



May 11, 2020

Dear Metro Vancouver Board of Directors,

The Stop Racism Alliance Association is a coalition comprised of a diverse array of ethno-cultural and religious communities, gathered to stand together as one against racism.

Over the past few months, we have seen repeated attacks on ethnic communities in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. We have seen the elderly assaulted and young women repeatedly punched in the face. We have seen calls for genocide on Canadian soil. Racist attacks on the ethno-cultural communities have increased, with the irrational notion that these communities should be scapegoated for recent world events. Such a notion is grounded in hatred and prejudice and has no place in the multicultural nation of Canada. Our strength is founded upon embracing all ethnicities and cultures so that we can work together to build our nation as neighbours. It is only through the mindset of loving our neighbours that our country can thrive.

The following recommendations have been prepared based on discussions with ethno-cultural communities. As an alliance of ethno-cultural and religious groups, we would welcome the opportunity to engage further with you as your municipality explores concrete ways to contain and counter racism within our cities.

1. The Mayor and City Council should speak as one to condemn and speak out against racism. The message must be clear and unequivocal--racism will not be tolerated in our city.
2. Metro Mayors Council is called upon to include Anti-Racism issues as a standing item on its agenda. This would allow regional updates, discussion of best practises and data to be collected and shared to facilitate the earliest elimination of racist acts
3. Municipal governments are called upon to increase funding, staff and resources to existing hate crimes units across BC, and to establish hate crime units for all municipalities that do not currently have a such a unit. The municipal government should provide regular annual funding to local municipalities for the purpose of funding hate crime units in each of the local municipal police forces.
4. Municipal governments are called upon to share with the public by way of publicly released memoranda, as to the current measures it has in place to counter racism and bigotry.

We would of course be pleased to work with the Mayors and city councils to provide whatever support we can as you move forward to ensure that racism and discrimination in all its forms are effectively combatted.

Thank you for considering this important and urgent matter. We look forward to your response.

The Stop Racism Alliance

CC: Chak Au, chair SRAA, [REDACTED]