

## Anti-Racism Data Legislation Community Engagement Sessions: Questions and Answers

### WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT DEVELOPING ANTI-RACISM DATA LEGISLATION AND WHY NOW?

There is currently a lack of consistency and many regulatory gaps in the way the government collects and uses race-based data. The legislation will provide greater protection and standardization of the collection, use and disclosure of de-identified race-based data, which will help government, Indigenous and racialized communities to better identify and address systemic racism in government services. Black, Indigenous and racialized communities have been advocating for the collection of race-based data for a long time. These communities have told the government that they experience unequal access and poorer outcomes when accessing public sector services including policing, health care and education. Development of this legislation was a key recommendation of the BC Human Rights Commissioner's report entitled Disaggregated Demographic Data Collection in British Columbia.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ANTI RACISM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS?

Formally described as the "Anti-Racism Data Legislation Community Engagement Sessions", the goal of the engagements will be to hear from our Metis communities about what kind of data should be collected, how it should be collected in ways that build trust among communities, and how communities might wish to be involved in using and analyzing the data with the government.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GRANT?

The purpose of the Anti-Racism Data Legislation Community Engagement Grant is to provide the necessary support to Indigenous and other racialized community organizations that have been asked to gather input on the anti-racism data legislation that the Province plans to introduce in 2022. The focus of this legislation will be to provide an ethical framework for the collection and use of data of personal identity factors such as race, ethnicity, faith and other similar categories when a resident of British Columbia accesses provincial government services. The sole purpose of knowing this information is to allow the BC Government to better identify and address evidence of systemic racism in government services.

### WILL I BE ASKED TO SHARE SPECIFIC INSTANCES OF WHEN I FACED RACISM OR DISCRIMINATION AS A METIS PERSON?

It is VERY IMPORTANT to note that these engagements are not about collecting information on our personal or historical experiences. We are not collecting stories of how and when you endured racism or discrimination as a self-identified Metis individual or community. At this point, the BC Government seeks to hear directly from Indigenous and racialized communities in B.C. about their concerns, needs and priorities related to the collection, use and disclosure of race-based data. You will be answering questions like: How would you like your personal race-based information to be collected? When the government is collecting this information, how would you like it to be done so that it ensures your

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privacy? What needs to be done so that you feel safe in sharing the information and so that you feel confident that your information is secure? Who should have access to the information that you share at any point of service location? Should racialized groups have a role in interpreting collected information? How can organizations like the BCMF contribute to the end-use of the information as it is shaped into legislation, policy and directives?

### WHAT AM I BEING ASKED TO DO?

Participants are invited to share basic information about their perspectives on government race-based data collection. A series of questions have been designed to help the Government get information on some key areas related to the Anti-Racism Data Legislation. The questions pertain to the following four key areas:

- Section 1: How are you represented in the data?
- Section 2: Collection of race-based data?
- Section 3: Access and use of race-based data?
- Section 4: Impacts of using race-based data?

Your responsibility is to come to the session with an open mind and a willingness to share your perspectives. The facilitator, who will be BCMF's Director of Research, Joe Desjarlais, will guide you through a series of questions that deal with each of the 4 sections and you will be given the opportunity to respond. You are under no obligation to provide answers to any of the questions but you are encouraged to provide your perspectives.

### WHY DID WE APPLY FOR THIS FUNDING?

BC Metis Federation applied for this funding to address our place with the Provincial Government's work on the upcoming Reconciliation Act. Sadly, there has been no shortage of anti-Metis racism in the history of BC. More recently, anti-Metis bias has been evident in First Nation political organizations, which have been intolerant of our place in this reconciliation engagement with the Province. For more information on this see: BC Metis Federation continues to address ongoing racism from First Nations Leadership Council - BC Métis Federation. While we have faced challenges of racism and discrimination as an organization, it is critically important that our local communities and members share their own perspectives on race-based data gathering in order to support the inclusion of Metis peoples in future reconciliation work by the Province.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY?

In addition to meeting the needs of the government to improve services or improve their future actions, participation in these sessions can act as a first step toward knowledge partnerships between the Province and BCMF and partner communities. Canadians and their governments have committed to a pathway of reconciliation, social justice and enhanced wellbeing for Canada's Metis people. Metis people and communities have a right to control and share their knowledge and benefit from it as an expression of self determination. This is called knowledge sovereignty. These sessions can set the stage for BCMF members and partner communities to better understand colonial and historical impacts of racism and

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discrimination, as well as to ensure that any information that is gathered by, for or about us is used in such a way that directly benefits our communities.

**Do I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE TO EVERY QUESTION THAT IS ASKED?**

These are “community meetings” that are going to be facilitated by Joe Desjarlais through an on-line format due to the complications from Covid-19. You can sign on to the video, cell, or land-line call as an individual or you can participate on the video call with a group of members from your community as organized by a community leader. Your attendance is entirely voluntary, and you can decide to answer all, some, or none of the questions, depending upon your level of comfort and knowledge.

**ALL RESPONSES THAT ARE REPORTED TO THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE GENERALIZED AND UNSPECIFIED. YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS ANONYMOUS, CONFIDENTIAL, AND VOLUNTARY. YOU CAN CHOOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE AT ANY TIME.**

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