

Towards “Risk” Based Anti-Racism

Disrupting Safe Spaces 4 Racism
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Towards “Risk” Based Anti-Racism



Anishinaabe Aki
=
Ojibwe Homeland

Towards “Risk” Based Anti-Racism



With the res bridge on fire, we just need to find a way to block off the other entrances to the res and this town will be saved! #FenceItUp

10/29/2013, 10:24 PM



That fire on the bridge could just keep travelling towards the rest of the reserve. #justsaying #saveTBay 🔥🔥🙌🙌

10/30/2013, 12:53 AM

Recommendations (*Shifting the Lens*)

"SHIFTING THE LENS" RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION #1 – LEAD / FACILITATE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Facilitate regular community forums/dialogue groups in safe and neutral spaces. This can be something as elaborate or low-budget as we want to make it. We can vary the focus and appeal to many different people already involved in or interested in this work. It can be more edgy - for example, advertised as *Investigating White Supremacy (or Privilege) and How it Impacts Racism* or *Stopping Hate in Election Campaigns* - or very targeted - for example, *Understanding Racism for Business Leaders* or bringing in the Saskatoon Police Chief to speak on *Understanding Racism for Law Enforcement* where we invite TB Police, OPP, the Anishinabek Police Services, NAN Police, Con College and LU Security.

Recommendations (*Shifting the Lens*)

RECOMMENDATION #6 – PREPARE TOOL KITS

Develop Anti-Racism Tool Kits for use throughout the community to provide public education and training in cultural sensitivity, respect, "whiteness" awareness, education, empathy-building and other aspects of anti-racism for use in schools, workplaces, multicultural centres, etc. Organize public workshops and provide opportunities for meaningful, open, action-oriented discussions on why racism persists (possibly because White people are advantaged by it – as per Becky's talk on white supremacy).

Risky Questions

- Safety for whom?
- Can safety for Indigenous peoples and people of colour exist in a society always-already structured by white supremacy?

Don't Reinvent the Wheel

Zeus Leonardo and Ronald Porter:

Pedagogy of Fear: Toward a Fanonian Theory of "Safety" in Race Dialogue

Race, Ethnicity and Education 13 no.2 (2010).

<http://vocserve.berkeley.edu/faculty/ZLeonardo/PedagogyofFear.pdf>

On Violence

Dehumanizing Violence

- Disfigure, subdue and control.

Humanizing Violence

- Challenges oppression, questions positions of power.
- Ultimately: Restores people to their rightful places.

White Supremacy

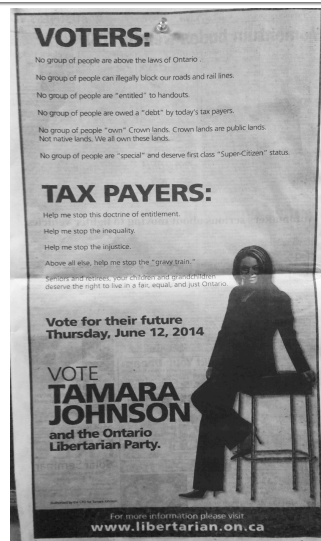


White Supremacy

Not just men and women in white hats, but also includes:

- Missing, Murdered and Traded Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Indigenous peoples over-represented in prisons.

White Backlash



Tamara Johnson's election platform (full page ad), *Chronicle Journal*, June 10, 2014.

City of Thunder Bay's 2015-2018 Corporate Strategic Plan

- Goal #2.5: "Encourage respect and make racism and discrimination unacceptable."^[1]
- Why not name white supremacy and make it unacceptable instead?

[1] City of Thunder Bay, *Becoming Our Best: 2015-2018 Corporate Strategic Plan*, June 22, 2015, <http://www.thunderbay.ca/Assets/City+Government/News+&+Strategic+Initiatives/docs/2015-2015+Strategic+Plan++Final.pdf>

On Risk Taking

1. Undo the violence that is inherent to safe-space dialogue.
2. Enact a form of liberatory violence within race discussions to allow for a creativity that shifts the standards of humanity.

Flip the Lens

1. Is white comfort being protected?
2. Whose interests are being centered?
3. Re sensitivity training: Is white supremacy included as part of increasing sensitivity?
4. Does the proposed change/project take appropriate risks?
 - a) Does it actually name white supremacy?
 - b) Does it account for settler colonialism?

End and Contact

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