

TRUE COLOURS OF SURREY

UNDERSTANDING RACISM & DISCRIMINATION

Scan of Promising Community Models & Programs

The Aim of the Scan is Two-Fold

1. Identify existing initiatives in Surrey that help combat and address racism, and racial discrimination.
2. Identify programs and models outside of Surrey that can serve as examples and catalysts for expanding local community capacity.

Scan At-A-Grance

Over 50 initiatives were found with many serving more than one function (for example, the Fresh Voices refugee youth project with the Vancouver Foundation).

29 found in B.C. and 8 specific to Surrey.

Only 20 are confirmed to be still active and ongoing.

Types of Programs Identified



Key Findings

1. There are a number of anti-racism initiatives in Surrey and the broader Metro Vancouver region, but not as many as initially expected.
2. For some initiatives, addressing racial discrimination and racism is but one goal among many others. Sometimes, it is only peripheral to the main mission of the project in question.
3. Anti-racism initiatives take many forms, ranging from annual events such as the Community March Against Racism, to longstanding initiatives such as AMSAA's Safe Harbour project.
4. The majority of initiatives, in Surrey and Metro Vancouver, focus on 'advocacy', 'education' and 'empowerment' with a strong emphasis on youth-related projects.
5. Only a small number of initiatives focus explicitly on providing support to victims of racism and/or racial discrimination.
6. Racism and racial discrimination tend to be framed as immigrant issues. Indigenous people tend to be overlooked in conversations about racism and/or racial discrimination.

Status & Institutions

36 ACTIVE	14 GOVERNMENT	4 SCHOOL BOARD	2 POLICE
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About the Project

The True Colours of Surrey project aimed to better understand the issues of racism and discrimination in Surrey, highlight some of the promising community models in addressing these issues and engage local stakeholders in working together and exploring innovative approaches to address racism and discrimination in Surrey.

The one-year project was funded by the Province of British Columbia and led by the City of Surrey in partnership with the Surrey LIP Committee and True Colours of Surrey Working Group.

This fact sheet summarizes the findings from the online survey of local residents and from the scan of programs and models aimed to address racism and discrimination in Surrey and other jurisdictions.

Survey of Local Residents

The main goal of the survey was to expand our understanding of what kind of racism and discrimination incidents local residents are experiencing, where and why.

Who Are Survey Respondents?

Over 500 residents

have participated in the online survey that took place in June-July 2016

70% of respondents

were born in Canada, **30%** are immigrants

A majority of immigrants

surveyed have been in Canada for more than 10 years

23% are visible

minority (predominantly South Asians)

2% have

identified themselves as "Aboriginal Person"

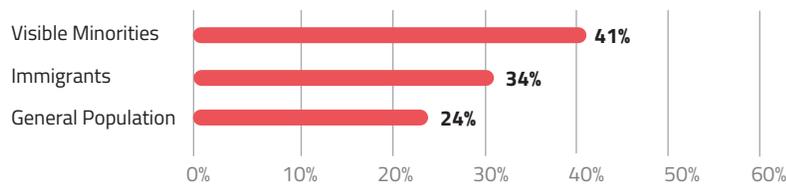
Only 4%

16-24 year old

Key Findings

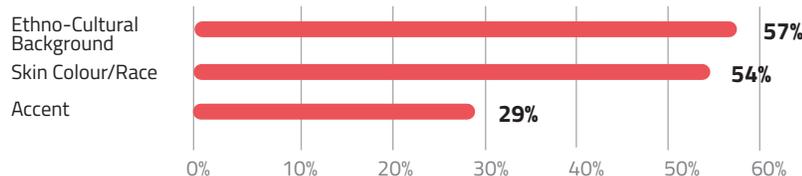
A significant percentage of people report witnessing (**80%**) or experiencing (**55%**) racism/discrimination in Surrey.

Percentage of respondents who experienced racism/discrimination often & sometimes:



Why?

The most common basis by which racism and/or racial discrimination is experienced/witnessed:

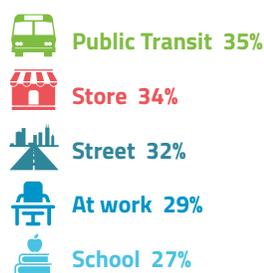


Where?

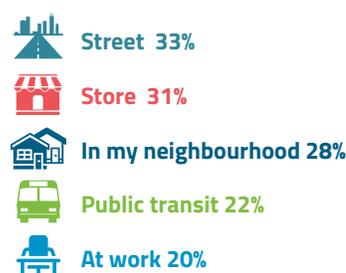
A significant segment of people surveyed (**27%**) experience racism/discrimination on public transit (more so than in other places).

Top 5 places where respondents experienced or witnessed racism/discrimination:

Visible minority



Non-visible minority



How?

- The most common institutional forms of racism/discrimination include:
 - receiving "poor customer service"
 - "unfair treatment in the workplace"
- The most common, non-institutional ways in which people experience or witness racism/discrimination are:
 - "stereotyping"
 - "unwelcome staring"
 - "name calling"

What is the impact?

- Impacts of racism/discrimination tend to be informal. Most notably, lacking a "sense of belonging in the community" (**33%** response rate), and interfering with "participation in community life" (**15%**).
- The overwhelming majority or respondents (**90%**) have no knowledge of services and programs that can help victims of racism/discrimination.

What are the solutions?

- The two top services to support victims that survey respondents were aware of were:
 - the BC Human Rights Tribunal
 - the RCMP

About **200** people provided feedback as to what would help address the racism and discrimination experienced or witnessed in Surrey. By far the most common suggestion is to:

- Educate more people about issues of racism/discrimination;
- Promote cultural awareness;
- Educate people about how to prevent racism/discrimination.

ABOUT THE SURREY LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

Established in 2014, Surrey LIP is led by the City of Surrey and governed by a committee drawn from 30 community organizations. The Surrey LIP works on making Surrey more welcoming and inclusive.