

Uniting Against Systemic Racism and Discrimination

June 19, 2020



United Way of the Lower Mainland, along with other United Ways across Canada and the United States, is saying no to systemic racism and discrimination toward our Black, Indigenous and Asian communities.

We ask our staff and volunteers to show up and act with courage as one of our core values. This is a way we express our vision for a healthy, caring and **inclusive** community. But we know our community can be exclusive, isolating, intolerant, and inequitable. It will take courage from us all to change how we act in support of those facing racism and discrimination. For us that means facing any change with sincerity – walking the talk.

While we have adapted to focus on responding to the COVID-19 crisis, we cannot lose sight of social justice issues that we have worked to change for decades. We pride ourselves on the diversity and passion of our staff and volunteers, and the help our donors provide to those made vulnerable. But we too often support from the background while promoting our community agencies to fight systemic social issues head-on. We want to do our part, to be there for those who need our help and with those feeling the pain and fear of discrimination.

We are talking to community partners who know better than us. We are asking how we can help in real, meaningful ways. We are looking to our capable staff and volunteers for advice on what we can do differently. We are lifting up our heads from our COVID-19 work and re-igniting our investment into social justice. We are committed to listening and learning, doing better and working harder to fight systematic racism and injustices.

This statement is a starting point on the path to joining courageous efforts like Black Lives Matter in a spirit of open learning, solidarity and informed action.