

HISTORIC STEWART FARM COMMITMENT TO ANTI-RACISM

Events around the world continue to demonstrate that racism is real. Historic Stewart Farm Staff recognize that the voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) have been consistently marginalized in Canadian communities, museums, and heritage sites.

Western heritage sites and museums are colonial by nature. Their collections, exhibits, and programming have traditionally prioritized the work of colonial governments and its settlers. This history and practice needs to change to include the voices and experiences of BIPOC communities.

Historic Stewart Farm interprets how the Stewart Family, newcomers by way of Scotland and Quebec, established a farm, and used the land from approximately 1890-1920. Of course, Indigenous people lived here and used this space, and continue to do so, long before the arrival of newcomers to the area. Newcomers to this place were not just of European descent, despite the widespread historical narrative. A Japanese community was present in Surrey at this time; residents and labourers of Chinese descent had been in B.C. for half a century, while South Asians worked and lived at the nearby Hadden Mill.

These are just a few examples of perspectives different than the traditional European settler narrative prevalent in heritage operations. Welcoming, seeking out, and sharing greater diversity of voices and perspectives in tours, exhibits, and programs is critical to the future of Historic Stewart Farm. It is the only way to provide a more authentic heritage experience and service. Our exhibits and programming must better reflect the City's diverse citizens and history.

Historic Stewart Farm is committed to ensuring its services are offered in an inclusive, respectful, and equitable manner through the following actions:

- Prioritize programs, activities and events that are relevant to marginalized communities.
- Critically assess topics selected and content featured in tours, exhibitions, and programming.
- Actively seek out new relationships with marginalized communities to understand how we can eliminate barriers to participation. This commitment to listening and understanding may lead to trust, which is the key to maintaining meaningful relationships.
- Review and update all Historic Stewart Farm policies and procedures to ensure diversity and inclusion are embedded within them.
- Review and update strategic directions and initiatives to ensure inclusivity.
- Continue ongoing staff and volunteer training and ensure anti-racism, cultural sensitivity, and recognition of biases is integrated in all orientations and training for staff and volunteers.
- Work with Human Resources to develop strategies to increase the diversity of the Historic Stewart Farm staff and volunteer team.
- Communicate regularly and openly about our progress in ensuring our services are inclusive and respectful.

Historic Stewart Farm staff welcome your feedback.

