



As we observe the events south of the border, including President Trump’s attempt to ban immigration from seven countries—whose populations are almost exclusively of the Muslim faith, and the recent increased efforts to deport people with no official immigration status, it is easy for Canadians to shake our heads and take pride in not belonging to a country where a person with such racist attitudes could be elected to represent us. The recent hate-based killing of six Muslim men in a mosque in Quebec City, however, reminded us that we have a long way to go before racism is eradicated in Canada. The spraying of an east Vancouver secondary school with [racist graffiti](#) last month is an alarming example of racism closer to home.

The need for more to be done to overcome racism was highlighted in the responses to Ontario Member of Parliament, Iqra Khalid’s anti-Islamophobia motion, M-103. While the [threats](#) Khalid received from some members of the public were extremely alarming, so too, were [concerns](#) expressed by Conservative MPs. These included the suggestion that an anti-Islamophobia law would limit free speech, and the fear that by singling out Islam, Khalid’s bill was prioritizing one religion above all others.



Why do attempts to address inequities faced by a marginalized group so often make us feel that our own rights are under threat? What are the contributing factors to this reaction, and how can we help to overcome them? This edition of *Seeds of Social Justice* features resources that help raise awareness of the effects of racism and Islamophobia, and support the development of welcoming and inclusive attitudes.

While changing individual attitudes and behaviours is important, lasting and decisive change involves modifications in underlying systems and structures. The Executive Committee’s equity and inclusion recommendations to the Annual General Meeting propose changes in the structure of the BCTF Executive Committee (EC), with the goal of developing a more equitable and inclusive Federation. This is an extension of the important work the BCTF has been doing in equity and inclusion. Last June the EC received an extensive report and carried a series of 17 recommendations focussing on this important area of union work. For more information on these recommendations, see the [Reports and Resolutions document](#) on the AGM section of the BCTF member portal.

## BC Social Justice Program Calendar of Events



March	
5-11:	International Women's Week
8:	International Women's Day
16:	Bottled Water Free Day
21:	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
21-28:	Week of Solidarity with People Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination
22:	World Water Day
24:	Indspire Awards (formerly National Aboriginal Achievement Awards)
31:	Transgender Day of Visibility



During **International Women's Week**, **March 5–11** and [International Women's Day](#) on **March 8**, check out the [Educator's Toolkit](#) on the Status of Women [International Women's Day](#) web page.

The [Status of Women web page](#) features lessons and resources to use on these dates, including the [International Women's Day Timeline](#) poster, available in English and French, and the [International Women's Day lesson plan](#).

**March 16 is Bottled Water Free Day.** The BCTF Environmental Justice Action Group's [Bottled Water](#) poster can be used in classrooms to examine the negative effects of relying on bottled water. Cette affiche est disponible en français.

**March 21**, the [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#) kicks off the **Week of Solidarity with People Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination**. Check out this edition of *Seeds of Social Justice* and the [BCTF Antiracism Action Group web pages](#) for resources to use throughout the week.

**March 22**, [World Water Day](#), focuses on the crisis faced by over 663 million people around the world who have limited or no access to safe water. Have your class take a closer look at the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goal](#) that targets 2030 as the deadline for providing universal access to safe water. Download a factsheet to help focus on this year's theme, [waste water](#), on the World Water Day website. Intermediate teachers can try out the [Core Competencies Lesson 1](#) from the new [Climate Change Heroes posters and lesson plans](#) developed by the Environmental Justice Action Group. This lesson examines the amount of water people may waste while brushing their teeth.

**March 31** is the **Transgender Day of Visibility**. The YouTube videos [The Trans-Canada Experience-Episode 1 Cade](#) and [We all need a safe place to pee](#) are excellent resources for raising awareness among colleagues and students of the rights of trans people. Visit the BCTF [LGBTQ resources web page](#) for links to resources that will help make schools more inclusive for trans students.



Antiracism Action Group member Nassim Elbardouh has compiled an extensive list of [Islamophobia resources](#) which are posted on the [BCTF Islamophobia web page](#). These resources are appropriate for a variety of grade levels and include videos, lesson plans, news articles, reports, and contact information for a helpline.

Three lesson plans developed by Elbardouh, [Islamophobia Primary Lesson Plan](#), [Islamophobia Secondary Lesson Plan: Part 1](#) and [Islamophobia Secondary Lesson Plan: Part 2](#), are also available on the Islamophobia web page.

For an in-depth exploration of these and other antiracism resources, consider booking the workshop, *Incorporating Antiracist Education into BC's Revised Curriculum*.



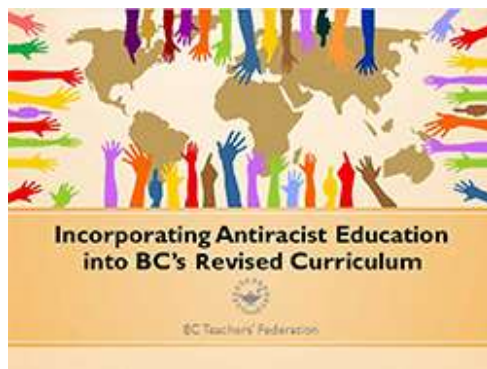
The Equity and Inclusion web pages will be launched soon on the Social Justice pages of the BCTF website. These pages will include resources to raise awareness of different forms of oppression and support the development of more inclusive spaces.

One set of resources featured on this site focuses on implicit bias, an evolved behaviour that we all display. Watch this [video](#) to learn more about the role implicit bias plays in limiting equity and inclusion. By spending a few minutes taking one of the [implicit bias tests](#), we can identify our areas of bias so that we can address them. This [article](#) provides some practical suggestions for overcoming implicit bias.

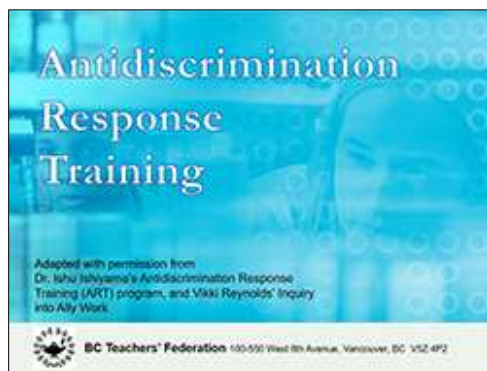


The [Beyond the Barriers: March 21 poster](#) is available with other posters and stickers on the [Antiracism posters, booklets and brochures page](#). To order hard copies of these and other antiracism resources, email [socialjustice@bctf.ca](mailto:socialjustice@bctf.ca), and include the quantity, exact name of the items needed, and the mailing address.





This workshop looks at privilege in society and how the legacy of our colonial past has shaped our present. It provides some youth perspectives on racism in schools, and explores strategies to recognize and eliminate racism in society, classrooms, schools, and communities.



This skills-based workshop is a powerful, practical way to promote awareness and empathy, and to develop the skills to effectively respond to discriminatory remarks and incidents of racism, sexism, and homophobia in the classroom and the workplace.

To request these or other social justice workshops for a school-based, local or regional professional development day or School Union Representative Training (SURT) day, click on the “Book this Workshop” link below the workshop description on the BCTF [Social Justice and Global Education Workshops page](#).



# FRESH VOICES

[Fresh Voices](#) is an initiative of the Vancouver Foundation and the BC Representative for Children and Youth that provides opportunities for refugee and immigrant youth across the

province to voice their concerns around barriers limiting their full inclusion as equal members of society. Through forums and consultations, youth from these communities developed a list of recommendations that were published in the [Community Forum Report and Recommendations](#).

Making schools more inclusive for refugee and immigrant youth is a key focus of these recommendations.

The BCTF Antiracism Action Group began collaborating with members of the Fresh Voices Youth Advisory Team earlier this year by inviting members to speak at an antiracism workshop at the BCTF Provincial Social Justice Conference. We are looking forward to learning more from these youth about how teachers can make their classrooms more welcoming for newcomers.



All of the Ed May Social Responsibility Grants and Local Social Justice Grants have been awarded for the 2016–17 school year. Congratulations to the grant recipients! Look for articles on some of the projects carried out using these funds in future editions of the *Social Justice Newsletter*.

## Opportunities for Members



The Federation's Committee for Action on Social Justice has vacancies in its Antipoverty and Peace and Global Education Action Groups. The committee makes recommendations to the BCTF Executive Committee on social justice issues, creates resources for teachers and locals, assists locals and zones in developing general social justice programs and projects, and works on developing links with other unions and community groups. Learn more and apply [online](#).

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