

Youth Against Racism
Summary of a Research Report
by Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations (NAARR)
2001

Community consultation with 350 youth in Edmonton (60%) and Northern Alberta (40%) in 2001.

What they said:

- Racism is a major problem
- It is found everywhere
 “Racism is everywhere. People think it does not exist here. People make comments and they don’t realize that they are being hurtful to someone else.”
- Individual beliefs and behaviours - most subtle, can be overt, and occasionally violent
 “Most people think it is funny to say racist jokes, but it is not. People get hurt. It is not a joke and it’s not funny”
 “I have seen fights where a Native kid got beat up because he was Native.”

Families - “Parents are to blame with spreading racism ... My Mom hates natives for no reason.”

Peers

Sports

Business and Workforce - “Storeowners are racist ... They treat me like a criminal all the time when I go into a store.”

Schools, governments, and other institutions

Media

TV - “There are minorities in those shows ... but not enough and not in leading roles. The story lines for them are very stereotypical”.

News - “Instead of ‘Asian gang member’, why don’t they just say the name of the gang’. We say *Hell’s Angels*, but we don’t say ‘White gang’”.

Causes of racism:

History, ignorance, and fear

“Lack of knowledge, lack of education, and lack of understanding.”

Insecurity, Ignorance, Fear

Way of dealing with

Stereotype explains
Unknown

Developing feeling of power over others

Effects of Racism:

Sadness, anger, confusion, frustration, hatred

“Racism causes a lot of problems for people. Some people get depressed because they are being told that they are not worth it. Other people might commit suicide”.

What they recommended:

Anti-racism Action Plans

- 1 Business, Employers
- 2 Schools - curriculum, awareness training for teachers
- 3 Government - “A change in the education policies for Alberta.”
- 4 Media - stop portraying negative stereotypes eg - Asian gang
- 5 Youth Activism - “We have to start speaking up.”

They were optimistic that our society CAN change