



Policy Principle

This policy principle approved by the Board of Directors at their October 13th, 2020 meeting.

Policy L05: Provincial Inquiry into Systemic Racism

Updated: October 5, 2021 **Expires:** October 5, 2022

Whereas recognition of the fundamental principle that all persons are equal in dignity and human rights without regard to race, colour, religion, national origin, ancestry, place of origin, age, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity or expression, social condition or political belief or activity is a governing principle sanctioned by the laws of New Brunswick;¹

Whereas in 2018/2019, Indigenous¹⁵ adults accounted for 31% of admissions to provincial/territorial custody and 29% of admissions to federal custody, while representing approximately 4.5% of the Canadian adult population.¹⁶ These proportions were virtually unchanged from the previous year. ;²

Whereas discriminatory practices against persons of African Descent were noted in several social and economic areas, including the justice system and relations with police service, the immigration system, and the education system;³

Whereas some authors suggest that students' perceptions about their educational attainment potential may be influenced, among other things, by certain teachers and other professionals in the school system;⁴

Whereas minority status has been deemed a causal factor in explaining "under-participation" in post-secondary education among Black minorities and it has

¹ <http://laws.gnb.ca/en/showdoc/cs/2011-c.171>

² <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190509/dq190509c-eng.htm>

³ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-657-x/89-657-x2020001-eng.htm>



been concluded that under-representation is related to limited economic resources that in turn are a result of historical patterns of discrimination;⁵

Whereas both men and women in the Black population were less likely than their counterparts in the rest of the population to hold a bachelor's degree or higher, but the gap was more pronounced for women;⁶

Whereas the probability of obtaining any postsecondary credentials was 53% for Indigenous individuals who completed an upgrading or high school equivalency program, significantly higher than the 22% for those who did not complete high school, after factoring in status, sex, age and region, as well as for other important explanatory factors such as disability status, history of family residential school attendance and parenthood status;⁷

Whereas all First Nations chiefs of the province called for an inquiry into the provincial justice system after the murder of indigenous persons, Rodney Levi, Brady Francis and Chantelle Moore, by police officers;⁸

Be it resolved that the New Brunswick Student Alliance advocate that the Government of New Brunswick conduct a timely inquiry into systemic racism in New Brunswick .

Be it further resolved that the Government of New Brunswick consult with First Nations to honour the Government of New Brunswick' Duty to Consult Policy

⁵ Cox, Donna Gail Hardy, and Charles Carney Strange. *Serving Diverse Students in Canadian Higher Education*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2016.

http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmxlYmtfXzEyOTAzODFfX0FOO?sid=d97c170c-2c1f-4699-b3fb-f478a54d0629@pdc-v-sessmgr06&vid=0&format=EB&lpid=lp_vii&rid=0

⁶ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-657-x/89-657-x2020002-eng.htm>

⁷ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2019001/article/00013-eng.htm>

⁸ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/group-ally-in-fredericton-to-renew-call-for-inquiry-into-nb-justice-system-1.5694460?fbclid=IwAR1tvZS72K8qeIYnMCkFZbx6lID7RsAF5Cxuxd0rt2STyg0IULRXTIX-IQA> ⁹ <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/aas-saa/pdf/en/DutytoConsultPolicy.pdf>



Be it further resolved that the Government of New Brunswick conducts an internal inquiry into systemic racism within the bounds of the public sector.

Be it further resolved that The Government of New Brunswick publicly acknowledge the presence of racism within the province while consulting with and supporting the work of federal and provincial partners striving to confront systemic racism within their respective jurisdictions.

Be it further resolved that the New Brunswick Student Alliance be committed to further research on the impacts of systemic racism within the postsecondary education section in New Brunswick.