

confronting hate in your **Community**

1

Hate hurts the South Fraser Region.

Racism and hate are unfortunate realities that continue to exist in our nation. Hate may take the form of vandalism, harassment, assault, and even murder. These acts may be committed by individuals acting on prejudice or organized groups seeking to re-establish white supremacy. The effects of such crimes extend well beyond the victim, creating a climate of fear and intimidation, and denying everyone full participation in safe, healthy communities.

2

Hate can be a criminal act.

Democracies struggle with balancing freedom of expression and freedom from discrimination. Following World War II and the horror of the Holocaust, Canada and other nations developed legislation and public policy repudiating hate. The Criminal Code of Canada deals specifically with hate, making it illegal to publicly advocate hate or promote genocide against an identifiable group based on race, religion or ethnic origin. Judges may increase or enhance sentences when hate or bias is established as a motive in the commission of a crime.

3

Human rights are enshrined in legislation.

The Canadian Human Rights Act and the British Columbia Human Rights Code have measures for responding to hate motivated incidents. The Canadian Act covers telephone broadcasting and has been used to shut down telephone hate messages. Most recently, the Act was used to rule against the broadcast of Internet messages deemed hateful. The BC Code makes it a violation to publish statements, signs or symbols with the intention of discriminating or exposing a person or group of people to hatred or contempt. It protects people based on their *race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation or age.*

quick facts

Only 5% of reported hate crimes are committed by individuals associated with hate groups. The remaining 95% are committed by those with no known affiliation to organized white supremacist groups.

Of hate crimes reported to the Vancouver Police Department, 45% were for assault. Threats and mischief accounted for 10% each and only 11% of complaints were for hate literature. The majority of these incidents targeted gay men. You can call the BC Hate Crime Team, Bash Line and Victim Assistance Line to report hate activity, receive support services and gain more information on these issues.

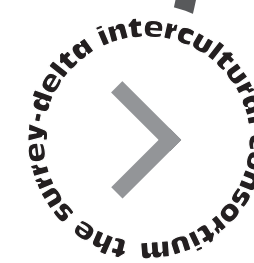
about the surrey delta intercultural consortium

The Surrey Delta Intercultural Consortium (SDIC) is a collaborative effort of government and non-governmental organizations that promote the settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees. Through networking and education, SDIC's goal is to identify the gaps in existing immigrant and refugee services and develop strategies to proactively address the social and economic needs of those communities.

contact us!
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how you can benefit...

a

Show that hate is not tolerated in the South Fraser Region.

Everyone - individuals, community groups, schools - has an important role in responding to hate. If an incident happens in your neighbourhood, school or workplace, do not give in to fear. If there is immediate danger, call 911. If you are not a victim or witness, you can still show your support through vigils, unity campaigns, letters to the editor, and other initiatives that demonstrate hate is not tolerated in your community. Add your voice to the struggle for human rights - contact local community groups to get involved.

b

You can stop hate from entering your home.

There are laws and policies governing material broadcast on the Internet but very little that can prevent your child from accessing hate sites. Spend some time on the Internet, as there are many age-specific resources that can help you work with your child to better protect them and enhance their understanding of human rights.

c

Familiarize yourself with the law.

Having and enforcing laws is only one aspect of justice. Laws establish the conduct by which citizens are expected to behave and the consequences for misconduct. They can be used as a remedy against hateful acts, but you should understand that the process for seeking justice may be lengthy and cumbersome as it involves reporting an act, investigation, prosecution, sentencing and an appeal process. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that the law can be a successful deterrent. Some people are determined to do harm.

resources

The Canadian Jewish Congress has published numerous reports and community guides for challenging hate and discrimination. www.cjc.ca

Media Awareness Network provides media education and has resources for challenging hate online. www.media-awareness.ca/eng/issues/internet/hintro.htm

The BC Human Rights Commission has useful information for countering hate and has produced the report "A Call for Action: Combating Hate in British Columbia". www.bchrc.gov.bc.ca

The "End Hate Crime: Hate/Bias Crime Policy Guide" provides a summary of legislation to help communities confront hate. www.ag.gov.bc.ca/public/end_hate_crime/intro.htm

The Canadian Race Relations Foundation is an excellent source of information on hate, racism and discrimination. www.crr.ca/EN/Publications/ePubHome.htm