina Ashley Yaun, 33
Hyun Jung Grant, 51
Paul Andre Michels, 54
Soon Chung Park, 74
Suncha Kim, 69
Xiaojie Tan, 49
Yong Ae Yue, 63

This horrific incident also proved
that anti-Asian racism has
gendered and violent effects in
the present day



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Where are we now?

3 years since the COVID-19 pandemic, there seems to be more understanding that anti-Asian racism is a real issue

There is also more solidarity and allyship – however, inequities continue to exist

Many people of Asian descent continue to face workplace discrimination including microaggressions, harassment, and discrimination in hiring, firing, and promotions⁸

Many Asian people also experience poorer access to healthcare because of communication barriers and overrepresentation in informal employment industries without healthcare⁹

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8. Zheng, L., 2021

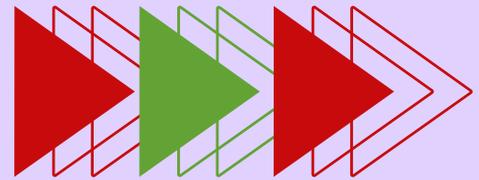
9. Ibid.

Becoming an ally

It is important to recognize that Asian Canadians and Asian people are diverse

- Different Asian communities experience anti-Asian racism differently

Experiences of anti-Asian racism are also impacted by class, gender, citizenship status, education, etc



It's important for our communities to be **proactive** (acting with *future* problems, needs, or changes in mind) rather than reactive (responding to a situation afterwards)

It's also important for Asian communities to **work together** with other racialized and marginalized communities

In doing so, we can gain and raise awareness of each other's struggles, understand how we can support each other, and promote equity and justice for all

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What else can I do?

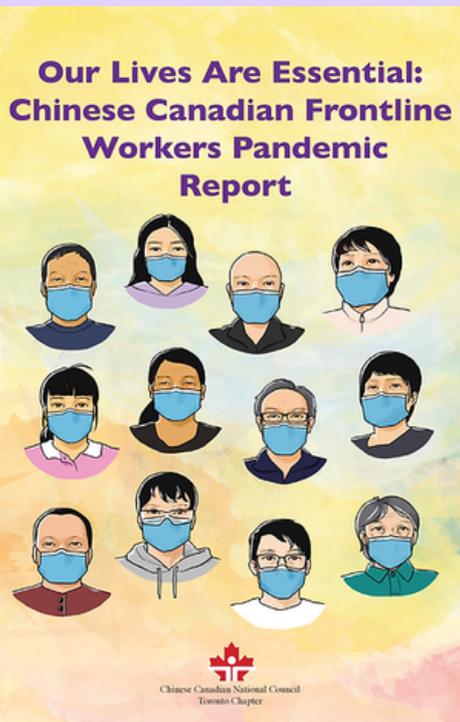


Stay in touch with CCNCTO through **WeChat** or follow us on Instagram **@CCNCTO**

Check out the our most recent [2021 anti-Asian racism report](#) and our [Frontline Workers Pandemic report](#)

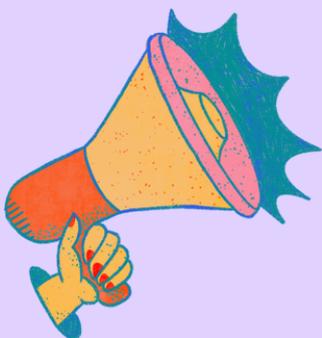


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Fill in [this form](#) to join our volunteer team and support our various organizing, anti-racism & equity work

- **Talk** to others in your social circles about racism
- **Call out** all levels of racism
- **Share** this information with others
- **Engage** with local community members and organizations to advocate for change



Check out these Ontario-based community organizations engaging Asian communities with racial justice work on Instagram!

- **Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA)** [@acsatoronto](#) an organization addressing the needs of Scarborough by empowering children, youth, newcomers, homeless & underserved communities
- **Anakbayan Scarborough** [@anakbayanscarbs](#) an organization of Filipino youth fighting for genuine national democracy
- **(AQUA) Asian Queer Alliance** [@asianqueeralliance](#) an organization serving queer Asians of marginalized genders in Tkaronto
- **Chinese Canadian Collective** [@chinesecanadianco](#) an organization that examines Chinese diasporic issues and experiences through hosting community events and digital campaigns
- **The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)** [@cassaonline](#) an umbrella organization supporting and advocating for the needs of the Canadian South Asian community
- **Friends of Chinatown Toronto** [@friendsofchinatownto](#) an organization fighting for housing justice, racial justice, and economic justice in Toronto's downtown
- **The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)** [@nccm_community](#) an organization that protects Canadian human rights and civil liberties, challenges discrimination and Islamophobia, builds mutual understanding, and advocates for the public concerns of Canadian Muslims
- **Tamil Canadian Centre for Civic Action (TCCCA)** [@tamilcivicaction](#) an organization working towards the success of all Tamil Canadians in the social, political, economic and cultural spheres of Canada
- **World Sikh Organization** [@worldsikhorg](#) an organization promoting and protecting the interests of Sikh Canadians

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