



Press Release

For Immediate Release – October 14, 2020

Statement of Assumption University’s Board of Governors on Anti-Racism

In recent months, we have witnessed an upsurge in North America of blatantly racist treatment of both Black and Indigenous persons. This behaviour is compounded by systemic racism that continues to pervade society. The Church’s Pastoral Constitution on the Modern World, *Gaudium et spes*, condemns racism and other forms of discrimination, declaring that they must “be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God’s intent” (29.2). Moreover, Pope Francis’s recent encyclical letter *Fratelli tutti* reminds us that all human beings, created in the image and likeness of God, are to be treated with respect and love – regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, ability and even criminality. In line with these teachings and Catholic Social Teaching as a whole, Assumption University firmly rejects all forms of racism directed against Black, Indigenous and indeed all people. Assumption University strives to ensure a welcoming, inclusive, and respectful environment for all. We recognize the important contributions Black and Indigenous persons, as well as immigrants from so many parts of the world, continue to make to Canadian society. The Church itself has benefited immensely from the teachings and example of several saints of African and Indigenous descent, including Augustine, Martin de Porres, Josephine Bakhita and Kateri Tekakwitha. May they inspire us to work diligently to bring about an immediate end to racism in all its ugly manifestations.

About Assumption University

Assumption University is one of most historic Roman Catholic institutes of higher learning in Canada. Informed by the Basilian tradition, we seek to empower individuals to cultivate goodness in themselves and others, embody discipline in their path towards excellence, and recognize the importance of constantly pursuing knowledge throughout their lives.

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