BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
BCAAFC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BCAAFC Hosts First Awareness to Action Anti-Racism Learning Series

VANCOUVER, B.C. – The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) hosted its first-ever *Awareness to Action: Anti-Racism Learning Series* on November 2–3, 2026, bringing together leaders from the Friendship Centre Movement, Indigenous organizations, community partners, and allies to strengthen collective efforts to address anti-Indigenous racism across British Columbia.

"When it comes to racism, good intentions are not enough. What matters is the impact of our actions, the harm experienced, and whether we are willing to take responsibility for changing the systems and behaviours that perpetuate it," said Celeste Hayward, Executive Director of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres. "We all have a responsibility to move beyond awareness and challenge the status quo."

Held at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, the two-day gathering provided an opportunity for participants to engage in meaningful dialogue, share knowledge and experiences, strengthen relationships, and explore practical approaches to confronting racism within British Columbia's social services sector.

Grounded in the values of the Friendship Centre Movement, the learning series featured workshops and discussions focused on practical approaches to advancing anti-racism. Sessions explored how to move beyond performative land acknowledgements toward meaningful relationships and accountability, examine power and address systemic racism, and translate learning into action. The series also highlighted the University of Victoria and BCAAFC's MBA in Advancing Reconciliation Anti-Racism Project as an example of putting anti-racism learning into practice. Together, these discussions encouraged participants to reflect on their individual and organizational responsibilities and consider how to embed meaningful change in everyday practices, policies, and systems.

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The responsibility now rests with individuals, organizations, and systems to carry this learning forward, confront racism when and where it occurs, and turn commitments into measurable change.

Learn More

For more information about the MBA in Advancing Reconciliation, visit https://bcaafc.com/mbaar/

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