

ANTI-RACISM Equity & Inclusion Survey

Why We Need Your Input

Your voice is integral to this work. We know that we have much to learn and are grateful to gain insight and understanding from those connected to the District who choose to participate and share their lived experiences. In particular, the voices of those who identify as part of the BIPOC community are vital and necessary in creating transformational change.

The survey has been translated into nine different languages in order to reach as many people as possible.

Racism is a serious problem, and while the information shared will help the District act, racism cannot be solved with one survey.

How This Survey Came About

The collaboration on what engagement should look like was done by the District Anti-Racism Working Group, which was formed following a motion passed by the Burnaby Board of Education last June. It directed staff to put together a working group that includes representation from Black, Indigenous and racialized communities and is comprised of all partners (students, elementary and secondary teachers and administration, as well as representatives from the District Parent Advisory Council, the Burnaby Teachers' Association, CUPE Local 379, the Board of Education and the Burnaby School District). The importance of creating a safe and culturally sensitive space for people's stories to be shared, honoured and understood was a key part of Trustees' motion.

Since the working group began meeting in the fall, members have offered their insight and expertise to establish core values for their collective work, a commitment statement, and the framework for a meaningful multi-layered engagement process that will gather input to inform the District's anti-racism work moving forward.

How the Survey Information Will Be Used and What Comes Next

A link to participate in the survey will be sent to you this month. If you'd like to learn more about this work before you receive the survey, there are two virtual information evenings for families:

- For Indigenous Parents and Guardians Information Evening: Anti-Racism, Equity, and Inclusion Survey via Zoom on Tuesday May 11, 7pm https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Jcz4OLN3StOIABH2hPB-ug
- For All Parents and Guardians Information Evening: Anti-Racism, Equity, and Inclusion Survey
 via Zoom on Tuesday May 18, 7pm https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s2bYyeayRsy_kbpdHwOKdA

The survey results will give the District a broad view of issues around racism. It is the first of a three-step engagement process that was approved by the Burnaby Board of Education at their March 2021 meeting. The overview gained from the survey will help to shape the next phases of the engagement process. Phase 2 is anticipated to focus on in-depth input, with Phase 3 involving deeper conversations.

The consultation process is intended to inform development of a district anti-racism action plan that respects and honours the voices and lived experiences of those affected by systemic racism, implicit bias and/or discrimination.

