

We Must Name and Speak Out Against White Supremacy and Privilege

The attempted coup and violent insurrection that occurred on January 6, 2021, in Washington D.C., USA, serve as a disturbing indicator of the white supremacy that exists and is growing in our society. The actions and the response to the individuals who took and incited this assault on democracy exemplify what white privilege is. As educators, we are deeply concerned about this situation and the growing rise of hate.

These issues of white supremacy and privilege need to be named, addressed and transformed by all of us regardless of our race. There is a danger that can ensue when political leaders or any of us refuse to address and shut down groups rooted in hate.

Educators serve as institutional and community leaders who recognize that silence is complicity, need to speak out and use our classrooms as spaces to change our society. Racial injustice and white supremacy continue to be part of our reality here in Ontario. It is crucial that we acknowledge its existence, recognize its influence systemically and address it on a daily basis collectively and individually. With united action, together, we can stop this hate.