



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

SYSTEMIC RACISM: THE MONTREAL HOLOCAUST MUSEUM STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

The Montreal Holocaust Museum is devastated by the recent death of Atikamekw woman and mother of seven Joyce Echaquan and the long history of systemic racism, violence and discrimination against Indigenous Peoples, notably Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit/LGBTQ+ people. We offer our sincere condolences to Joyce's family, friends, and community.

#JusticeForJoyce means needing our governments to implement the hundreds of concrete recommendations put forward by the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (tabled in December 2015), the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (tabled in June 2019), and the Viens Commission Report (tabled in October 2019). The latter report concluded that it is impossible to deny systemic discrimination against First Nations and Inuit in Quebec. In order to combat the ignorance, prejudice, and stereotypes that contribute to racism, it is crucial that our leaders acknowledge the report's findings that systemic racism exists.

History teaches us that we all have a role to play in defending human rights and combatting racism. We applaud the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador for the publication of their timely [action plan against racism and discrimination](#). This plan includes clear and feasible steps that individuals and organizations can take to be better neighbours and allies.

The tragic stories of Joyce Echaquan, Chantel Moore, and many others demonstrate that unchecked racism has deadly consequences for Indigenous Peoples, Black people, and other people of colour. As a Holocaust museum founded by genocide survivors, it is our responsibility to denounce racism, sensitize the public to the perils of discrimination and hatred, and inspire respect for human rights at all levels of society. We stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and will continue to amplify Indigenous voices, stories, and excellence.

We encourage the government to recognize the existence of systemic racism in Quebec and Canada while taking concrete action alongside Indigenous Peoples to implement recommendations that numerous reports have already put forward.

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