

NDP Response: CPAC

Dear Mr. Ti Wang,

Thank you for taking the time to write to the New Democratic Party to highlight the areas of importance to BIPOC communities, particularly for Asian Canadians. New Democrats share the concerns that CPAC has raised around equity, diversity, and anti-racism. These are central values to the NDP strives to bring to parliament.

The pandemic exposed how decades of systemic racism, left unaddressed, hurt many Canadians. While the pandemic affected all Canadians, we saw how low-income and racialized communities were disproportionately impacted. Vaccines were slow to get to communities where racialized people live while the lack of access to health care and crowded housing conditions made it easier for COVID-19 to spread within these communities.

The recent uptick in anti-Asian racism, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism, along with systemic racism that impacts many communities make it clear that we need federal leadership that has the courage to respond to all forms of racism and discrimination. and to dismantle white supremacy.

Here are ways that a NDP government will address these issues in partnership with organizations like CPAC:

1. *What specific measures will you take, at the legislative, policy and operational levels, to combat racism, crack down on hate crime and hate incidents, and materially increase equity, diversity and inclusion in the hierarchies of the workplace?*

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 will also ensure that all major cities have dedicated hate crime units.

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. We will work with provinces and territories to improve race-based data collection, and develop reporting and accountability mechanisms alongside racialized and Indigenous communities.

2. *Will you commit to designate a minister with major responsibilities in equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism?*

A NDP government will develop a whole-of-government approach to implementing equity, diversity, and inclusion in our policies. We will set an example by ensuring that the federal government finally addresses systemic racism within the civil service,

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which is currently facing at least one class action lawsuit on behalf of Black federal employees as a consequence of alleged decades-long discrimination.

3. *Will you commit to maintain or increase the infrastructure and funding for the anti-racism related grant programs, such as Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives (CSMARI) and Anti-Racism Action Program (ARAP)?*

The NDP will continue supports for the Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives program and Anti-Racism Action Program. We will assess how to strengthen these programs to put timely, meaningful action to words and ensure we can work together with community leaders beyond the two-year timeline currently in place.

4. *Will you commit to maintain and strengthen the Federal Anti-racism Secretariat and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation?*

Stakeholders have repeatedly pointed out that the existing federal Anti-Racism Strategy has too many loopholes to be effective. It is unfortunate that it took the Liberal government several years to launch the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat even as evidence emerged about the skyrocketing rise in hate crime and discrimination.

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 federal efforts to dismantle discrimination, and work with organizations like the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and CPAC to develop community-led efforts to combat anti-Asian racism.

5. *What specific steps will you take to address anti-Asian racism? Will you commit to a national summit on anti-Asian racism, in the same fashion as the National Summits on Islamophobia and on Anti-Semitism?*

In March, following the tragic shootings in Atlanta, the NDP successfully proposed a motion in the House of Commons that called on the government to take action against anti-Asian racism, 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.

If elected, the NDP will work to fulfil these recommendations alongside Asian Canadian community members and stakeholders like CPAC.

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Thank you again for reaching out. New Democrats look forward to strengthening our partnership so we can achieve our shared vision of a better future for all Canadians.