



ACUNS Statement on Racism

Dear Members, Stakeholders, and Students,

The killing of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, by Minnesota police in the United States, was a heinous crime. The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) condemns this inhumane act. We share in the mourning of his death and acknowledge the grief, anger and fear that racialized members of our community are feeling. We stand in solidarity with the demonstrators who march to end racism.

Sadly, the racism that led to Mr. Floyd's murder is not exclusive to the United States. We have too many examples of discrimination and deadly brutality here in Canada. It dates back centuries and is lived every day. Racialized communities feel this pain. Canadians of African-descent, First Nations, Métis and Inuit experience the indignities of bigotry disproportionately. The anti-Black racism movement is a call to action. It is incumbent on all of us to re-evaluate our role in society, educate ourselves and support those who seek justice. There is no excuse for ignorance. Doing nothing is not an option.

ACUNS endeavours to break down cultural barriers in education, and encourage equity and inclusion in our membership, scholarship, and advocacy work. At this critical time, our association reflects on its strategic direction and the actions we can undertake to support students and build stronger community engagement between our members, partners, and residents in Canada's north. ACUNS remains committed to fostering equity in the movement towards positive change.