

# MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release  
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## **Anti-racist advocacy groups issue recommendations in response to racist school textbook and assignment**

The Anti-Racism Coalition Newfoundland and Labrador (ARC-NL), Healthcare for All Campaign, Black Lives Matter-NL (BLMNL), Migrant Students United-NL Chapter (MSU-NL), Addressing Islamophobia in NL, Indigenous Activist Collective (IAC), and Social Justice Co-Op (SJC) are appalled by the harmful racist and anti-migrant narratives taught within our school system in 2022, as recently seen in the assignment titled “How Many Immigrants Should Canada Accept?” In response, the groups have come together to list a series of recommendations for the Department of Education and all who participate in the K-12 system.

The letter outlines detailed actions for the Department of Education, NLESD, CSFP and the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers Association and other stakeholders in the K-12 system. The recommendations include, but are not limited to: hiring a committee of racialized consultants to do a comprehensive review of the curriculum; recruiting and retaining Indigenous, migrant and racialized educators with demonstrated experience in anti-racist teaching; and anti-racism training for current and future educators in our province.

“We are asking the Department of Education to commit to an anti-racist curriculum framework for the K-12 school system. This framework should have been in place already,” said Sobia Shaikh of ARC-NL. “We have serious concerns about the inadequacy of the curriculum and its treatment of the lived experience of students who are from immigrant, refugee, Black, Indigenous and other racialized communities in NL,” stated Raven Khadeja of BLM-NL. “We have presented a letter to the Minister of Education with detailed recommendations needed to restore trust in our K-12 educational system,” a member of IAC added.

“Years of racist immigration teachings cannot be easily undone,” said Maria Dussan of ARC-NL’s Healthcare for All Campaign. “We need to act now to begin remediating the profound impact that years of racist teachings have had on migrant, refugee, Black and other racialized communities in our province,” stated Lore Resendiz of MSU-NL Chapter. “So much of what we know and understand comes from the classroom, and we must ensure what we are teaching our youth will create a brighter future that understands and practices anti-racism”, said Jennifer Selby of Addressing Islamophobia in NL.

A petition with the full list of recommendations made by the anti-racist advocacy groups can be found [here](#).

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### **For further information, please contact:**

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