

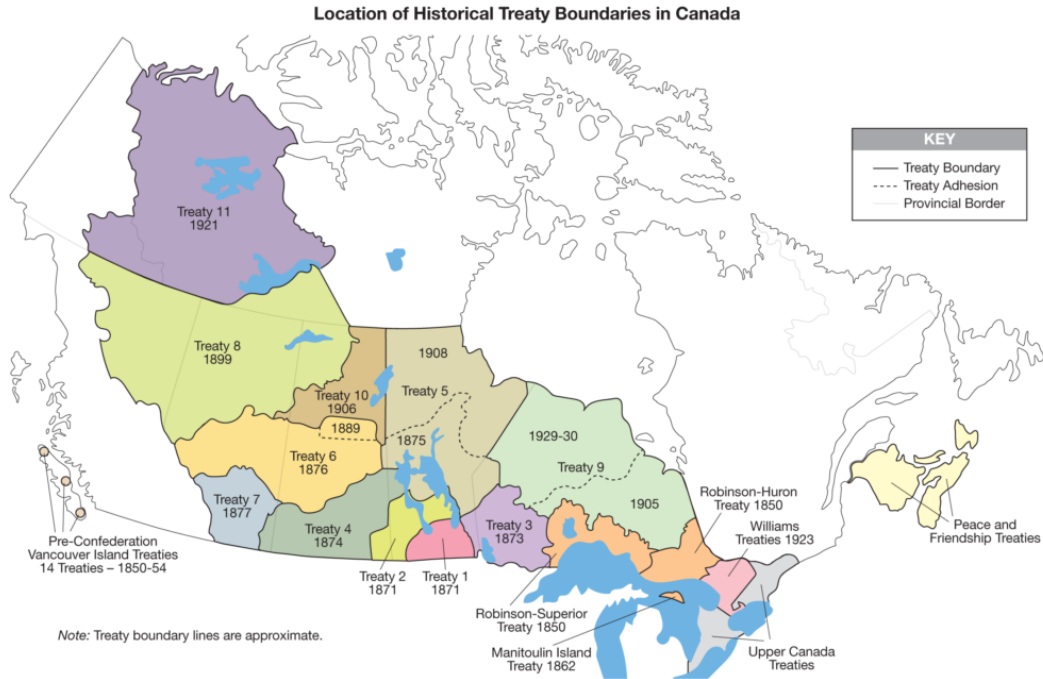


# **Anti-Racism During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Education to Action**

Tyra Erskine, Anti-Racism and Equity Strategy Lead, ActionDignity  
& Jayde Roche, Program Manager - Rural Immigration, RDN

November 24, 2020

# Territorial acknowledgement



This map is based on information taken from the Geo Access Division maps.  
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# Introductions



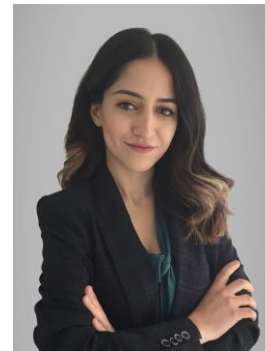
Tyra Erskine

Strategy Lead



Jayde Roche

Program Manager



Elnaz Alisal

Project Coordinator



# Overview

- Background & process
- Objectives
- Webinar highlights
  - Context
  - Data
  - Actions
  - Self-care
  - Surveys
  - Language
- Resources & outcomes
- Where are we now?

# Background

Anti-discrimination project

- **Pre-COVID:** Develop a in-person and online facilitated course, along with 3 webinars on anti-discrimination topics
- **How did we adapt?**

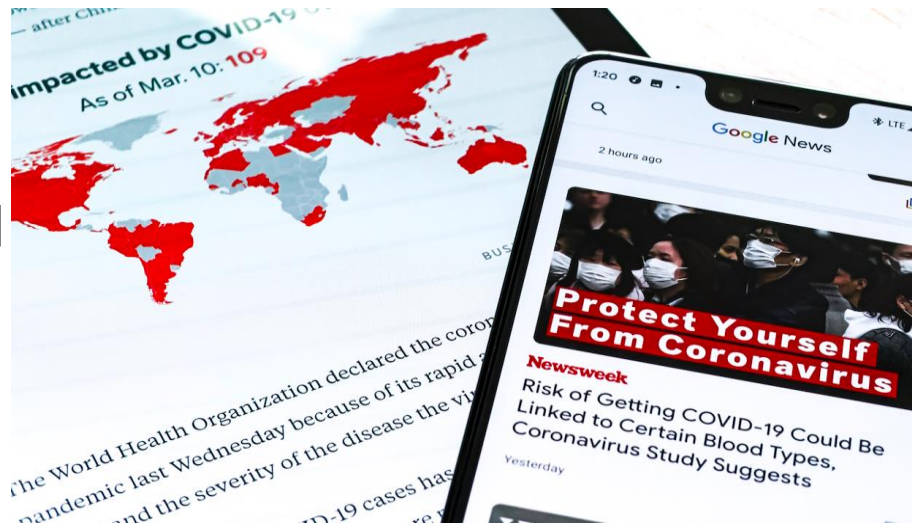


Photo by Obi Onyeador on Unsplash



# Topics

## WEBINAR COVID-19 & RACISM

This webinar will discuss the COVID-19 pandemic through an anti-racism lens. We will discuss the media coverage, the language that people are using, and the xenophobia and racism that is being amplified during this global crisis.

**When**  
April 15th, 2020  
10:00 - 12:00 MDT

**register**  
Please use the link below to register. This webinar requires the use of Skype. You will be prompted to download it if not already installed.

[www.bit.ly/aaisacovid](http://www.bit.ly/aaisacovid)

**email**  
General inquiries: [pd@aaisa.ca](mailto:pd@aaisa.ca)  
Technical support: [technology@aaisa.ca](mailto:technology@aaisa.ca)



Image credit: AAISA

## WEBINAR INTERSECTIONALITY & COVID-19

This webinar will build on the "COVID-19 and Racism" webinar and focus on additional groups that weren't discussed. We will use an intersectional lens to explore the ways in which oppression is amplified by COVID-19. We will discuss the way to encourage continued learning, engaging in mindful reflection, and to learn and grow from any mistakes we will make while doing this work.

**date**  
May 15th, 2020  
10:00 - 12:00 MDT

**register**  
Please use the link below to register. This webinar requires the use of GoToWebinar. Once registered, you will be able to access the webinar on the date and time above.

[www.bit.ly/aaisacovid3](http://www.bit.ly/aaisacovid3)

**email**  
General inquiries: [pd@aaisa.ca](mailto:pd@aaisa.ca)  
Technical support: [technology@aaisa.ca](mailto:technology@aaisa.ca)



## WEBINAR RESPONDING TO ONLINE HATE DURING COVID-19



**May 1st, 2020**  
10:00 - 12:00 MDT



Human Rights  
Education and  
Multiculturalism  
Fund



# Participants

- In total over 800 individuals attended the webinars
- Although we had originally planned to host the webinars in AB, we partners with AMSSA to reach a wider audience:
  - The majority of attendees were from Alberta
  - BC and Ontario were the next most common locations
  - Urban and rural reach
- Majority of attendees were settlement practitioners

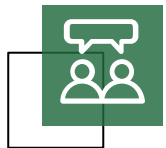


Image credits: <https://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/background>>Background vector created by rawpixel.com - [www.freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com)</a>

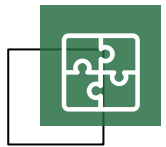
# Our process



Data and research



Surveys & participant engagement



Putting together the pieces

## Challenges

- Lack of Canadian data and research
- Rapidly changing
- Alberta perspective



# Early warning signs

## Long term care facilities

- LTC residents accounted for 81% of all reported COVID-19 deaths in Canada
- 840+ outbreaks in LTC facilities (CIHI)

## Homelessness

- Newly homelessness individuals
- Health and safety challenges
- Affordability crisis

## Incarceration

- 3387 tests completed, 363 positive tests and 2 deaths (CSC)
- "...a quarter of inmates have been infected as a result of the outbreak"

## Essential workers

- Cargill
- Essential agricultural migrant workers facing discrimination and racism

# Objectives

- View the COVID-19 Pandemic through an anti-racism lens
- Develop an understanding of current human rights implications of COVID-19
- Recognize how COVID-19 has been framed in the media
- Become familiarized with actions people can take to support their mental health and wellbeing

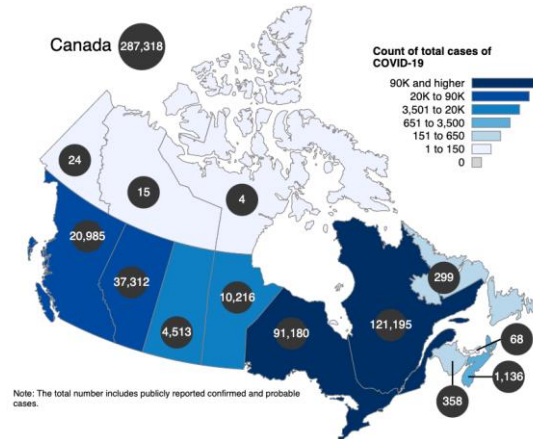
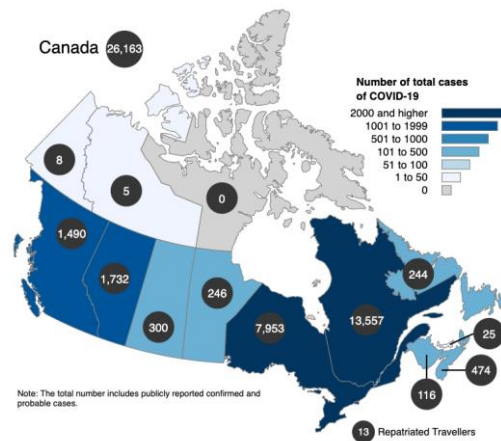


# Webinar Highlights



# Context

- What was the situation at the time we were presenting?
  - Lockdown
  - Case numbers
- And now?
  - COVID fatigue
  - Zoom fatigue



Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html?topic=tilelink>

# Data

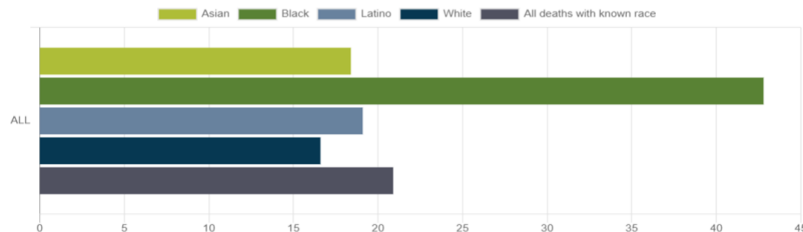
Table: Number of COVID-related or confirmed deaths in the population and in care homes (or among care home residents).

Country	Date	Approach to measuring deaths	Total number deaths linked to COVID-19	Number of deaths of care home residents linked to COVID-19	Number of deaths in care homes	Number of care home resident deaths as % of all COVID-19 deaths	Number of deaths in care homes as % of all COVID-19 deaths
Australia	03/05/2020	Confirmed	95	24		25%	
Belgium	03/05/2020	Confirmed + Probable	7,844		4,164		53%
Canada	02/05/2020	Confirmed + Probable	3,566	2,227		62%	
Denmark	24/04/2020	Confirmed	394	133		33%	
France	03/05/2020	Confirmed + Probable	24,760	12,511	9,273	51%	37%
Germany <sup>10</sup>	03/05/2020	Confirmed	6,649	2,401		36%	
Hong Kong	03/05/2020	Confirmed	4	0	0	0%	0%
Hungary	18/04/2020	Confirmed	172	33		19%	
Ireland	30/04/2020	Confirmed + Probable	1,232		735	60%	
Israel	29/04/2020	Confirmed	202	65		32%	
Norway	02/05/2020	Confirmed	211		127		60%
Portugal	23/04/2020	Confirmed	820	327		40%	
Singapore	03/05/2020	Confirmed	18	2		11%	
Sweden (Stockholm region)	30/04/2020	Confirmed	1,406	630		45%	

Sources: as per the data described in this document

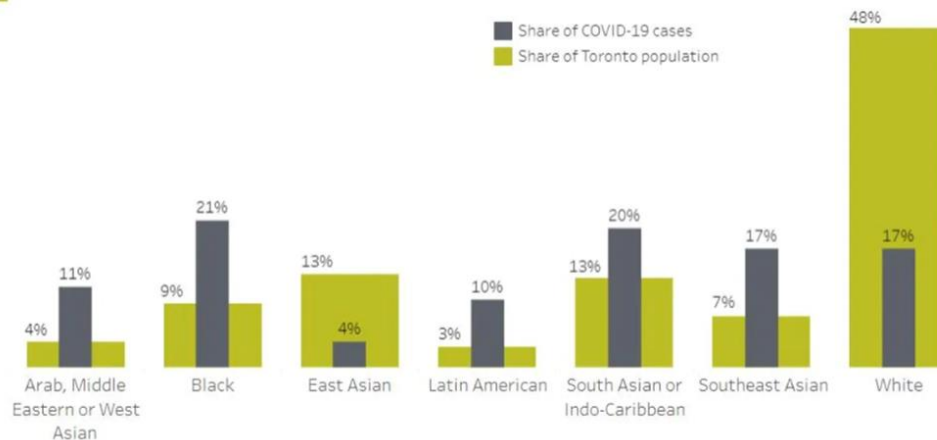
Source:  
<https://www.ilpnetwork.org/>

COVID-19 DEATHS PER 100,000 PEOPLE OF EACH GROUP, REPORTED THROUGH MAY 11, 2020



Source:  
<https://www.apmresearchlab.org/covid/deaths-by-race>

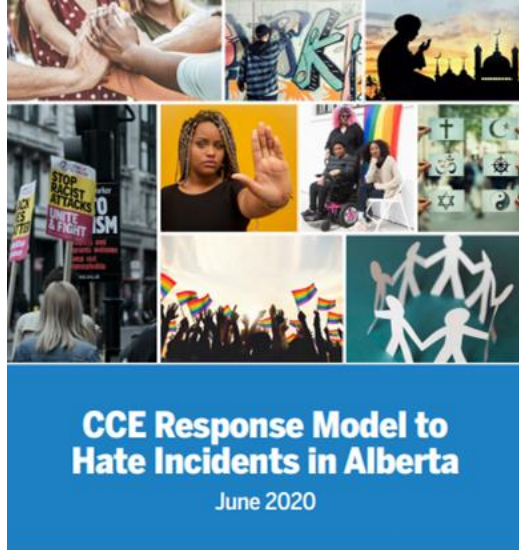
Share of COVID-19 cases among ethno-racial groups compared to the share of people living in Toronto, with valid data up to July 16, 2020 (N=3,861)



Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-covid-19-data-1.5669091>



# Actions



Recognize

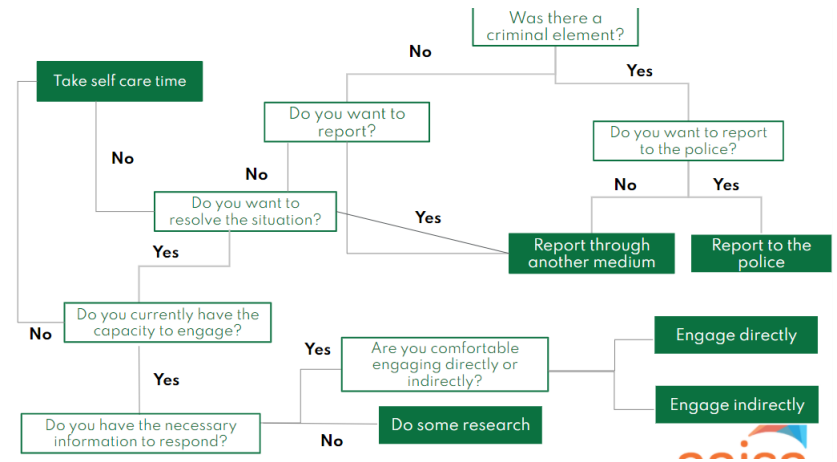


Interrupt

Question

Educate

Echo



- Racism and xenophobia response strategies were adapted from existing tools and resource to respond to harmful language and actions during the pandemic

# Actions

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## COVID-19 Hate Incident

### What is a COVID-19 related Hate Incident?

A noncriminal act motivated in whole or in part by prejudice, bias or hate towards a specific person or identifiable group of persons due to COVID-19.

Simply put, this is when someone does something mean and hurtful because they have a negative feeling towards a section of the public distinguished by colour, race, religion, etc., and that hostility increases and is expressed due to COVID-19.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, hate has been on the rise both online and in person. It is important to understand the ways that hate appears and also recognize that places that people can report to.

### What can be considered a COVID-19 related Hate Incident?

#### Examples

- Saying that prisoners deserve to catch COVID-19
- Making anti-Asian comments about COVID-19
- Sharing anti-Semitic memes or posts about the COVID-19

### What is COVID-19 related Hate Crime?

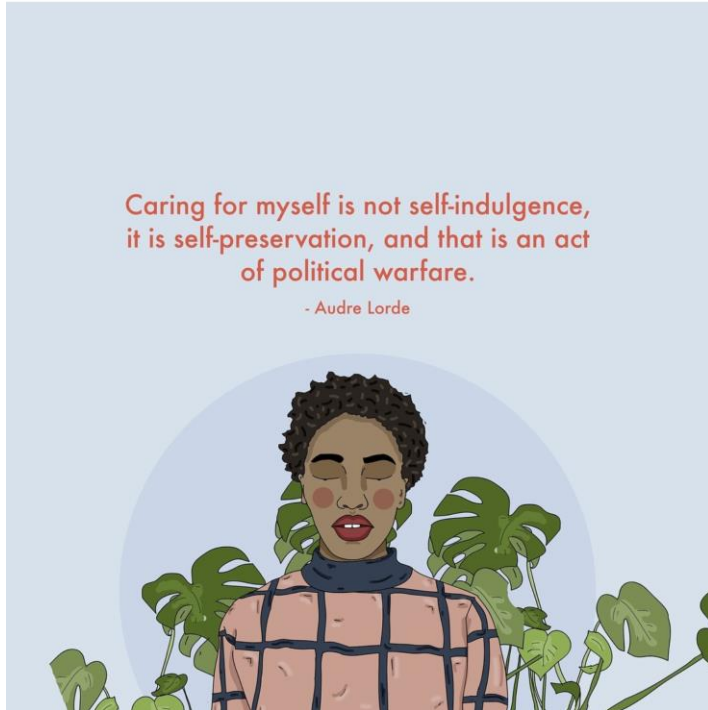
This is a criminal offence motivated in whole or in part by prejudice, bias or hate towards a specific person, identifiable group of persons or property due to COVID-19.

In other words, a criminal act that can involve intimidation, harassment, physical force, or threat and that its motive is resentment or a negative opinion for the characteristics of a person because of COVID-19

- Overtime, more COVID-specific resources and strategies were developed and shared widely

# Self-care and community care

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Incorporating self-care tips and activities was an important aspect of each webinar



# Surveys

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Creating a  
reporting centre  
for COVID-19

Surveys were used to  
better understand the  
current situation & fill  
gaps in knowledge

71% of respondents thought  
it was extremely important  
for them to have COVID-19  
information available in  
their first language

Most common  
locations were  
online, on the street,  
or in a grocery store

85% have seen,  
heard, or  
experienced  
racism and  
xenophobia  
related to the  
COVID-19

# Resources

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## **COVID-19 ONLINE RESOURCE PACKAGE**



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### Covid-19 Anti-Racism Incident Reporting Center

English

French

繁體中文

简体中文

日本語

Tiếng Việt

한국어



# Outcomes

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- “It was shocking that Canada is not collecting race-based data on who is being infected... this situation offers an incredible learning opportunity to address inherent discrimination that exists against vulnerable peoples”
- Participant responses to feedback forms allowed us to note an increase in awareness and also how they planned to use the tools and strategies shared
  - Awareness of the extent that subtle racism that still exists
  - Integrating concepts into programs
  - Becoming more self-aware in assisting clients and relationships in the workplace and the community
  - “It was interesting to see the results of the polls you took with participants during the webinar; that really helps with connection, especially now!”

# Where are we now?

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Schools



Immigration



Hospitals

# What would be cover now?

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Tracking App



CERB



Current Strike in Alberta



Additional Impacts  
of COVID-19



Social Isolation



Mental Health and  
Addiction



## Thank you

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Website: [www.ruraldevelopment.ca](http://www.ruraldevelopment.ca)

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