

Cohesia is hosting a public dialogue on the theme: "Confronting Racism in the Canadian School and University System."

Dieppe (New Brunswick), April 25, 2023 - Cohesia (formerly Dialogue NB), a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening social cohesion in Canada, is hosting a two-part virtual public dialogue on April 27 and 28 on the theme "Confronting Racism in the Canadian School and University System". This dialogue is the first in a series of 8 Cohesia public dialogues, presented by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the Fondation communautaire de la Péninsule Acadienne on the theme "Racism and Hate in Canada: Dare to Talk About It".

Canada is considered an international model for educational standards and resources. While the efforts of the many teachers who dedicate their lives to teaching children and young adults should be recognized and appreciated, it is important to acknowledge that there are inherent problems in the Canadian education system where the shadow of racism is very real.

Historically and institutionally entrenched, racism continues to be a significant barrier to the academic development of Indigenous and racial minority students. It manifests itself in prejudiced interpersonal exchanges, negative differential treatment, and the denial of values, perspectives, cultures and history in the curriculum and in school life. As a result, the majority of Indigenous youth drop out of high school without the skills required for skilled employment and without knowledge of the language and culture of their people (1). Black students are more likely to be directed to non-academic programs, to be subject to unfair disciplinary practices, and to drop out of school (or be expelled) (2).

Amplifying voices, understanding impacts, exploring solutions

By organizing this public dialogue, Cohesia intends to shed light on how racism manifests itself in the Canadian school and university system.

Through testimonies from victims, support organizations and experts in the field, this dialogue will allow the public to understand the short- and long-term impacts of racism on people of all ages who attend schools and universities, as well as on their families, before exploring various inspiring solutions deployed across Canada.

Co-hosted by Elie Ndala, PhD in Education at the University of Ottawa, founding member of the Groupe d'Action Contre le Racisme Anti-Noir and director of the academic journal Amplified Voices, and Tiger Levi, a recent graduate of the University of St. Thomas and co-creator of the Looking Forward podcast ("a podcast owned and operated by Indigenous people"), this public dialogue will offer translation in English, French and Mi'kmaq, thanks to translators Yolande Chiasson, David Louis, Sara Therlonge and Hubert Francis.

Part 1 / April 27, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. (Atlantic Time)

- Michael Dymond, Teacher (New Brunswick)
- **Ted Harris**, Founder and Executive Director of Youth Ambitions (New Brunswick)
- **Kearie Daniel**, CEO, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Parents of Black Children (Ontario);

Part 2 / April 28, 1:00 - 2:00 pm (Atlantic Time)

- **Kayla BreeLove Carter**, Clinical Trauma Specialist (NS)
- **Dr. Fadila Boutouchent**, Associate Professor in the B.Ed. program in French Education, Faculty of Education, University of Regina (SK)
- **Sylvie LeBel**, M.Ed. Provincial Education Officer, Curriculum Branch, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (NB)

Inscription - Part 1 - Zoom

Inscription - Part 2 - Zoom