

INTERSECTIONAL
ANTI-RACIST HEALTH
POLICY FOR
RACIALIZED, MUSLIM
AND MIGRANT
COMMUNITIES

ARC-NL's Health Care for All Campaign &
the Addressing Islamophobia in NL Project

ARC-NL

Anti-Racism Coalition
Newfoundland & Labrador






1

INTRODUCTION TO ARC-NL

The Anti-Racism Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador (ARC-NL) is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization which actively works to counter all forms of racism. The main objective of the ARC-NL is to ***promote and support a culture of anti-racism within the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.***

Building a culture of anti-racism within the province is crucial to address all forms of racisms, including anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Muslim racism, anti-migrant xenophobia, Islamophobia, anti-semitism and other forms of religious intolerance.



2

FACING & ADDRESSING RACISMS IN NL

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- ❖ Launched our ***Healthcare for All*** Campaign in 2020
 - ❖ Advocacy for equity in access to vaccines, COVID Passport, health information & MCP (e.g., [Improving Vaccine Open Letter 2021](#))
- ❖ Community partner of the ***Addressing Islamophobia in NL*** Project
- ❖ Leadership of many ongoing and upcoming anti-racist initiatives in NL
- ❖ Support of Black, Indigenous and racialized community anti-racist initiatives across the province
- ❖ Broad intersectional justice-based partnerships with community, non-profit and extra-governmental organizations

3

3

EXPLOITATION & EXCLUSION: HOW THE CURRENT MCP SYSTEM ECHOES SYSTEMIC RACISM

Requirements for NL migrants to receive MCP (but are not limited to):

- Educational Enrollment: MCP expires after program of study
- Paper-back document process that takes weeks to process.
- Residency for a prescribed number of days before receiving of MCP benefits or MCP card.
- Stable employment conditions and proof of 1-year, full-time, contracts.
- Language barriers: MCP is explained almost exclusively in French and English

4

4

MCP: WHAT WE PROPOSE...

The provincial government should ensure MCP absorbs the cost for all MCP services for everyone living and working in the province.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Temporary Foreign Workers
- Post-Graduate Work-Permit Holders
- All international students regardless of full-time status
 - Remove the yearly renewal process for MCP for international students.
 - Have it automatically renew based on intended study period.
- Undocumented People
- Asylum seekers
- Those waiting on Immigration Documents
- Those who are stranded due to COVID-19

5

5

...CLOSING THOUGHTS ON MCP

The current requirements to obtain **MCP make migrants unnecessarily more vulnerable**, given the lengthy and precarious pathways to immigration and the difficulties that migrants face to secure employment.

NL remains among one of the strictest of the Atlantic provinces when it comes to qualifying migrants for MCP. This makes Newfoundland and Labrador one of the Atlantic provinces most likely to put racialized and migrant people's health at risk.

6

6



**Addressing Islamophobia in
Newfoundland and Labrador**

For more information, contact:



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**MEMORIAL
UNIVERSITY**

https://www.mun.ca/reIstudies/more/AddressingIslamophobia/AI_Report_Recommendations_FINAL.pdf




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7



Provincial Recommendations

1. The Province develop an Anti-Racism/Anti-Islamophobia (AR/AI) Action Plan 2020-2025 which outlines the Province's specific commitments to addressing Islamophobia and racism in NL.
2. The Province fund the Human Rights Commission of NL and the Anti-Racism Coalition of NL to monitor and report on the prevalence and effects of incidents of racist, Islamophobic and other forms of cultural and religious discrimination.
3. The Province take leadership in promoting anti-racism and anti-Islamophobia in all sectors through public education, collaborative community discussions, and government policy, in the following sectors:
 - 3A. Public Education
 - 3B. Housing and Planning
 - 3C. Police Services
 - 3D. Health Services
 - 3E. Media
 - 3F. Labour force and Workplace
 - 3G. Law and Human Rights



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8



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3D. HEALTH SERVICES

The Province should:

- Ensure that the legislation that govern the professions include antiIslamophobia, anti-racism, anti-oppression, and cultural safety/competency training and regular policy/practice reviews.
- Consult regularly with local Muslim, Indigenous and racialized communities, as well as the Anti-Racism Coalition-NL, the NL Human Rights Commission and other groups to discuss any concerns and/or complaints as they arise (Gunn, n.d).
- Increase the inclusion of diverse ways of healing to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of Indigenous, Muslim, and other racialized patients/clients (Reading, 2014).
- Establish or enhance a comprehensive anti-racism and antidiscrimination vision statement.
- Implement effective policies and procedures (including a complaints mechanism), as well as a commitment to pursue mandatory staff training to help prevent and respond to issues of racism and discrimination in health services and in the community.
- Increase employment opportunities for Indigenous, Muslim, and other racialized peoples among healthcare providers, and to provide support to those individuals so they may thrive while employed in healthcare.



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9

STORIES OF INTERSECTIONAL ANTI-MUSLIM RACISMS AND LACK OF TRUST OF NL HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS

- Experiences of racist discrimination of patients and clients in multiple healthcare settings
- Muslim healthcare providers spoke of individual experiences of cultural/religious intolerance (lack of accommodations, for example), Islamophobia and individual anti-Muslim, anti-Black, anti-Asian, anti-Arab forms of racism (both by patients/clients and colleagues)
- Inadequate responses to private and public cases of racism by healthcare institutions (ex., emergency resident who self-identified as an "Islamophobe") lead to a crisis of trust



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10

ENSURING HEALTH EQUITY FOR MIGRANT, MUSLIM & RACIALIZED PEOPLE IN NL

- An **intersectional anti-racist health policy approach** is needed where the health of migrant, Muslim, Indigenous, Black, Asian and other racialized people is **centered**, and not an afterthought.
- Ensure **MCP coverage is guaranteed for all** who call NL home and is not connected to employment, school or citizenship status.
- **Develop and integrate anti-racist policies** within all sectors of the healthcare systems for patients, clients and workers **with** racialized communities.
- **Increase of publicly available data** about migrant and racialized people, and **meaningful representation** in healthcare research.

11

11

THANK YOU!

Contact:

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<https://www.facebook.com/arcofnl> or
https://www.instagram.com/arc_nl/

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12