

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

### STATEMENT AGAINST RACISM

16 June 2020

The Department of Political Science stands in solidarity with BlackLivesMatter and those working to confront racism and colonialism in our communities. While the immediate impetus to publicly express our solidarity is the murder of George Floyd and the mobilization of Black communities against anti-Black police violence in the United States, we acknowledge and oppose systemic racism and colonialism in Canada and globally, which manifests in economic, political, and social structures, including policing. The killing of Chantal Moore and the death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet show that these issues of anti-Black racism as well as anti-Indigenous racism are similarly urgent in Canada. In Canada, while systemic racism targets Black peoples and Indigenous peoples differently, police violence disproportionately affects these two communities. We acknowledge that Canada's history of Black slavery, ongoing Indigenous dispossession, racial profiling, racist and sexist immigration policies, violence against Indigenous women and girls, and exploitation of racialized labour are among the injustices that form the foundations of the over-policing and under-protection of marginalized communities in this country today.

We also acknowledge that Canadian political science has failed to adequately study or understand the role of racialization and colonization in the making of power and privilege in this country. We are grateful for the leadership of Indigenous scholars and scholars of colour who have been working on these issues. If you are interested in reading some of this critical scholarship on "race" and the Canadian political science discipline, please see:

<https://www-cambridge-org.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/core/journals/canadian-journal-of-political-science-revue-canadienne-de-science-politique/article/is-race-political/F603D66EFC795324C1270FE178498903>

<https://www-cambridge-org.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/core/journals/canadian-journal-of-political-science-revue-canadienne-de-science-politique/article/defining-narratives-of-identity-in-canadian-political-science-accounting-for-the-absence-of-race/00037B0E30195697EC2AF59FE63A8D8D>

I know that individually, many members of our department have been thinking about how they can best work toward supporting anti-racism initiatives. As a collective, our department commits to critical and thoughtful engagement with these important issues by faculty, staff, and students. We also recognize that there is more work to be done in confronting systemic racism and colonialism as we live, work, and play on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen speaking peoples. Our department will support and participate in the university's anti-racism workshops for faculty members, and will continue our efforts to diversify and decolonize our curriculum. Our department is committed to serious and meaningful engagement; including exploring how we can improve our research, teaching, and student support structures to combat systemic racism, including anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racisms.