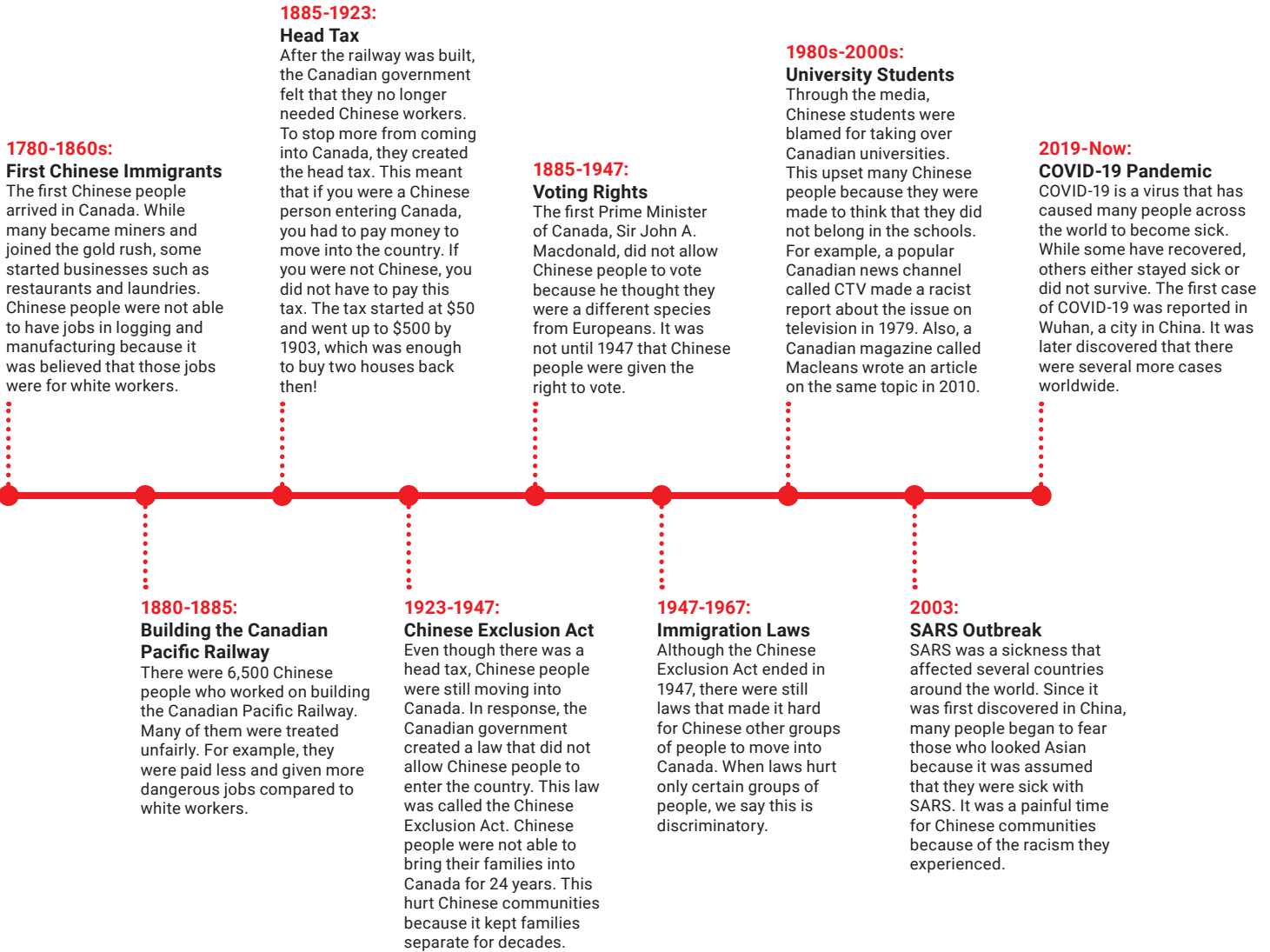


This poster is a part of a series to help students learn about racism in Canada and how to fight it in their communities! This learning series has 6 posters and 6 videos. If you can, try to start from the beginning and check them out in order! This poster is the second of the series.

Racism Toward Chinese Communities in Canada

Chinese people have been in Canada for a long time. They have experienced a lot of racism throughout their history.



Chinese people and those who look Asian are being blamed for spreading the virus.

Here is how the use of certain words and ideas is causing harm to the community...

Word or Idea	Why It Is Harmful
China virus, Chinese coronavirus, Wuhan virus, Kung Flu	These words are racist and put blame on an entire group of people. A virus does not have a race or ethnicity. Anyone can become sick with the virus.
Wet markets	These are marketplaces that sell fresh meat, fish, produce and other goods. They are part of the cultures in some areas of China and other places in the world. Just because you are not familiar with other cultures does not mean that you can look down on them. It is racist to think of people as dirty or sick because of their food and lifestyle.

Impacts of COVID-19 Racism

These ideas have increased racism toward Asian people. It happens often on the streets, at grocery stores and on public transportation.

When someone thinks that a person is sick because of their race, it is hurtful to that person. It is not fair to assume that everyone from one racial group is infected with the virus.

It is individual racism when someone:

- Says that you have the virus.
- Moves away or looks at you with disgust when you cough.
- Becomes angry at you because they believe it is your fault that they have to wear masks.



It is systemic racism when people:

- Stop eating Chinese or Asian food because it might make them sick with the virus.
- Stay away from Chinese or Asian businesses.
- Prefer doctors or nurses who are not Chinese or Asian.



Many Chinese and Asian people across Canada have shared their experiences of how the COVID-19 pandemic is causing racism. Here are just a few of them:

“A man came up to me and said, ‘You should go back to where you’re from with your virus,’ and he spit on my feet and left like nothing happened...I couldn’t believe something like that was happening to me at the moment. I was in shock.”

Adam Gagnon at a grocery store in Montreal, Quebec

“In early February before schools closed, my son told me about something that bothered him at school. His classmate told him he had coronavirus because he’s Chinese and Chinese people eat bats. Mason is usually talkative but he had trouble telling me this...I think he was embarrassed. When they go back to school, I worry that other kids will make comments to my boys that will make them feel bad about being Chinese.”

Rachel Chen from Caledon, Ontario

“There were two young Caucasian boys on bicycles, and they yelled things like ‘ching chong’ and ‘konnichiwa’. When I confronted them, one of them circled back and started sneezing several times in front of me, and then said ‘coronavirus’ before biking away. It was just really hurtful seeing that this was from someone so young and in my community. I think verbal harassment and name calling still has weight to it and can cause a lot of harm, because the more you hear that over your life...it reinforces the idea that ‘I don’t belong here’.”

Amanda Poh in Vancouver, British Columbia

For more stories, visit the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice at ccncsj.ca.

Responding to COVID-19 Racism

If you or someone you know sees or hears an act of racism related to COVID-19, tell a teacher or another adult who you trust. If you are comfortable reporting it, you can visit Fight COVID Racism at covidracism.ca.

It is equally important to become aware of racism that is not related to COVID-19. In the next sections, we will learn about the impact of racism on the Black and Indigenous communities.

This learning series was made by teachers with the support of students, families, organizations and members from Indigenous, Black and Chinese communities.

For more student resources, visit ccncsj.ca/further-learning.

For citations, visit ccncsj.ca/infographics.

For more information, visit ccncsj.ca.