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Minister will explore racism in Thunder Bay

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Posted: Friday, November 25, 2016 6:00 am

Letter to the editor by Michael Coteau | [26 comments](#)

A province like Ontario has many advantages. There is no greater advantage than our people. Our diversity, passion, talent and skills are something we can all take pride in. These attributes are clear in the communities we've built.

Despite the progress, systemic racism remains an incessant challenge, especially in light of what is transpiring to the south of our border. But that's not to say there haven't been outbursts of racism here in Ontario. Over the past few weeks, in all corners of our province, everyday Ontarians have been subjected to acts of blatant racism. Systemic racism — anti-black racism, Islamophobia, prejudice against racialized and indigenous communities — puts up barriers. This is unacceptable.

I see an incredible opportunity to listen to Ontarians and hear their ideas on the concrete steps that need to be taken to address systemic racism in our communities. That's why this Saturday, Nov. 26, I will be hosting a public meeting in Thunder Bay to gather input on the Anti-Racism Directorate's mandate.

My goal is to hear from the people of Ontario and identify areas where the application of an anti-racism perspective to government policies, programs and services can better respond to the barriers faced by many communities. I have held similar meetings in other communities because different places and different people experience systemic racism in different ways.

Ontario has a lot to be proud of when it comes to diversity and inclusion. Despite our issues, we have served as a model to others around the world. But we must do more. We will not accept a system where some people are set up for success, and others are not. By working together, we can make sure everyone is able to reach their full potential and build up Ontario as a whole.

Michael Coteau

Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services and

Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism Directorate.

Editor's note: The directorate will host a meeting in Thunder Bay on Saturday from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Da Vinci Centre, 240 S. Waterloo St.

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26 comments:

[john doh](#) posted at 12:11 am on Mon, Nov 28, 2016.

Posts: 90

The only thing systematic around here is the way the government systematically hands out millions to FN with no accountability from the FN leaders.

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[Khan](#) posted at 11:56 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 369

@leonardo...we know he issues as they are forced down our throats daily in this city. The issue is that natives are also to blame for much of the problems we see but are never called out. This is a one way conversation. Look at the guy who was in solitary for how many years...apparently treated terribly as he was native but there is an actual reason for it but of course the police cannot say and the public will never know the truth. Like it or not the natives have 2 choices: live on the reserve in an apparent "traditional" way, whatever that means or join the rest of the world. They can't have it both ways.

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[Talltree](#) posted at 7:04 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 34

A significant player in the city's racial conundrum is CBQ's full time SJW. Her relentless news stories about aboriginals are nearly always about them being victims of white people. As a result she infantilizes aboriginals, disrespecting them in the process, and also white people, of course.

I suggest her one sided journalism is very insidious to improving race relations in the city, because it's very divisive and causes "aboriginal fatigue." The latter causes people to tune out regarding their social and economic problems. Unfortunately, CBC management has her back (I've complained about it many times with no results), and so it's likely to continue indefinitely. And that is unacceptable.

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[leonardo](#) posted at 6:57 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 36

I hope the Hounorable Minister looks at this comments section. Some interesting points. I do wonder, when so many people complain about the state of Thunder Bay, the crime stats and yes, the over representation of native people committing these acts, why do these same complainers then want to derail a look at the systemic barriers these people face? P.S. My apologies to GWS, Cacharodon is a 16 million year old predatory species, but not a bottom feeder, very rude of me. The species is known for it's tendency to resolve conflict with ritual displays, along with sexual dimorphism (Females are the boss, and much bigger).

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[Angus](#) posted at 4:08 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 61

So, when I am called a racist term at work by a nate, thats ok as long as its not the other way around. The real racists are the ones who are constantly playing the victims

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Local Social

TDJ posted at 3:27 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 10

CKPR should change their call letters to NBC enough said already.

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Tbay to Kitchener posted at 2:28 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 141

The article Henry is referring to (8.08 a.m.) is front page digital edition of the Toronto Star.

It is worth reading.

Just Google " The Star " and search " Tanya Talaga "

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JoeBush posted at 5:31 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 1846

Here's the link:

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2016/11/24/the-indigenous-teen-who-escaped-death-in-a-thunder-bay-river.html>

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chezhank1 posted at 7:55 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 817

What was wrong with the link I provided?

<http://tinyurl.com/hpmz5hv>

je suis henry wojak

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Tbay to Kitchener posted at 12:52 pm on Sat, Nov 26, 2016.

Posts: 141

Nothing Henry.

I just wanted to highlight the Star Issue and get it further up the page as I considered it that important considering some of the comments that were being made..

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Khan posted at 1:51 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 369

Let's be clear...both sides of the story will not be told because it is not permitted. So yes, the natives will be found to be victims, their culture somehow oblivious to time, space and reality, unlike the rest of the planet, and billions more will be "invested" to fix the problem of us "colonial settlers" stealing their land with no mention to the billions paid for for the land already and the fiction will continue indefinitely.

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JoeBush posted at 1:04 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 1846

Racism? What racism? Right?

It's real. It's in Thunder Bay and it's abundantly obvious.

The first step toward fixing a problem is recognizing it and that starts with all of us.

We cannot keep our heads in the sand about this forever.

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xtraxtra posted at 12:53 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.



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Nasdaq	5398.92	+18.24	(+0.34%)
Gold	1188.20	+9.80	(+0.83%)
Oil	47.11	+1.05	(+2.28%)

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Posts: 2058

I will save Michael Coteau the trouble of investigating racism in the Great North. When one segment of society is given special status, and privileges, racism is inevitable. When you continually reinforce the concept that this segment of society cannot function without special considerations and must be mollycoddled and treated with kid gloves because they somehow are not able to function on their own, you perpetuate their dependence on the rest of society and create a parasitic relationship. There I just saved Mr Coteau, a lot of time and money.

Start studying ways to wean the suckling calf of the mothers milk, and quit wasting your time trying to pick flypoop out of a mound of pepper.

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Dianne posted at 10:15 am on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 20

I am sick and tired of White people being blamed for ALL the racism in thunder bay. That is NOT true.. the media should get their heads out of the sand here. IT GOES BOTH WAYS. It seems even the very young native kids are being taught to hate the white man. I have seen this many times. The white man has no one to go crying to over this. And quite frankly, would ANYONE pay attention. I am NOT against the native people here in Thunder Bay, as I have a great grandson who has a native mother and a member of my family has been going out with a native for over 2 years. I am just sick and tired of it ALL being one sided

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Khan posted at 10:06 am on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 369

Unless the truth is finally not politicized and facts are not deemed racist, nothing will change. Racism exists for many reasons, a major one is that natives seem to get a free pass in society....never to be questioned or held accountable. Let's look at band council resolutions, banishing people from their homes while the chiefs proudly declare they have no responsibility for that person all the while proclaiming to be some sort of "nation". Let's look at the system corruption that is cancer in the system. Let's look at the Indian Act....everyone knows it needs to go but any mention of this fact cause the native leadership to go into "racist" mode. Finally, let's agree that racism is not one sided and let's be willing to point fingers in all directions not just at the Caucasian community.

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June Bug posted at 10:27 am on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 127

Khan.....You HIT the nail on the HEAD!!.....Every Government has been RELUCTANT to address this problem and now I believe it is TOO LATE!!

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Penny posted at 9:50 am on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 703

"we will not accept a system where some people are set up for success". The Minister does not understand that was a racist statement, it is hurtful and I object to it. He belief in "white privledge" comes forward very clearly.

For many of us we were never set-up for success, we came from the same type of situations as many others....we made our own success, and you Minister find it racist?

Racism is a two way street....

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studpuppy posted at 9:15 am on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 18

Its unfortunate what has happened to the people of Thunder Bay,,we have become Victims of Racism,,not by the Natives we grew up with in Westfort or in school while growing up,,we have become Victims of crime ourselves, with daily break-ins,weekly hold ups and monthly murders and done mostly by Natives,free government hand outs

,and so many things given to them while the other tax paying people that used to be middle class have been knocked down because of everyday costs.,its frustration and unfortunately the good Natives are put on the same platter as the bad ones doing all the damage

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Dianne posted at 10:18 am on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 20

SO true.i have many native hard working friends who are fed up and embaressed over all of this

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Great White Shark posted at 9:01 am on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 466

systemic racism only exists in this form because people like the minister keep perpetuating the lies.

and diversity is not a plus when you encourage people to identify and give special privileges to a certain race.

really what the minister is hoping to achieve is less White people through his actions. Anti-racism only seems to be anti-White every single time.

Next time you see some promotion or committee like our municipal "anti racism" one, if you look at it, even remotely, all it seeks to do is make our society less White, and like it or not, this society and all its greatness was created by White people.

so why make it less White? unless you hate White people?

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chezhank1 posted at 8:08 am on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 817

"I was beaten by three white men and thrown into an ice-cold river in Thunder Bay

The indigenous teen who escaped death in a Thunder Bay river"

<http://tinyurl.com/hpmz5hv>

"The next day he told the school principal what had happened. The principal told him he needed to tell the police.

When he reported the incident, Kakekayash said police told him that they would get right on the case. But it would be years until he actually spoke to police again.'

I wonder what Levesque and the police board have to say about this ?

je suis henry wojak

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Great White Shark posted at 8:56 am on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 466

sounds to me like another lie in a sea of thousands.

How do you investigate made up stuff?

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leonardo posted at 9:11 am on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 36

Sounds to me like everything you don't want to hear sounds to you like a lie.

How convenient for one who identifies as a predatory bottom-feeder from the time of the dinosaurs, who resolves conflict with rituals and displays.

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Angus posted at 4:06 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 61

You are pathetic Hank, an embarrassment to this city indeed

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bobbyc47 posted at 6:45 am on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 38

I cringe every time this sort of political "witch hunt" occurs. There are never any positive feed backs just the usual "politically correct rhetoric" from unqualified, vote seeking wind bags.

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xtraxtra posted at 12:30 pm on Fri, Nov 25, 2016.

Posts: 2058

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