



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 28, 2020

North Shore Multicultural Society Responds to COVID-19 Related Racism

The North Shore Multicultural Society (NSMS) has become aware of an increase in racism directed towards local residents of Asian descent in our North Shore communities. In recent days, NSMS has been informed by a number of immigrants that they have been verbally attacked, threatened, and intimidated in public spaces while completing essential errands for themselves and their families.

All the attacks have been linked to racializing the causes of the COVID-19 pandemic. The North Shore Multicultural Society strongly condemns these acts of hate which impact and threaten our community safety and contravene human rights.

While our North Shore communities work together to halt the spread of COVID-19, we must remember that people are impacted differently. The COVID-19 pandemic is highlighting existing systemic racism and other structural inequities in our society related to gender, health, economic status, and other factors.

To be strong and resilient, everyone in our communities needs equal access to health, safety, and justice. Let us stand together in condemning these acts; racism must not be allowed in public places.

The North Shore Multicultural Society is working closely with the victims, as well as the North Vancouver RCMP and West Vancouver Police, to ensure that residents can report these attacks in a supported way. We are also connecting victims with counselling services in the community and building our own organizational capacity to support clients, staff, and the broader community in these challenging times. As a part of this approach, NSMS plans to deepen our work around community level anti-racism strategies and will be hosting community discussions and educational opportunities in the near future.

If you have experienced COVID-19 related racism, please know you can connect with us at the North Shore Multicultural Society - we can help you to report the crime and get support. If you are in immediate danger, please call 911.

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