

UNPACKING AND ADDRESSING ANTI-INDIGENOUS RACISM

Who are Indigenous Peoples?

Indigenous Peoples are the original inhabitants of Turtle Island, also known as Canada. They are broadly categorized into three groups: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. However, Indigenous communities are incredibly diverse, representing over 600 distinct nations. In London, we are neighbours with the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, the Oneida Nation of the Thames, and the Munsee-Delaware Nation.

The lack of respect for and knowledge of the history and rights of the Indigenous Peoples is what encourages anti-Indigenous racism in Canada.

Types of Anti-Indigenous Racism

Relational Racism

Racism in every day interactions.

Structural Racism

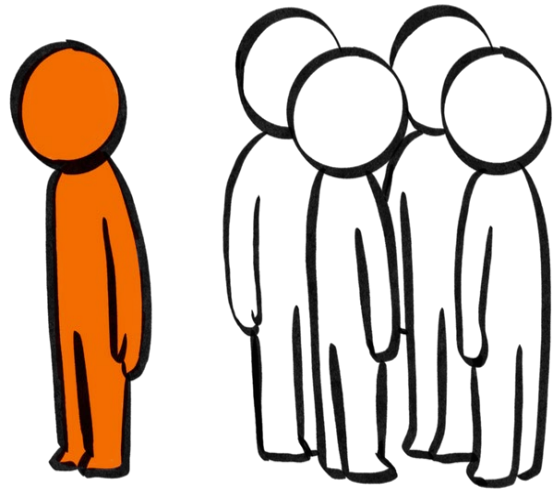
Unfair treatment built into society policies, and culture.

Symbolic Racism

Indirect negative attitudes or behaviours.

Epistemic Racism

When Western ways of thinking are considered superior, while Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge are seen as uncivilized and inferior.



Understanding Decolonization & Reconciliation

Decolonization is the process of addressing and undoing the harm caused by colonialism and focusing on Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, and priorities — making space for different ways of understanding the world. The movement of decolonization is led by Indigenous Peoples, allowing them to take control of their own decisions and future.

Reconciliation is the ongoing process of building and maintaining respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. It involves apologizing, providing reparations, taking actions, displaying changes in society, and restoring Indigenous laws and traditions.

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What does it mean to be an ally to Indigenous Peoples?

As an ally, **YOU** . . .

recognize the injustices faced by Indigenous Peoples;
take action to support Indigenous Peoples and their communities;
build respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples;
educate yourself about Indigenous Peoples' history, culture, and knowledge;
approach learning with an open mind and a respectful curiosity to **understand the perspectives** of Indigenous Peoples;
acknowledge the privileges you have been given because of colonization, and use them to **promote equity**

The 4 R's: Respect, Reciprocity, Responsibility, Relevance

Respect of Indigenous Cultural Identity

Honour the unique knowledge and traditions of Indigenous Peoples

Reciprocal Relationships

Build and develop a mutual relationship of understanding and support



Responsibility through Participation

Engage with Indigenous Peoples and support Indigenous-led initiatives

Relevance to Indigenous Perspectives and Experience

Recognize Indigenous knowledge and skills as relevant and essential in our community