

# ATN NEWSLETTER

Don't forget, Asia is comprised of 48 countries and 3 territories!



## DATES OF NOTE FOR MAY

### All Month:

**Asian Heritage Month**  
(Theme: Celebrating Innovation and Perseverance)

**Canadian Jewish Heritage Month**

**May 1: Tsuut'ina Day**

**May 2-6 - Canadian Mental Health Week**

**May 5 - National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls**

**[May 10 - Bear Witness Day](#)**

**[May 12 - Moose Hide](#)**

**[Campaign Day](#)**

**[May 17 - International Day](#)**

**[Against Homophobia,](#)**

**[Transphobia & Biphobia](#)**

**(IDAHOBIT, Theme: Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Rights)**



## STANDING IN SOLIDARITY

### From the desks of the ATN:

Welcome back for the third issue of the Antiracist Teachers Network Newsletter. We are thankful that you keep coming back to push anti-racism work forward.

Across Canada during the pandemic, we have seen a sharp spike in **Anti-Asian Hate Crimes** which has been documented by organizations such as [project 1907](#) and [Statistics Canada](#); as we enter the month of May this is a reality that is on the forefront of our minds. May is the month that also serves to highlight the diversity, history and contributions of different communities that reside within Asia with **Asian Heritage Month**. We hope to help challenge and inspire fellow educators to centre the voices of these communities in their classrooms and challenge the perceptions that lead to Anti-Asian discrimination inside and outside of their classrooms.

Here are many ways you can explore the focus for this month:



Interested in joining the Local 38  
Anti-Racist Teachers Network?  
Email: [LDECChair@ata38.ab.ca](mailto:LDECChair@ata38.ab.ca) for  
more information!

# SOME PODCAST RECCS

From the ATN Resource Bank!

**The Secret Life of Canada** has a variety of podcasts available connecting to Asian Canadian History:

**Season 2 - Chinatown** (with a [teaching guide](#))

**Season 3 - Where is Japantown?**

**Season 4 - The Punjabi Market**

**The Nameless Collective Podcast** is hosted by Milan Singh, Naveen Girn & Paneet Singh. A trio of historians, researchers and explorers who visit archives to rediscover history, solve mysteries, and provide a space for the untold histories of Vancouver's South Asian community.

## May 5 - Black Teachers Association

Systemic Racism and Allyship in Education with Q&A

## May 24 - Maryarna Adow

Exploring the Intersections of Mental Health & Oppression

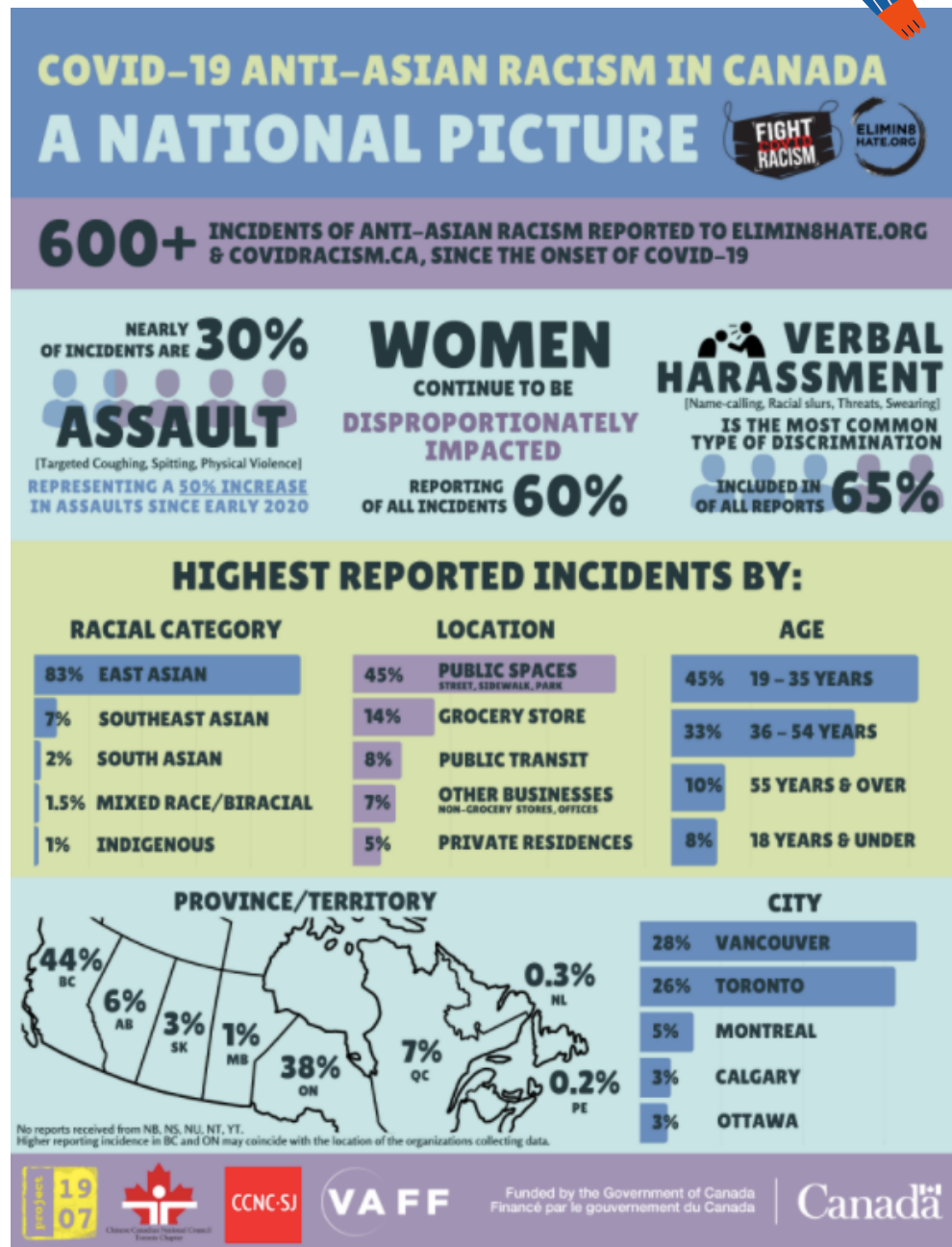
# ATN PD OPPORTUNITIES

For Local 38 Members



# COOL STUFF!

- Check out the poem titled [Eyes Open: An Anti-Asian Racism PSA](#) from the **Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice (CCNC-SJ)**
- Medium** has a website that highlights the contributions and accomplishments made by [Indian women in the field of science](#)
- Are you curious about the history of **Calgary's Chinatown**? Check out this [Secret Calgary: Chinatown](#)
- The Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO)** and **Toronto District School Board (TDSB)** has developed a resource guide on [Addressing Anti-Asian Racism](#) for educators and school administrators.
- The Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI)** has compiled a [Learning Resource Guide around Anti-Asian Discrimination](#)
- Check out the [History of South Asians in Canada Timeline](#) that provides an overview of immigration trends in Canada focusing on South Asian communities. A similar timeline can also be found [here](#) from the **Canadian Encyclopedia**.
- Check out this video from **the Legion Magazine** remembering the [Japanese Canadian Internment Camps](#), narrated by David Suzuki.
- Check out this [virtual 360 Walking Tour](#) of the **1907 Anti-Asian Riots in Vancouver**.



## FIGHT COVID-19 RACISM

[Experiences and Resources](#)



# Debunking Model Minority Education Myths

The model minority myth claims that Asians are the most successful among non-White groups. It assumes all Asians to be smart (i.e. naturally good at math, science, and technology), wealthy, hard-working, self-reliant, docile, submissive, obedient, uncomplaining, and not needing assistance (The University of Texas, 2019).

Model minority myths use the accomplishments of certain minority groups to diminish racism (Low, 2021). This process creates tensions between different non-White communities, because it undermines the role racism plays in achieving success (Chow, 2017). Below are myths and facts about Asian education experiences.

## Education Myths



## Education Facts



All Asian students are naturally good at school and achieve high academic accomplishments - especially in math, science, and technology.



All Asians go to and excel in university. Asians usually graduate at the top of their classes, and rarely require extra help.



The belief that Asians excel at school is a compliment. There is nothing harmful about sharing positive beliefs about a group.



There is strong Asian representation on university campuses, so they must be accepted and treated equally by other students.



Asian students have been stereotyped as high academic achievers. Educators have misused this information, which has resulted in a lack of equal opportunities and support services for Asian students (Lee et al., 2017).



Many Asian students are negatively impacted by their university experience. Common causes of drop-out rates among Asian students include academic challenges, language barriers, lack of academic support, lack of social networks, and mental health challenges (Wang, 2016).



High expectations placed upon Asian students by their parents, teachers, and peers have resulted in stress and isolation, leading to academic decline, dropping out of school, and even suicide - especially among females (Lee et al., 2017).



Asian international students have reported feeling left out and ignored by their peers on campus (especially by White domestic students). They have also reported being bullied for their accent, and experiencing racial microaggressions and discrimination on campus (Houshmand et al., 2014).

### Sources

Chow, K. (2017, April 19). Model Minority Myth Again Used as a Racial Wedge Between Asians and Blacks. <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2017/04/19/524571669/model-minority-myth-again-used-as-a-racial-wedge-between-asians-and-blacks>

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Lee, D.M., Duesbery, L., Han, P.P., & Tashi, T. (2017). Academic Needs and Family Factors in the Southeast Asian American Students: Dismantling the Model Minority Myth. *Journal of Southeast Asian American Education and Advancement*, 12(2). <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/jsaaevol12/iss2/2>

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The University of Texas. (2019). Model Minority Stereotype for Asian Americans. <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/modelminority.htm>

Wang, P. (2016). A Study of Drop-out Chinese International Students from a Canadian pre-University English Language Improvement Program: Acculturation Experiences and Challenges. *Electronic Theses and Dissertations*. 5873. <https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/etd/5873>



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ACT 2 END RACISM developed this infographic to debunk common stereotypes that exist within educational institutions. [You can find a printable version for use here.](#)

## OUR MONTHLY BOOK RECCS

From the ATN Resource Bank!

**K to 4** - **Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao** by Kat Zhang, **I Am Small** by Qin Leng, **Fajua Singh Keeps Going** by Simran Jeet Singh, **The Name Jar** by Yangsook Choi, **Eyes That Kiss in the Corners** by Joanna Ho, **Bilal Cooks Daal** by Aisha Saaed, **The Change Your Name Store** by Leanne Shirlcliffe, **Beautifully Me** - Nabela Noor, **Always Anjali** by Sheetal Sheth

**5 to 9** - **Front Desk** by Kelly Yang, **The Night Diary** by Veera Hiranandani, **When You Trap a Tiger** by Tae Keller, **Karthik Delivers** by Sheela Chari

**10 to 12** - **Not Your Sidekick** by C.B. Lee, **A Young Innovator's Guide to STEM: 5 Steps to Problem Solving for Students, Educators and Parents** by Gintanjali Rao, **This Time Will Be Different** by Misa Suguira, **The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali** by Sabina Khan, **Wrong Side of the Court** by H.N. Khan **For Teachers** - **Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning** by Cathy Park Hong, **We Have Always Been Here** by Samra Habib, **Brown: What Being Brown In The World Today Means** by Kamal Al-Solaylee

**Reading Challenge!** - **The Asian Readathon** is back for 2022 [@asianreadathon](#) on twitter! **The official 2022 Asian Readathon Challenges can be found on Storygraph** with [a supporting Google Doc!](#)