



Canadian  
Race Relations  
Foundation

Fondation  
canadienne des  
relations raciales

## Event Report

1. **Name of the Event:** Racism: Recognize it. Reject it! Youth Leadership Workshop
2. **Event Date(s):** November 20 & 21, 2019
3. **Brief Description of the Event:** The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) in partnership with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF) offered opportunity for Thom Collegiate students to participate in an anti-racism leadership workshop. Students were engaged with peers as they explore identity, intercultural relationships, power, privilege, racism and discrimination. Day-2: Facilitator training was provided for ACT! (Regina Public Schools' Anti-racism, Cross-cultural Team development) a day prior to the workshop. The trained facilitators led the small group activities. The mix of small group and large group activities allow participants to feel comfortable, explore their own and others' experiences and look for ways to overcome challenges.
4. **Speakers & Moderators: Facilitators:** Rhonda Rosenberg, MCoS Executive Director, Nicholas Bage, Margo Campbell, Thom ACT leaders, Yordanos Tesfamariam, MCoS Education & BRIDGES Coordinator  
**Keynote Speaker:** Elder Wanda Lewis opened the event with a prayer asking students to participate in the activities with an open mind and heart. She also had the opportunity to share with students about personal experiences involving racism that spoke to each student.
5. **Audience:**
  - a. **Number of the attendees:** Total 165 Participants:
  - b. **Who were the main audience?** For the day 2- workshop participants were Thom collegiate 140 grade 9 students, 12 ACT leaders Facilitators, 8 teachers, 3 MCoS facilitators, and 2 teachers' facilitators.
6. **Strategic Impact**

### CRRF Strategic Objectives 2017-2020

The CRRF will ...

- 1) Identify key issues of racism and racial discrimination
- 2) Be recognized as the leading national comprehensive resource on racism, race relations, best practices and recommended solutions
- 3) Engage Canadian Youth and other groups in addressing racism and race relations using a variety of means
- 4) Develop and promote education on the content of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Multiculturalism Act, their inherent values as a source for building a common understanding of our individual responsibilities, and as a tool for exploring the nature of rights and their limits in Canada with respect to speech, religious beliefs and discrimination

#### a. Which of the above strategic objectives were met?

The workshop met all the objectives. The afternoon session of the workshop were developed in alignment with CRRF Doing the Right Thing learning resource. MCoS utilizing this resources and produced an activity called: immigration, refugees and internment simulation. Students engaged with peers as they participated in activities exploring identity, intercultural relationships, power, privilege, racism, and discrimination.

Racism affects each person differently, a variety of activities was chosen to help participants understand the nature of racism. From Mingling, which allows participants to be in their bodies, become familiar with the space and each other in a non-threatening way, and trust building activities to the power dynamics of bully/victim/bystander and the stereotyping simulation of sticky labels, students learned how to develop an awareness of racial discrimination while interacting with each other. Furthermore, students' conceptions of the effects of colonization on First Nations people were challenged through the colonization simulation. Facilitated by Rhonda Rosenberg, Executive Director of MCoS, and Thom ACT leaders, students took on family roles in order to interact with "European colonizers". Through the interplay of contact, trade, land negotiations, treaty signing and Residential School attendance, students gained practical knowledge and understanding of Canada's troubled past and present with Indigenous people.

In addition, role-play was used as a vehicle for understanding the experiences certain Canadian ethnocultural communities, immigrants and refugees endured. This activity was inspired by work done by The Canadian Race Relations Foundation as a part of an initiative to "realize a national framework for understanding Canadian diversity". The Immigration, Refugee and Internment Simulation allowed students to experience the discriminatory policies of the Canadian government "Immigration Officials" who decided their fate based on historical information. Students were engaged in all activities and ended the day with a circle where they shared many aspects of learning, connection and hope.

**b. Please assess the strategic impact. Describe why (or why not) the event was a success? How did you measure the success? What metrics were used to measure success? (Please do not exceed half a page.)**

All participants plunged mind and body into the day's events lead by capable leaders from Thom's ACT team and MCoS. During the workshop students learn and share in a safe and supportive environment where the individual is respected and valued for their unique personal experience and contribution. Whilst encouraged to look within themselves and their community, the past, their present and the future; they learn through the practice of critical listening and thinking that identity finds supplementary value in interdependence and an understanding of social responsibility. Although the workshop is built on a set agenda, themes, supported activities and conversations; students take on shared responsibility before, during and after the workshop to identify and assess challenges to their own and their community's wellness. During the workshop students develop a deeper understanding of their community and learn skills and strategies that will serve them towards a healthy life.

Success was measured by how leaders were inspired and support leadership capacity amongst students and school staff to recognize and reject racism through individual and social change and growth. The event foster interaction amongst a diverse group of students across multiple differences, including culture, language, gender, ability, religion, sexual orientation etc. and to understand and value shared responsibility to promote respect across those differences. At the end of the workshop student and leaders provided feedback and 102 evaluation form were collected. Highlight from students evaluation:

- Apply what they learned to everyday life and be nice even when no one is watching
- To be more aware of labelling people and to respect people
- Not to be racist or stop people from being racist
- To tell people to respect each other
- Be the change you wish to see in the world
- Stay in ACT and educate others
- "I won't be racist and stereotypes others"
- Joined ACT

**c. How can this event be improved in the future?**

Based on students evaluation for lunch time to be given the option to stay in the gym or to leave. Student would have appreciated break time. As well as more physical activities, less sitting and more fun games.