

NDP Response: Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice

Thank you for reaching out to the NDP. Our commitments as a party are rooted in social justice and equity. As anti-Asian racism has risen over the course of the pandemic, the NDP has repeatedly called for the Liberal government to take further act. Symbolic gestures won't be enough.

Described below are the specific commitments that a NDP government would take to combat anti-Asian racism.

1. The root causes of anti-Asian racism.

Anti-Asian racism is not new in Canada. Our long history of anti-Asian policies, from the head tax to unfair immigration quotas, have left a legacy of systemic racism that needs to be addressed. These policies have also contributed to the ongoing anti-Asian racism that has only increased during the pandemic.

2. The most effective strategies to combat systemic anti-Asian racism.

Jagmeet Singh and the NDP believe that combatting systemic anti-Asian racism starts with federal leadership. In March, we successfully proposed a motion in the House of Commons that called on the government to take action, including by bringing together federal, provincial and territorial governments to coordinate our collective efforts, and working in collaboration with non-profits to combat hate crimes. We will also ensure that all major cities have dedicated hate crime units.

3. Combating online hate against Asian Canadians.

A NDP government will create a national working group to counter online hate, protect and expand public safety, and ensure that social media platforms are legally responsible for removing racist, hateful, and extremist content.

We are committed to working with stakeholders to ensure that our online strategy against racism specifically addresses anti-Asian racism and discrimination.

4. Addressing the pandemic's differential impacts on Asian Canadian communities, especially frontline workers, women, low-income, those with precarious employment, with precarious immigration status and do not speak English/French.

Throughout the pandemic, in many parts of our country, from Toronto to Vancouver, we saw specific communities that were disproportionately hurt by the pandemic. Many within Asian Canadian communities faced a shadow pandemic of racism and hate crimes. Women, immigrants, and low-income workers within these communities bore the brunt of this.

During the pandemic, Jagmeet Singh fought for better supports for people. Jagmeet led the way to fight for a more generous Canadian Emergency Response Benefit, passed a motion in the House of Commons on anti-Asian racism, and fought for paid sick leave and better protection for people who are precariously employed or have precarious immigration status. Most recently, the NDP also introduced a bill to ban symbols of hate.

New Democrats will continue to stand up against all forms of hate and racism.

5. Methods to ensure accountability, monitoring, and reporting for the progress and commitments made by the federal government to combat anti-Asian racism.

Stakeholders have repeatedly pointed out that the existing federal Anti-Racism Strategy has too many loopholes to be effective. One of the biggest gaps is that the strategy fails to mention anti-Asian racism as a key form of discrimination that needs to be addressed. The Liberals only started to act when evidence emerged about the skyrocketing rise in anti-Asian racism despite decades of anti-Asian racism.

The current efforts are insufficient, completed in secret without key stakeholder involvement, and were delayed for far too long.

A NDP government will apply an equity lens to our policies, scale up programs to dismantle discrimination, and work with organizations like the CCNC-SJ to develop community-led efforts to combat anti-Asian racism.

A NDP government will also lead a national effort for the collection of race-based data to make informed policy decisions to improve the outcomes for racialized Canadians and the communities they live in.

6. Ensuring collaboration and dialogues between Asian Canadian communities and the government in addressing anti-Asian racism and its intersectionality with other forms of oppression.

We cannot allow the pandemic to further fuel anti-Asian racism and hate crimes. Much of the rise in anti-Asian racism also overlaps with misogyny and xenophobia.

Community partners like the CCNC-SJ should not have to demand a seat at the table to work with the federal government. Nor should you have to wait for an exponential rise in anti-Asian racism before the federal government intervenes.

Canadians deserve a federal government that has the courage to name white supremacy and systemic racism, and, more importantly, to develop a national approach to dismantling it.

A NDP government commits to ensuring that there is stable, ongoing collaboration with Asian Canadian communities and stakeholders to tackle this vitally important issue.