

## Session 3: Anti-Asian Racism

# Appreciating the Asian-Canadian Heritage

### *Pre-Workshop:*

✚ Watch [Canadian Apartheid: Chinese Head Tax and racism's legacy - YouTube](#) (4:58 minutes).

✚ **One or more items** from the “Suggested Reading & Viewing Material” list below.

**Intro:** The goal of this session is to shine a spotlight on myths and attitudes towards Asians in Canadian history and contemporary society. Note that the Canadian Census uses [the term 'Asian'](#) pan-continently, (including West Central Asian, Middle Eastern, South Asian, East and Southeast Asian) but racism may manifest quite differently for each group. Asian-Canadians are the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest ethnic group in Canada, at 17.7% of the population.



Watch a selection of videos together. Ask participants to note the parts that they consider important or that surprised or disturbed them in any way.

### *Videos:*

- [Eyes Open: an Anti-Asian Racism PSA](#), 2021, by Asian-Canadian artist Christopher Tse, 2:32 min.
- [AAPI Celebs team up for PSA on Anti-Asian Racism](#) 3:41 min. YouTube

### *Small Group Discussion:*

The overview and videos highlighted changing forms of racism towards Asian-Canadians in Canadian history and the present day.

- What attitude or attitudes towards Asian people prevailed in the place you grew up? How has this changed over the years?
- What was your personal reaction to anti-Asian racism in our history? What were some of the things that surprised or disturbed you?
- What are the Asian stereotypes in popular culture, both positive and negative? What are the White stereotypes in popular culture? (Think about movies, media, songs, books etc.)

*Virtue is more to man than either water or fire.  
I have seen men die from treading on water and  
fire, but I have never seen a man die from  
treading the course of virtue.*

– [Confucius](#)

*God will not ask man of what race he is.  
He will ask, what has he done?*

– Sikhism, [Guru Nanak](#)

*See ye no strangers, rather see all men as  
friends, for love and unity come hard  
when ye fix your gaze on otherness.*

– [Abdu'l-Bahá](#), Bahá'í Faith

## *Debriefing:*

Quotes and discussion questions to promote reflection and action

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- How did this workshop (including preparation) change your feelings toward Asian-Canadians?
  - What recommendations would you have for addressing Anti-Asian racism in our community?
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## *Suggested Reading & Viewing:*

- [We Are Not Strangers](#), YouTube, 2014, (15:20 min.) A moving commemoration of the eviction of over 250 Sikhs and other Indian citizens from Bellingham WA in 1907.
- [South Asian Canadian History](#) Timeline spanning 150 years.
- [The Sikh Migrants who Challenged Canadian Migration Law](#), video, 2021, (7:01 min.) In 1914, hundreds of Sikh, Muslim and Hindu passengers on the Komagatu Moru were denied entry to Canada.
- [Canadian Apartheid: Chinese Head Tax and racism's legacy YouTube](#), (4:58 min.), 2018
- [Chinese Head Tax and the Chinese Exclusion Act in Canada](#), article, 2020
- [Internment of Japanese Canadians | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#), Article giving an overview of the subject, noting controversy around terms such as "internment".
- [Japanese Canadian Internment | Narrated by David Suzuki](#) YouTube, (11:15 min.), 2016 The story of the injustices and atrocities done towards Japanese-Canadians across the country, and in particular, British Columbia.
- [Japanese Canadian Internment - Nikkei Stories](#) YouTube, (4:22 min.), 2018
- [Should Anti-Asian Violence be charged as a Hate Crime](#) (10:55 min.) PBS Video Modern-day racism against Asians and Pacific Islanders. Building coalition.
- [Racism in Vancouver Real Estate](#), article, Georgia Straight News 1850's to present day.
- [Poll Shows Young Canadians Hardest Hit by Anti-Asian Racism](#) (4:43 min.) 2021
- [Noteworthy Canadians of Asian Descent](#), (website) From Payam Akhavan to Won Cumyow