

SURP's statement against systemic racism and discrimination

The School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) at Ryerson University joins the countless statements and direct actions condemning the most recent expressions of anti-Black, anti-Indigenous, and anti-Asian racism in Canada, North America, and beyond. As faculty, staff, and students at an urban planning school within the Faculty of Community Services we recognize that the recent death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet here in Toronto, as well as the killings of Chantel Moore in New Brunswick, and Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd in the United States are brutal reminders of the ongoing structural violence and inequities faced by racialized communities everyday. These inequities are grounded in systemic discrimination and White supremacy, to which planning as a socio-spatial discipline has contributed historically and still contributes today. From residential segregation, to exclusionary zoning, to urban renewal-induced displacement, to the creation of the Indigenous reserve system in Canada, planners have been intimately complicit with processes of injustice afflicting the same communities that once again today become the target of violence and discrimination.

Over the past week, members of the SURP community – including alumni, faculty, staff, and current students – have engaged in conversation and reflection through different spaces. From our different standpoints, we are united in the spirit of making our School a place where racism is confronted and addressed, where the voices and experiences of racialized and other historically marginalized communities belong and are amplified, and where professional planners are trained to be aware of multiple forms of systemic discrimination and are committed to challenging them through their practice.

The Faculty of Community Services Dean's Office is committing to action. As a School we are committed to working as a community to keep moving forward in terms of transformations within our curriculum, pedagogical approaches, engagement with local communities, and hiring practices to ensure SURP grows to reflect the diversity of the cities in which we live and is responsive to the needs of our students. These actions will be shared in the weeks and months to come. We commit to sharing these next steps with our students, alumni, and colleagues. As individuals – many of whom work within and have benefitted from the systems that discriminate against racialized communities – we encourage each other to do our own work to learn about systemic racism and other forms of discrimination, and to unlearn the values, actions, and ways of thinking that help reproduce injustice for Black, Indigenous, and communities of color. We stand in solidarity with the families and communities who are grieving the loss of their loved ones and demanding justice.

Toronto, June 9, 2020

RYERSON UNIVERSITY'S RESPONSES

President Lachemi shared [this message](#) with the Ryerson Community on June 2nd.

PLANNING RESPONSES

The Ontario Professional Planners' Institute message is [here](#).

The Urban Land Institute Toronto's message is [here](#).

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning's message is [here](#).

RESOURCES TO START: SUPPORTING BLACK COMMUNITIES NOW

Black Organizations And Anti-Racist Groups Canadians [Can Support](#) Now

100 [Black owned businesses](#) in Toronto