

Anti-Racism Data Act Research Priorities

2023 – 2025 | Published June 1, 2023





Introduction

To address systemic racism in government programs and services, first we need to know where it is happening. The [Anti-Racism Data Act](#) (ARDA) enables government to collect and use data for anti-racism purposes.

Under ARDA, the Province is required to determine research priorities to help guide government's approach to addressing systemic racism. Under the Act, the Province must release these priorities by June 1, 2023, then provide updates every two years after.

These priorities have been developed in partnership with First Nations and Métis peoples using a distinctions-based approach under [Part 6](#) of ARDA, as well as with the Anti-Racism Data Committee under [Part 7](#) of ARDA. This will ensure that the Province is focused on the areas that matter most to Indigenous Peoples and racialized communities.

While these research priorities focus on specific sectors or programs, the Province will continue to address systemic racism in all government programs and services. This is a key part of its commitment to confront systemic biases and advance racial equity in B.C.

Development Process

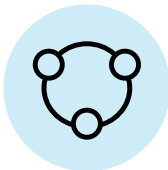
The research priorities were developed in collaboration with the Anti-Racism Data Committee and Indigenous partners, including representatives of First Nations governments and Métis Nation British Columbia.

Research



The Province reviewed more than 60 reports to identify data-related recommendations and data gaps or opportunities. This included reports from community engagement on ARDA, the BC Human Rights Commissioner, Representative for Children and Youth, and other organizations working to improve equity and diversity. Eighty priority topics were identified.

Collaboration



In early 2023, the Province sent an official notice to all First Nations in B.C. and Métis Nation British Columbia to participate in the development of research priorities. The Province also scheduled separate meetings with Indigenous Peoples and the Anti-Racism Data Committee.

The 80 priority topics were shared with the Anti-Racism Data Committee and Indigenous Peoples who used this information to guide discussions and determine what research priorities were most important to them.

Topics included specific questions and data gaps that partners wished to address, as well as sectors where they have experienced barriers in accessing service.

Confirmation



Each partner provided a number of recommendations, which the Province used to create a final list of 12 research priorities.

Research Priorities

These topics will guide government's approach to addressing systemic racism over the coming years. More details are in the "how research will be conducted" section.

Indigenous Peoples' Research Priorities

Sector-Based Priorities:

- ▶ Health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples to understand experiences from an intersectional and holistic perspective.
- ▶ Education outcomes for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students from kindergarten to grade 12 to understand experiences, including their access to and use of available supports.
- ▶ Social determinants of safety from a holistic lens.

Other Priorities:

Indigenous Peoples also identified two other priorities that focus on how we will support Indigenous data sovereignty and conduct research.

- ▶ **Commitment to 3.14 of the Declaration Act Action Plan:** Advance the collection and use of disaggregated demographic data, guided by a distinctions-based approach to Indigenous data sovereignty and self-determination, including supporting the establishment of a First Nations-governed and mandated regional data governance centre in alignment with the First Nations Data Governance Strategy.
- ▶ A **distinctions-based approach** that acknowledges, respects and upholds the distinct rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.



Anti-Racism Data Committee Research Priorities

- ▶ Racial diversity within the BC Public Service and equity in hiring and career development.
- ▶ Interactions with the justice system and analysis of ‘complaints’ model.
- ▶ Health outcomes, building upon the health system performance framework to understand how the system is performing for different demographic groups.
- ▶ Understanding how students across demographic groups access and use education supports and their outcomes (from early childhood through to post-secondary education).
- ▶ Children, youth, and family wellness in home and away from home.
- ▶ Economic inclusion, including analysis of unpaid work and foreign credential recognition.
- ▶ Homelessness, housing supply and security.

How Research will be Conducted

How research is conducted is as important as the research priorities themselves. ARDA aims to increase trust, transparency and accountability while preventing and reducing harms to Indigenous Peoples and other racialized communities. This aim will apply to each research project conducted under the Act.



The Province collaborated with the Anti-Racism Data Committee and Indigenous Peoples to develop five commitments to guide every stage of research:

| INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY | |
|---|--|
| Guided by a distinctions-based approach to Indigenous data sovereignty and self-determination. | |
| DATA JUSTICE | INTERSECTIONALITY |
| Data justice recognizes both the harm that data has caused Indigenous Peoples and other racialized communities, as well as the power of data to advance equity and social justice. | An individual may experience more than one form of discrimination and/or marginalization. Research under ARDA must consider a person's whole identity while maintaining an anti-racism and gender-based lens. |
| TRANSPARENCY | CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT |
| To build trust, the Province must be clear about the purpose and benefit of data collection. This means working with communities to understand how and when to share data, methodologies, and findings. Any releases must be accessible and easy to understand, with disaggregated data made available to community organizations, scholars, academics, public policy analysts and non-profits so that they can advocate for change. | Government will continue to work with communities and partners so that the needs, experience and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and other racialized individuals guide data collection and research. The Province will continue to build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous Peoples and the Anti-Racism Data Committee so that the voices of those most impacted by systemic racism continue to drive work under ARDA. |

Next Steps

Some phases of research could be done within a two-year time frame but other more complex projects will take longer, particularly when shaped by lines of additional inquiry. There will be bodies of research that will continue to move forward after the two-year mark.

To maintain transparency, the Province will release information about longer-term projects in phases.



Ministry of
Citizens' Services