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Note: Due to a commitment to confidentiality, organizations are not able to speak to any details of reported incidents and can comment on data in the aggregate only.

### **More Anti-Asian Racist Incidents Reported Per Capita in Canada than US According to First National Report**

*Over 600 incidents reported since the onset of COVID-19*

September 9, 2020 – Since the onset of COVID-19, over 600 incidents of anti-Asian racism in Canada have been reported to [elimin8hate.org](http://elimin8hate.org) and [covidracism.ca](http://covidracism.ca). Attacks against the Asian Canadian community were reported from 7 provinces. The national report combining the data from both sites confirms the following disturbing trends and patterns:

- **Canada has a higher number of anti-Asian racism reports per capita than the United States.** British Columbia has the most reported incidents per capita of any sub-national region in North America, followed by California, New York and Ontario.<sup>1</sup>
- **Women are impacted the most, reporting 60% of all incidents.** In British Columbia, women are even more disproportionately impacted, accounting for nearly 70% of all reported incidents.
- **Verbal abuse and harassment are widespread, occurring in 65% of all reported incidents.** This includes racial slurs, threats and derogatory remarks.
- **Nearly 30% of reported incidents are assault,** including targeted coughing, spitting and physical attacks and violence.

This community-led, national collaboration of data collection on racism is the first of its kind, led by Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter, Project 1907, Vancouver Asian Film Festival and Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice. These leading organizations on social justice for Asians Canadian come together on the anniversary of the 1907 Anti-Asian Riots in

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<sup>1</sup> Calculated using own data and information from Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council. (2020). [Stop AAPI Hate National Report](#).



Vancouver to release joint findings, reflect on the persistence of white supremacy in Canada and call for action.

The 1907 Anti-Asian Riots were sparked by an anti-immigration rally led by white supremacists, targeting Chinese, Japanese and Punjabi Sikh communities. The rally exploded into 3 days of violence and vandalism in Vancouver's Chinatown and Japantown and marked the commencement of a string of racist federal policies that systematically prohibited Asian immigration to Canada. Although thousands of people are estimated to have participated in the riots, records show that only 1 person was convicted of any offense. Over 100 years later, this release of disturbing data points to the pervasive racism and white supremacy still woven in the fabric of Canada.

Organizers with Project 1907 said, "The recent surge in anti-Asian violence, vandalism and xenophobia is reminiscent of the 1907 Anti-Asian Riots and the decades of targeted discrimination that followed. Many seniors in our communities say they haven't experienced or feared such intense levels of hate since the mid 1900s."

"These disturbing data, particularly when viewing in contrast to the US, illustrate the way in which the COVID-19 pandemic remains deeply racialized. Government policies and all parties need to put an end to anti-Asian and anti-Chinese rhetoric that stirs up hateful attacks and prejudice against all Asian Canadians," said Justin Kong, Executive Director, Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter.

Commenting on the new report, Marie-Claude Landry, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, said, "Confronting and countering racism in Canada is going to take all of us. This important tool gives people a way to speak out against hate, intolerance and aggression. It also gives us valuable data on racist and xenophobic incidents in Canada."

Anti-Asian racist attacks are taking place against a backdrop of structural racism and violent histories that also affect Black, Indigenous and other racialized communities. Will brazen and violent racist attacks be part of our country's 'new normal' of donning face masks, physical distancing and quarantining?

"Without dedicated attention and resources from the government to engage communities to combat racism, Asian Canadians are bracing for a new reality of our country that "normalizes" scapegoating, race baiting and unabashed racist attacks," said Amy Go, President, Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice.

The four lead organizations call on the Federal Government to include an anti-racism strategy in its post pandemic recovery plan. A just recovery from the pandemic includes putting people's health and wellbeing first; strengthening the social safety net and providing relief directly to people; prioritizing the needs of workers and communities; building resilience to prevent future crises; building solidarity and equity across communities, generations and borders; and upholding Indigenous rights and working in partnership with Indigenous people.

"Concrete policies that put equitable recovery at the forefront must be implemented recognizing how Black people, Asians and other people of color, and especially those who are economically marginalized – remain disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and its fallout. Migrant workers



and undocumented people who have been working on the frontline throughout the pandemic need status now. And all levels of government must engage more with grassroots groups to ensure policies are aligned with an equitable recovery for all," added Justin Kong, Executive Director, Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter.

"These findings should not be shocking to Canadians. Racism has existed since the first European colonizers arrived in this country. To be better, we must do better. Saying "sorry" is very Canadian, but this must be followed up by concrete actions to drive change forward. As Provincial and Federal governments budget for an economic recovery, this an opportune time in history to dismantle these systems that oppress, marginalize and exclude. Racialized people need to be seen and heard and represented in leadership roles in the corporate world, government, institutions and media," said Vancouver Asian Film Festival.

We would like to thank the Government of Canada for their support. This project is made possible through generous funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

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*[Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter](#) is an organization of Chinese Canadians in the City of Toronto that promotes equity, social justice, inclusive civic participation, and respect for diversity.*

*[Project 1907](#) is a grassroots group of Asian Canadian community organizers, aiming to elevate Asian voices that are underrepresented and undervalued in mainstream political, social and cultural discourse. Through events, programming, education and resources, we explore the nuances of our intersectional experiences as entry points to building collective action and solidarity within, and across, communities experiencing racism.*

*[Vancouver Asian Film Festival](#) (VAFF) is the longest running Asian film festival in Canada. VAFF is dedicated to promoting and celebrating the diversity and depth of Asian culture and identity in film and media, and to help North American Asian actors and filmmakers more authentically and more powerfully define and express themselves on screen.*

*[Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice](#) is an organization that educates, engages and advocates for equity and justice for all in Canada.*

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We acknowledge that our organizing takes place on the traditional and ancestral territories of many Indigenous peoples and nations. This includes the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, as well as the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. We are grateful for the tremendous labour and leadership of Indigenous people in the racial justice movement and strive to use our experiences to build collective action and solidarity.

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