

25 January 2024

Dear Mayor and Council

I am writing to request that the Resort Municipality of Whistler declare March 21, 2024, the Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

While we take pride in our diverse local population and the international appeal that draws people from all corners of the globe, it is important to acknowledge that not all residents share positive experiences when attempting to establish a life here.

Drawing on the findings of the Whistler Multicultural Society's 2022 Racism, Bias, and Discrimination Survey, as well as insights from our 2022 Building Inclusive Communities event, it has become evident that racialized people are facing discrimination across various facets of life in Whistler. The data collected underscores the urgency of addressing this issue and has prompted the Whistler Multicultural Society to host an event in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Whistler Multicultural Society will be hosting a speaker event to explore the discrimination experienced by racialized people across various social systems such as education, health services, employment, and housing.

The United Nations has designated March 21st as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, aligning with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This declaration underscores that everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms without discrimination, including factors such as race and color. Despite these principles, racism and racial discrimination continue to affect people worldwide. Designating March 21st as the Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Whistler would symbolize local commitment to combating discrimination and promoting a more just and inclusive community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we appreciate your dedication to making Whistler a welcoming place for everyone.

Sincerely,

Jade Eberhard

Sea to Sky Resilience Coordinator
Whistler Multicultural Society

Whistler Multicultural Society

Resilience Whistler

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Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day - March 21, 2024

WHEREAS the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms, without distinction of any kind, such as race and colour, among others, racism and racial discrimination continue to affect people all over the world.

WHEREAS the United Nations has declared March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

WHEREAS racial discrimination refers to the practice of treating people differently or unjustly because of their race, ethnic origin, skin colour, language or religion.

WHEREAS racial discrimination can be systemic, built into the structures and institutions of society, it can have significant impacts on the lives of Indigenous peoples and racialized and religious minority communities.

WHEREAS racial discrimination can take place anywhere in daily life, including in the workplace, housing, education, and healthcare.

WHEREAS on March 21, 2024 Whistler Multicultural Society is hosting an event exploring the intersectionality of all equity-challenged populations, with a particular focus on immigrants and newcomers, with societal systems like education, health care, employment, and housing.

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that March 21, 2024, shall be known as

“Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day”

in the Resort Municipality of Whistler.