



A Statement Regarding Black Lives Matter Activism and Anti-Racism Initiatives

The AABC recognizes and joins those advocating for an end to racism, injustice, and violence against Black communities in Canada and abroad, and supports statements made by fellow North American heritage organizations regarding Black Lives Matter protests and Anti-Racism initiatives (including the [ACA](#) and [SAA](#)).

Racism and colonial violence against Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities in Canada has been a reality since settler contact; colonial violence and institutional racism are embedded in archival practice; and, action against that violence and racism is both urgent, and long overdue.

This statement alone is not enough and our executive understands that words without action are demonstrative of performative allyship. In order to support and promote anti-racism in archives and heritage, the AABC Executive Committee commits to accomplishing the following action items by the 2021 Annual General Meeting (May 2021):

- the creation of an anti-racism working group;
- the production of an anti-racism action plan informed by the needs of our community;
- the development of an AABC workshop bursary for BIPOC community members; and,
- the circulation of progress updates throughout the 2020/2021 term via our re-instated newsletter.

The input of our community is essential as we continue to develop our action plan, and work towards a reality of anti-racist archives. Please reach out to the executive through our incoming President, Jenny Seeman (aabc.president@aabc.ca) with suggestions, comments, or feedback, and we invite AABC members to join the upcoming discussion at our Annual General Meeting on June 17th, 2020 at 1:00pm via [Zoom](#).

Sincerely,
The Archives Association of British Columbia Executive