

# International Day for the **Elimination** of **Racial** **Discrimination**

**#ChooseACTION to BE Anti-Racist**

In the Peel District School Board, we [#ChooseACTION](#) each and every day to proactively eliminate racism in all forms and be inclusive in our school communities. We use an anti-oppressive stance to support a safe and positive Climate for Learning and Working and maintain staff, student and community well-being. This important day, which we will recognize as a board on **Tuesday, March 24** will help lead the work we all do in our schools with our students in support of equity and inclusion.

## History of the Day:



On March 21, 1960, Afrikaner police opened fire and killed 69 Indigenous South African people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa. They were protesting against the apartheid "pass laws" that severely restricted the movement and freedom of Indigenous South Africans. Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the General Assembly of the United Nations called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

## What does it mean to be Anti-Racist?

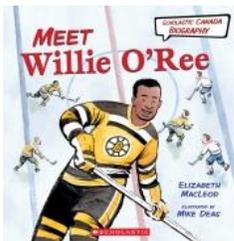
To be anti-racist means that you oppose racism. Anti-racists actively oppose and challenge racism in its many forms including racist attitudes and beliefs, and unjust practices, policies, and laws. Anti-racists actively work to disrupt racism through education and action. They learn about different social identities, the history of racism and resistance against it. Anti-racists actively seek the elimination of racism in all its forms, including systemic, institutional, structural, subtle, and individual racism.

## Peel District School Board Focus

This year, supports and resources focused on Anti-Black Racism and Islamophobia have been curated and provided to schools. Educators are encouraged to use this sampling of tools throughout the year in our schools and classrooms. Our goal is to proactively eliminate racial discrimination every day.

### What Does Anti-Black Racism Mean?

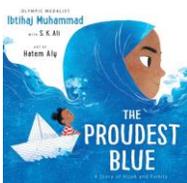
“Anti-Black racism is prejudice, attitudes, beliefs, stereotyping and discrimination that is directed at people of African descent and is rooted in their unique history and experience of enslavement. Anti-Black racism is deeply entrenched in Canadian institutions, policies and practices, such that Anti-Black racism is either functionally normalized or rendered invisible to the larger white society. Anti-Black racism is manifested in the legacy of the current social, economic, and political marginalization of African Canadians in society such as the lack of opportunities, lower socioeconomic status, higher unemployment, significant poverty rates and overrepresentation in the criminal justice system.” ~ (African Canadian Legal Clinic)



The resource being used by schools to support the specific focus on understanding and disrupting anti-Black racism is, [Meet Willie O'Ree by Elizabeth MacLeod](#) (2020).

### What is Islamophobia?

Islamophobia can be described as stereotypes, bias or acts of hostility towards individual Muslims or followers of Islam in general. In addition to individual acts of intolerance and racial profiling, Islamophobia leads to viewing Muslims as a greater security threat on an institutional, systemic and societal level. (Ontario Human Rights Code)



The resource being used by schools to support the specific focus on building awareness and understanding of Islamophobia is, [The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad](#) (2019)

*“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” Nelson Mandela – [Long Walk to Freedom](#)*