

# Understanding Journalism and Systemic Racism

*Canadian news organizations have been re-examining their hiring, retention and editorial choices in light of complaints from BIPOC communities about unbalanced coverage and systemic barriers to employment. J-Schools Canada-Écoles-J Canada has compiled resources to ensure that our members will be part of the solution to these equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) challenges. After all, the first pillar of our mandate is to “support and promote equity, diversity and inclusivity in journalism and journalism education.”*

*We surveyed instructors across Canada on how they can bring more EDI to the classroom, and respondents were clear: they want more support. We have heard you, and we invite you to use these resources to explore how systemic inequities in Canada manifest in journalism methods, practices and educational settings.\* You will then be empowered to review current teaching materials and curricula with an eye toward inclusion and representation. This will ensure that the next generation of Canadian journalists are fully equipped to cover our society with fairness, balance and accuracy.*

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*\*These resources were compiled by CABJ's Brian Daly in 2020, with additional material gathered and annotated by student researchers H  l  ne Bigras-Dutrisac (UWO) and Vaishnavi Dandekar (UBC) in 2021. Thanks also for items provided by professors Adrian Harewood and St  fy McKnight (Carleton University School of Journalism).*

# Analysis of Racism in Media

## Racism and Lack of Diversity in the Media

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### Missing White Woman Syndrome

- 1) [News Media Can't Shake 'Missing White Woman Syndrome.' Critics Say Major outlets have highlighted the case of Gabrielle Petito while often ignoring stories about women of color who go missing.](#)

*The New York Times*, by Katie Robertson

Sept. 22, 2021

On Monday night, the MSNBC host Joy Reid invited two women on her show, "The ReidOut," to discuss the case of Gabrielle Petito, a 22-year-old woman whose disappearance during a cross-country road trip generated a cascade of front-page headlines, news alerts and prime-time segments on cable news channels.

The guests, Lynnette Grey Bull and Derrica Wilson, are advocates for missing Indigenous and Black women and children, and they argued that the kind of media attention Ms. Petito's disappearance was getting was sorely lacking when it came to the hundreds of disappearances that didn't involve white women.

Ms. Reid pointed out that the PBS anchor Gwen Ifill, the journalist who broke barriers as a Black woman in the Washington press corps, coined a term for the phenomenon nearly two decades ago: "missing white woman syndrome."

- 2) [Gwen Ifill Was Right About 'Missing White Woman Syndrome'](#)

*The New York Times*, by Charles M. Blow

Sept. 22, 2021

(Opinion) The breathless coverage of the disappearance and apparent killing of Gabrielle Petito has played out in a virtual — and sometimes literal — split screen alongside images of mounted officers in Texas swinging long reins like whips while herding Haitian migrants. That startling contrast forces us once again to wrestle with a crucial question: What kinds of people, in what kinds of bodies, with what kinds of lineage do we value?

- 3) [As the Petito case grips the nation, families of color say their missing loved ones matter, too](#)

*The Washington Post*

Sept. 22, 2021

The groundswell of concern for Petito has revived perennial questions about why some missing-person cases attract such a dedicated response while others barely draw notice with many observers seeing a racial disparity at play. Between 2011 and 2020, at least 710 Indigenous people were reported missing in Wyoming, the same state where Petito, who is White, was lost and found within a matter of days.

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## [How white journalists serve as Canadian history's gatekeepers](#)

*Ryersonian*, by Deepak Bidwai (opinion)

January 7, 2021

Bidwai illustrates the racism and whitewashing of Canadian history by journalists and news media organizations with an example taken from the *Ryersonian*. He discusses an article about the Ryerson University name change debate published by a colleague in which Egerton Ryerson's legacy of anti-Indigenous racism is neither mentioned nor addressed. This "whitewashing of colonial atrocities," he argues, reflects the worldviews held by many white journalists, editors and readers. He details several experiences of racism he's experienced at his Canadian university (Ryerson) and in the *Ryersonian* newsroom to demonstrate the challenges that racialized students, journalists and people face when they try to speak out against racist practices.

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## [The Ahmar Khan case](#)

January 2021

CBC Ottawa reporter Ahmar Khan was fired from his job at CBC Manitoba after criticizing Don Cherry for his xenophobic comments in 2019. The following two resources cover his successful arbitration case and the greater context surrounding Khan's termination.

### **1. The decision:** [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation v Canadian Media Guild, 2021 CanLII 761 \(CA LA\)](#)

Grievance of Ahmar Khan (represented by his union, the Canadian Media Guild) against the CBC. After being asked to remove a Tweet calling out Don Cherry and his racist statements on CBC's *Hockey Night in Canada* in 2019, Khan sent private emails to two colleagues working for different publications and news organizations alerting them to these events. One of Khan's CBC colleagues found these communications and alerted management, who fired Khan, stating that he had "violated the requirement of loyalty to his employer and had placed the CBC's reputation at risk." The arbitrator ruled that Khan's privacy had been violated, and that the termination of his employment was based on a "tainted" process resulting from this breach of privacy.

### **2. Additional analysis:** [What the decision in a dispute between CBC and Ahmar Khan proves about how Canadian news organizations fail racialized journalists](#)

*J-Source*, by Asmaa Malik

January 15, 2021

Malik uses the arbitrator's report on the Ahmar Khan case to create a broader critique of the ways in which Canadian news organizations treat BIPOC journalists and anti-racist frameworks. This critique emphasizes an unhealthy workplace culture and problematic definitions of "unbiased" or "objective" journalism that silence racialized journalists and those who seek to call attention to oppression and racism in the industry and beyond.

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## [Angela Sterritt and the Fight to Tell Indigenous Stories Right](#)

*The Tyee*, by Andrea Smith (news article)

November 24, 2020

Angela Sterritt is a Canadian journalist who writes about Indigenous people and communities. This article discusses her determination to keep pushing for the decolonization of the media.

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## [Letter to a Young Indigenous Journalist](#)

*The Walrus*, by Waubgeshig Rice (magazine article)

August 31, 2020

This article is written as a letter to young Indigenous journalists. It acknowledges and addresses the systemic racism that Indigenous journalists face in Canadian newsrooms, while urging young Indigenous journalists not to give up. It calls attention to the whitewashing of Indigenous journalism and to the racist hiring practices that have prevented so many BIPOC journalists from finding work in the field, but it also argues that journalism is slowly changing for the better.

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[In the midst of a race reckoning, Global News laid off some of its most vocal internal critics](#)

*Vice World News*, by Manisha Krishnan (news article)

August 26, 2020

A group of journalists working at Global News and/or at its parent company, Corus Entertainment, and who had spoken out about racism at work, are now calling attention to racism in the company after being laid off in July 2020. VICE identified 22 employees who were laid off on July 23 and spoke to 12 current and former employees about their experiences of racism. These include: racist microaggression, tone-deaf coverage, lack of accountability and diversity, and retaliation for speaking out.

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[Objectivity is a Privilege Afforded to White Journalists](#)

*The Walrus*, by Pacinthe Mattar (magazine article)

August 21, 2020

A first-person account that exemplifies Canadian and American media organizations' mistrust of racialized peoples' experiences and racialized journalists' reporting of their stories. Mattar questions the media's inherent and unquestioned trust of police narratives and testimonies and describes the racist work environments that lead to newsrooms with very few BIPOC journalists and even fewer opportunities for advancement.

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[‘I must speak, I have no choice but to speak’: CBC’s Adrian Harewood talks about his decades-long fight against systemic racism in the media \(Subscription Required\)](#)

*The Hill Times*, by Mike Lapointe (news article)

July 27, 2020

A veteran CBC News host says he is prepared to risk his career, if necessary, to criticize colleagues that he believes merit a calling out over hiring, retention and coverage of racialized people.

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[Black journalist who witnessed N-word used in Fifth Estate meeting calls for broader change at CBC](#)

*CBC News*, by Katie Nicholson, Rob Antle and Jason Ho (news article)

July 22, 2020

Dexter Brown, former associate producer with CBC's *The Fifth Estate*, discusses specific incidents of racism at the CBC and calls for positive change at the CBC and in newsrooms across the country. He recalls colleagues at *The Fifth Estate* openly using the N-word in a staff discussion after presenting a documentary in which the word was used multiple times.

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[Systemic Racism - The CABJ Explains \(This is Vancolour invu\)](#)

July 15, 2020 (podcast)

Nadia Stewart, journalist at Global News BC and the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Black Journalists (CABJ), discusses her experiences with racism as well as the

larger context of systemic racism in Canada. She discusses the role of Canadian institutions in making lasting, systemic change and focuses the conversation on the media and their role in addressing systemic racism. She also talks about the CABJ and their goals for the journalism industry. This discussion includes the 2020 open letter to Corus Entertainment penned by members of the CABJ.

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[Calls grow for news outlets reporting on systemic racism to address own failures](#)

*City News, by Cassandra Szklarski (news article)*

*July 8, 2020*

As Cassandra Szklarski reports, journalists have not had to go far to uncover searing stories of racism in Canada — they're finding them in their own newsrooms, among their co-workers and involving their bosses.

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[Why Diversity? The CABJ Explains \(Sheridan Life Radio invu\)](#)

*July 2020 (podcast)*

Brian Daly, Atlantic Director at the CABJ and regional producer at CBC/Radio-Canada in Halifax, discusses systemic racism in the journalism industry. The discussion addresses the lack of diversity and representation of BIPOC journalists in the media and the whitewashing of reporting and stories produced in/by media organizations. Daly talks about how systemic racism is upheld in Canadian news media organizations. He points to the lack of demographic data collected in newsrooms and discusses racist hiring practices, including the “racial glass ceiling” that prevents BIPOC journalists from being hired and/or promoted in media organizations. He also discusses biases in how stories are reported and what stories get told.

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[Black Hill reporters, editors weigh in on lack of diversity in Canadian media \(Subscription Required\)](#)

*The Hill Times, by Mike Lapointe (news article)*

*June 22, 2020*

Two of Canada's only Black managing editors, David McKie and Charelle Evelyn, as well as one of the country's only Black parliamentary correspondents, David Thurton, address the diversity question on Parliament Hill in light of George Floyd's murder.

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[I tried to talk to my bosses about racism at work](#)

*Chatelaine, by Denise Balkissoon (opinion)*

*June 17, 2020*

Balkissoon writes about the “unspoken rule” that she says disallows BIPOC journalists from criticizing Canadian media organizations. She talks about the lack of representation and diversity in these organizations and the unpaid emotional labour that many BIPOC journalists take on in order to make their workplaces “more bearable.”

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[The Forever Battle of a Journalist of Colour](#)

*Friends of Canadian Broadcasting, by Radiyah Chowdhury (news article)*

*July 11, 2020*

2020 Dalton Camp Award winner, Radiyah Chowdhury, discusses racism and white privilege in the journalism industry. Using her experiences as a journalism student and journalist, she argues that the concept of “objectivity” in the newsroom obscures racism and white privilege by positioning whiteness as neutral and BIPOC journalists as inherently political.

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['This is a pivotal moment': tumultuous two weeks prompt 'soul-searching' in newsrooms on the Hill, across Canada \(Subscription Required\)](#)

*The Hill Times*, by Mike Lapointe (news article)

June 15, 2020

Major Canadian news organizations say they're prepared to diversify staff on the Hill, following scrutiny from watchdogs who note that pledges for change have only come in response to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

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[In Conversation: Desmond Cole and Téa Mtonji](#)

*The Walrus*, by Téa Mtonji (Interview)

May 14, 2020

In this interview, Mtonji and Cole discuss representation, diversity, and anti-Blackness in the media. They begin the interview by discussing anti-Black systemic racism and a general lack of media stories covering Black communities. They also discuss the myth of "objectivity" and how it is used to silence BIPOC journalists. They end the interview by talking about what Black liberation means and looks like.

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[Objectivity is a Myth Built to Maintain White Supremacy](#)

*Wear your Voice*, by Anuhya Bobba (article)

February 20, 2020

In this short article, Bobba describes how the myth of "objectivity" obscures racism while protecting whiteness. She uses examples from large, mainstream media publications to demonstrate her point that stories framed as "objective" often fail to recognize or acknowledge the identities, perspectives, and biases of white journalists.

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[Newsrooms not keeping up with changing demographics](#)

*The Conversation*, by Asmaa Malik and Sonya Fatah (research article)

November 11, 2019

Two Ryerson researchers faced such a paucity of data on the racial makeup of Canadian newspaper columnists, they say they had no choice but to analyze self-identification terms in the columns themselves to build a demographic profile of the media sector. Their conclusion - not a single news publication in Canada had a regular Indigenous columnist, and there were just three Black men and no Black women offering opinions and analysis in daily news as of 2019. The researchers noted that Canadian newspapers and digital publications, unlike broadcasters, are not required to compile or publish the racial demographics of the staff.

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[Journalism While Brown and When to Walk Away](#)

*Medium*, by Sunny Dhillon (blog post)

October 29, 2018

A first-person blog post written by journalist Sunny Dhillon after his resignation from The Globe and Mail. Dhillon writes about the lack of diversity in Canadian journalism, using his experiences to critique the ways in which BIPOC journalists are treated in newsrooms and emphasizing the added labour BIPOC journalists often take on to ensure adequate representation of diverse communities and stories.

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[In the Black: My Life](#)

By B. Denham Jolly, 2017 (book)



The man behind Canada's first Black-owned radio station chronicles his journey to becoming a Canadian media mogul, and the racism that he encountered along the way.

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[Diversity in Leadership and Media: A Multi-Perspective Analysis of the Greater Toronto Area, 2010](#)

*DiverseCity: The Greater Toronto Leadership Project (research article)*

November 29, 2012

The multi-sectoral analysis from 2012 indicated visible minorities were under-represented in Greater Toronto Area (GTA) newsrooms despite the fact that the region was, and remains, one of the most diverse in the world. Researchers concluded the lack of diversity within media leadership teams "has negative effects on the groups who do not see themselves represented."

## Combating Racist or Stereotypical Media Coverage

[How Can Indigenous Reporters Care for Themselves While Covering Trauma — and How Can Their Newsrooms Help?](#)

*Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, by Camille Baker (Interview)*

July 14, 2021

An edited interview with online editor Camille Baker about the North American media's coverage of residential schools and Indigenous affairs. Baker speaks about the toll that covering traumatic stories can take, and the added labour (emotional and time-related) expectations placed on Indigenous journalists who are asked to cover (or help cover) stories about colonialism, genocide and Indigenous trauma.

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[With the N-Word Used Frequently Across Quebec Media, CABJ And CJOC are Calling for a Ban on the Slur. Are French Newsrooms Listening?](#)

*J-Source, by Lela Savić (article)*

November 11, 2020

Lela Savić's article sheds light on the common use of the N-word in French-language news organizations in Quebec. She discusses how far behind French-language news outlets in Quebec are in comparison with their English Canadian counterparts and examines the ways in which French-language media organizations frame and justify their continued use of the term.

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Reckoning: The Limits and Possibilities of Journalism ([Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#))

*Media Indigena (podcast)*

June 21, 2020 (Pt. 1), July 30, 2020 (Pt. 2)

Rick Harp interviews Candis Callison and Mary Lynn Young about their book *Reckoning: Journalism's Limits and Possibilities*. They discuss journalism's history and the possibilities for new, more diverse and inclusive reporting. They also discuss the myth of "objectivity" in journalism and the sexist and racist foundations upon which this myth is built.

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[Celebrating diversity isn't enough: Schools need anti-racist curriculum](#)

*The Conversation, by Rola Koubeissy (news article)*

July 20, 2020

In this article, the author argues that celebrating diversity in schools is not enough, and that an anti-racist curriculum is necessary. The article elaborates on multiculturalism and

interculturalism. Koubeissy suggests that schools should examine how to create a democratic environment for teaching and learning and adapt their curricula with a critical multicultural approach.

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#### [Challenging Media Stereotypes of Indigenous People \(CBC Radio Special\)](#)

*CBC Radio (news article)*

November 15, 2019

Indigenous journalists Carmen Robertson, Francine Compton and Duncan McCue discuss how the media can improve their coverage of Indigenous communities in light of a New York Times article that perpetuated stereotypes against Inuit artists in Cape Dorset.

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#### [Co-Created Learning: Decolonizing Journalism Education in Canada](#)

*Canadian Journal of Communication, by Miglena S. Todorova (research article)*

November 8, 2016

The author of this research paper argues that stereotypical media coverage plays a role in “ongoing oppression of Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the world” and that journalism and communication educators have neglected their “special responsibility to address the topic.” The author asserts that educators, through their influence on students, could have a positive effect on coverage of Indigenous communities.

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#### [Reporting in Indigenous Communities](#)

*Launched in Fall 2011 (online portal)*

Duncan McCue is a journalism instructor at the UBC Graduate School of Journalism and Ryerson University. He is also the host of CBC Radio One Cross Country Checkup. He created a website to help journalists report in Indigenous communities.

## **The Role of Journalism Schools in Addressing Racism**

#### [Quiet and polite manifestations of racism run deep in Canadian institutions, including journalism schools](#)

*Poynter Institute, by Shenaz Kermalli (research article)*

July 29, 2020

Journalism instructor Shenaz Kermalli says educators must do more to promote a classroom environment that encourages - rather than stifles - participation from students of colour. Kermalli also lists several examples in academia and in newsrooms that she says have had a chilling effect on racialized journalists looking to break into the industry.

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#### [What role can journalism schools play in reconciliation? Policy Options](#)

*By Aphrodite Salas (research article)*

July 16, 2020

Concordia University journalism professor Aphrodite Salas and five of her students created a multimedia report on an Indigenous solar energy in northern Ontario in a project that was broadcast on the CTV network. Salas uses the project to illustrate how journalism schools can play a role in reconciliation with Indigenous groups.

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#### [The Unexpected Costs of Journalism School for a Black Student](#)

*CBC Point of View, by Atong Ater (opinion)*

May 11, 2019



In this first-person account, a Black journalism Master's student (who has since graduated) speaks about the racist incidents and microaggressions she experienced and witnessed at Carleton University's journalism school. She discusses the discomfort that many BIPOC students feel in the classroom, but says she feels hopeful about the positive changes she has begun to notice at her university.

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## Analysis of Racism in Canadian Society

### Criminalization, Policing and State Violence

[CBC Asks: Defunding the Police. Is this the Solution? \(CBC Manitoba\)](#)

*CBC News (broadcast), by Janet Stewart (with Winnipeg panelists Sheila North, Markus Chamber and Zilla Jones)*

*June 23, 2020*

This broadcast examines the role of police in BIPOC communities. Stewart and her guest panelists ask questions about the types of situations police are expected to respond to and whether it's time to defund the police. In other words, this broadcast asks if it's time to take some of the resources allocated to police and re-allocate them to social services programs. The panelists also discuss how uncomfortable these kinds of conversations can be and argue that they should be conducted more often in order to address racism.

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[How do we solve Structural Racism?](#)

*Yellowhead Institute (report), by Eva Jewell*

*February 2020*

A brief overview of some of the recommendations that have come out of the inquiries and commissions on ongoing colonialism and violence against Indigenous peoples in Canada from reports published between 1996 and 2019. The booklet is divided into five themes: representation in society, public education and awareness, institutional change, addressing policing and the justice system, and Indigenous self-determination.

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[Policing in Nova Scotia: What's Your Vision?](#)

*CBC Nova Scotia (broadcast)*

*April 23, 2019*

The public forum discussion led by CBC hosts Portia Clark and Tom Murphy is a community conversation about how police in Nova Scotia can meet the needs of all communities they serve. An independent report on March 27, 2019 found Black people were street checked at a rate six times higher than white people in Halifax. People of Arab and West Asian backgrounds were also more likely to be street checked.

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[Policing Black Lives](#)

*By Robyn Maynard, 2017 (book)*

"Robyn Maynard provides readers with the first comprehensive account of nearly four hundred years of state-sanctioned surveillance, criminalization and punishment of Black lives in Canada. Maynard's intersectional approach to anti-Black racism addresses the unique and understudied impacts of state violence as it is experienced by Black women, Black people with disabilities, as

well as queer, trans, and undocumented Black communities” (book summary taken from the link above).

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### [Dark Matters](#)

*By Simone Browne, 2015 (book)*

“Simone Browne locates the conditions of blackness as a key site through which surveillance is practiced, narrated, and resisted. She shows how contemporary surveillance technologies and practices are informed by the long history of racial formation and by the methods of policing black life under slavery, such as branding, runaway slave notices, and lantern laws” (book summary taken from the link above).

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### [“Chapter 4: Media Representations of Race, Crime, and Criminal Justice”](#)

*In Racialization, Crime, and Criminal Justice in Canada (book chapter)*

*By Wendy Chan and Dorothy Chunn, 2014*

A critical analysis of race and racism in Canada’s criminal justice system, focusing on how the criminalization of racialized groups affects identity and public policy.

## **Whiteness (White Privilege and White Supremacy)**

### [White Fragility: Why White People Find It So Hard to Talk About Racism](#)

*By Robin DiAngelo, 2020 (book)*

“Antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and ‘allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’” (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively” (book summary taken from the link above).

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### [White Fragility and the Rules of Engagement](#)

*The Good Men Project, by Robin DiAngelo (post)*

*June 13, 2015*

A short article aimed at white people that introduces systemic racism and common problematic beliefs about—and responses to—racism from white people.

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### [Revealing Whiteness: The Unconscious Habits of Racial Privilege](#)

*By Shannon Sullivan, 2006 (book)*

“Revealing Whiteness explores how white privilege operates as an unseen, invisible, and unquestioned norm in society today. In this book, which combines elements of personal narrative with theoretical foundations, Shannon Sullivan interrogates her own whiteness and how being white has affected her. By looking closely at the subtleties of white domination, she issues a call for other white people to own up to their unspoken privilege and confront environments that condone or perpetuate it. She examines the importance of unconscious habit in maintaining whiteness’ control over social conditions” (book summary taken from the link above).

## Media Coverage of Systemic Racism and Anti-Racism

[Muslim family killed in terror attack in London, Ontario: Islamophobic violence surfaces once again in Canada](#)

*The Conversation, by Jasmine Zine (news article)*

June 8, 2021

The horrific murder of a Muslim family in June, 2021 in London, Ontario yet again displayed Islamophobia and racial violence in Canada. This article talks about how anti-Muslim racism is normalized in Canada, and calls for a national summit on Islamophobia.

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[The Harassment Faced By Harsha Walia Speaks To The Treatment Of Racialized Women On The Frontlines Of Activism](#)

*5X Fest, by Karan Saxena (news article)*

June 2021 (exact date not provided)

As a South Asian voicing her opinion against genocide in Canada via Twitter, social activist Harsha Walia was subjected to a series of threats and online trolling after using the phrase "burn it all down" in a tweet expressing her rage and grief against an institution for committing genocide and never apologizing for it.

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[Attacks make Vancouver 'anti-Asian hate crime capital of North America'](#)

*The Guardian, by Johna Baylon and Leyland Cecco (news article)*

May 23, 2021

Vancouver experienced a 717% increase in Anti-Asian hate crimes in 2020-2021 that made the city the hate-crime capital of North America.

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[Investigation finds widespread racism and discrimination against Indigenous peoples in B.C. health-care system](#)

*CBC News, by Chantelle Bellrichard (news article)*

November 30, 2020

This investigative piece by Indigenous reporter Chantelle Bellrichard focuses on the discrimination faced by Indigenous peoples in B.C. while using services provided by the health-care system. Nine-thousand people participated in this investigation and 80% of them reported that they had faced discrimination.

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[Black leaders are nearly non-existent on Canadian boards \(Ryerson Diversity Institute\) Ryerson University Anti-Black Racism Campus Climate Review - 2019](#)

*August 6, 2020 (research article)*

Ryerson University's Diversity Institute releases a report about the under-representation of racialized people and women on boards of directors in Canada. The report indicates that Black people comprise the most under-represented group. The institute's director argues that anti-Black racism needs to be addressed in board policies and processes.

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[Black in small-town Canada: From racism to building inclusive communities \(Global News\)](#)

*Global News (news article)*

July 5, 2020

Living in a small-town in Canada as a Black person does not come easy. In this Global News piece, journalists Arti Patel and Olivia Bowden interview Black people who lived in small communities. They elaborate on issues such as feelings of isolation and pain from daily microaggressions and racist comments as well as the importance of building a community.

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#### [Being Black in Canada \(CBC\)](#)

*Launched in July 2020 (project)*

CBC's executive vice-president, Barbara Williams, describes the Being Black in Canada project as "a window into the struggles while celebrating the culture and achievements of the Black communities." The project, she writes, provides a "breadth of content in many formats" that aims to raise awareness and understanding of Black communities in Canada.

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#### [We Need to Talk: A forum on systemic racism \(CBC Alberta\)](#)

*CBC News (broadcast)*

*June 18, 2020*

CBC hosts Sandra Batson and Tanara McLean talk about systemic racism in Alberta in a public forum discussion. They discuss the aftermath of George Floyd's murder and the political action taken by Alberta-based Black Lives Matter (BLM) activists. Batson and McLean have an in-depth and emotional conversation about what systemic racism looks like in daily life.

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#### [Let's talk about racism: CBC Vancouver's town hall](#)

*CBC News (broadcast)*

*June 17, 2020*

This virtual town hall about systemic racism in Canada exposes the racism built into Canadian institutions. Lien Yeung and Angela Sterritt present the lived experiences of diverse BIPOC people living in Canada who recall racist incidents across institutions and settings. The conversation includes a team of nine panelists invited to speak on three topics: institutional racism, organizational racism and everyday racism. They also invite viewers to contribute to the conversation via telephone.

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#### [Change & Action: Racism in Canada \(CTV\)](#)

*CTV News (broadcast)*

*June 13, 2020*

Tyrone Edwards, Marci Ien, Lainey Lui and Anne-Marie Mediwake discuss anti-Black racism in Canada on the special broadcast *Change and Action: Racism in Canada*. Their discussion touches on political issues including politicians' denial of racism in Canada and the impact that this denial can have on Black communities.

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#### [The Skin We're In: A Year of Black Resistance and Power](#)

*By Desmond Cole, 2020 (book)*

"Both Cole's activism and journalism find vibrant expression in his first book, *The Skin We're In*. Puncturing the bubble of Canadian smugness and naive assumptions of a post-racial nation, Cole chronicles just one year—2017—in the struggle against racism in this country" (book summary taken from the link above).

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#### [How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi](#)

*CBC Radio - Out in the Open (broadcast)*

February 15, 2019

Ibram X. Kendi argues that there is no middle ground when it comes to views on/about racism. He argues that one can either be a racist or anti-racist and that there is no such thing as being “not racist”. He explains that racists are simply people who express racist ideas or support racist policies with their actions or inaction.

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[Black in Canada: 10 stories](#)

*BBC News (multimedia/photojournalism)*

*Digital Publishing Award nominee (Best Photo Storytelling) in 2019*

For this award-winning multimedia piece, BBC travelled to three Canadian cities to speak to Black people with a range of experiences and backgrounds about their experiences of racism in Canada.

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[Fighting at the table: Conflict as successful integration](#)

*CBC Radio - Ideas (broadcast)*

*August 17, 2018*

Part 4 of this episode of *Us & Them: Diversity, Division and a World of Difference* discusses the importance of conflict as a necessary stage in maturing societies. Anti-immigrant cries to build walls and hate fuelled politics are seen as a sign that integration is working according to Sociologist Aladin El-Mafaalani.

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[So You want to talk about Race by Ijeoma Oluo](#)

*CBC Radio - Tapestry (broadcast)*

*April 27, 2018*

Writer and author of the bestselling book, *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo in this conversation talks about how we discuss race and racism. When it comes to race, we have only spoken about the extreme actions of individuals. Oluo however says that to fully address racism, we need to look beyond these extreme examples and examine the systemic issues of oppression and discrimination.

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[CBC Real Talk on Race | Point of view \(2017 Adrienne Clarkson Diversity Award\)](#)

*CBC News (broadcast)*

*March 13, 2016*

Real talk on Race is an award-winning series by CBC Montreal. In this segment, 10 people share their personal stories about how they have lived and understood race.

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## Media Examples

### Journalism That Gets It Wrong

['Disgraceful and distasteful': Canadians condemn Toronto Sun front page cover on rapper Houdini's death](#)

*Yahoo News (news article)*

*May 28, 2020*

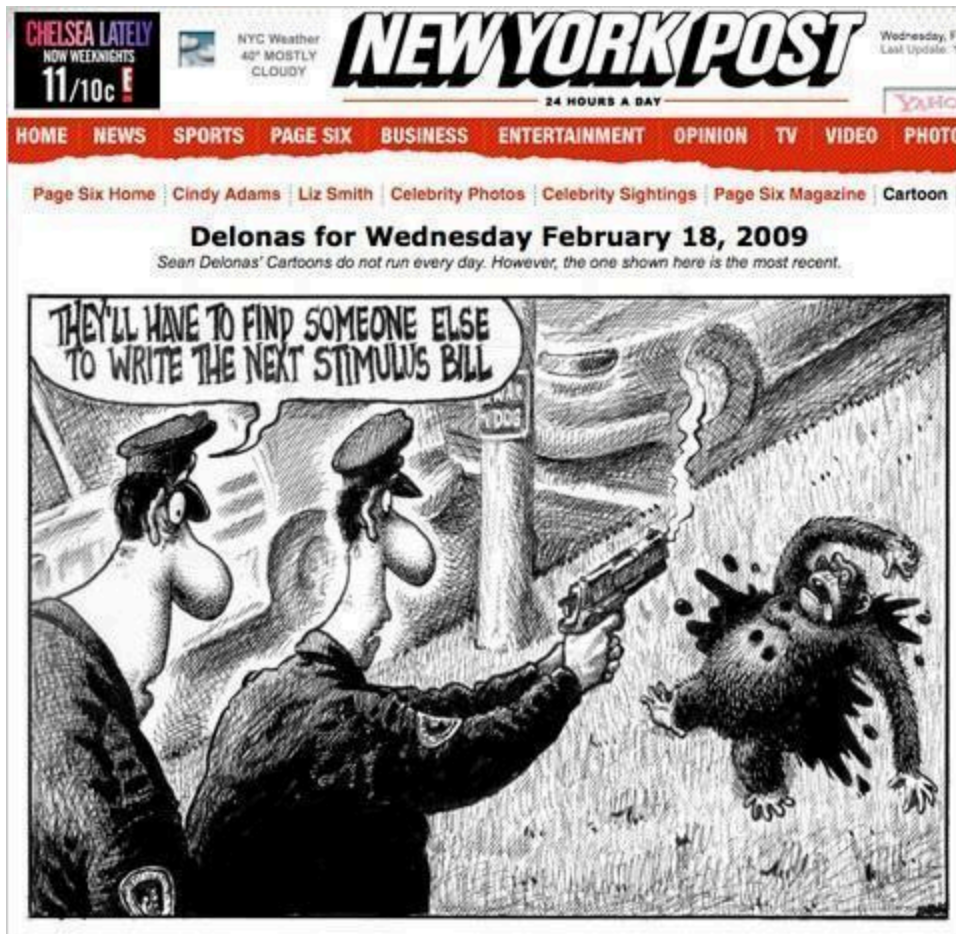


In his article, Bryan Meler discusses a contentious Toronto Sun headline posted on the front page of the Toronto Sun following the murder of 21-year old rapper Dimarjio Jenkins. Jenkins was commonly known as “Houdini” and the Toronto Sun ran the headline: “Who made Houdini vanish?”



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Coverage related to Barack Obama





- [News Corp. acts after Obama chimp cartoon](#)

*The Hollywood Reporter (news article)*

June 10, 2009

The article discusses the actions News Corp took after a racist cartoon was published in the New York Post. The corporation agreed to form an external diversity council after meeting with civil rights groups. News Corp. chairman Rupert Murdoch published an apology in the Post soon after the cartoon appeared in February, but pressure for further action continued.

- [New York Post apologises over 'racist' Barack Obama cartoon](#)

*The Telegraph (news article)*

February 20, 2009

A newspaper article about the New York Post's apology following their publication of a racist cartoon comparing President Barack Obama to a chimpanzee being gunned down by police in 2009. The article describes The New York Post's apology and explains why many of the cartoon's critics were not satisfied with the newspaper's response.

- [New York Post in racism row over chimpanzee cartoon](#)

*The Guardian (news article)*

February 18, 2009

The New York Post published a cartoon of police shooting a chimpanzee. African-American activist Al Sharpton claimed that the newspaper may have portrayed Barack Obama using racist imagery. At first glance, the cartoon seemed like a reference to the story that the tabloid was covering with breathless abandon for two days running- Connecticut police shooting a pet chimpanzee that attacked his owner's friend. However the caption " They will have to find some else to write the stimulus bill" made it look like a racist slur by portraying President Barack Obama who signed a bill the previous day.

### **"The Truth in Black and White"**

<https://niemanreports.org/articles/to-change-its-future-the-kansas-city-star-examined-iots-racist-past/>

A Kansas City Star project: "The Truth in Black and White" in 2020 published a series of six articles that apologized for its history of race coverage. The link above lists all six articles that were published. The Kansas City Star and The Kansas City Times often in their articles completely ignored the minority communities or gave very little coverage of the atrocities against them. For example: When 25 people died in the 1977 Kansas City floods, the coverage was primarily about the destruction of Country Club Plaza.

The six articles published as a part of the project are as follows:

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article247164484.html>

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article246722461.html>

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article247769015.html>

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article247235584.html>

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article247821130.html>

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article247787885.html>

Books:

### **The Race Beat: The Press, The Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation**

Gene Roberts and Hank Klibanoff

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/108422.The\\_Race\\_Beat](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/108422.The_Race_Beat)

The Race Beat is an analysis of the media's role in America's slow awakening to race issues and the shocking injustices of racial segregation and brutality in the South.

### **Seeing Red: A history of natives in Canadian newspapers**

Mark Cronlund Anderson and Carmen L. Robertson

<https://cjc-online.ca/index.php/journal/article/view/2615/2864>

Seeing Red dissects the way Canadian English language newspapers portrayed Indigenous people from 1869, analysing a wide range of publications on topics such as the sale of Rupert's Land, the death of Pauline Johnson, the outing of Grey Owl, the discussions surrounding Bill C-31. The authors discuss the ways in which the colonial imaginary dominating the depiction of Indigenous people in mainstream newspapers contributed to their marginalization in Canada.

## Journalism That Gets It Right

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2021/08/06/An-End-Of-Life-Shrouded-In-Hospital-Protocol/>

*The Tyee, By Francesca Fionda (article)*

August 6, 2021

Francis Jordan died in White Rock, B.C.'s Peace Arch hospital. His remains were left in the hospital morgue for over a week before his daughter, Ali Anderson, and her mother, Margaret Jordan, were informed of Francis' death. Ali and Margaret wonder if their Indigenous heritage played a role in how they were treated by the medical institutions involved.

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[Penticton Museum's new exhibit honours syilx language keepers](#)

*Indigenews, by Athena Bonneau (news article)*

July 24, 2021

This news article, written by Bonneau (of the Okanagan Syilx and Northern Cree Nations), discusses the Penticton Museum and En'owkin Centre's "Our Living Languages" exhibit. This exhibit honours the contributions of four Indigenous people to preserve the nsyilxcən (syilx) language.

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[https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/dont-call-me-resilient/id1549798876?utm\\_campaign=CA+Podcasts&utm\\_source=theconversation.com&utm\\_medium=EndOfArticle&utm\\_content=promo-981](https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/dont-call-me-resilient/id1549798876?utm_campaign=CA+Podcasts&utm_source=theconversation.com&utm_medium=EndOfArticle&utm_content=promo-981)

*The Conversation, by Vinita Srivastava-host (podcast)*

Launched February 3, 2021

*Don't call me Resilient* is a provocative podcast that discusses racism in Canada. "Resilient" sounds like a very positive term, but host Vinita Srivastava disagrees, arguing that calling someone resilient for suffering through pain means that they can be subjected to more atrocities.

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<https://www.businessinsider.com/journalists-of-color-assigned-stories-racism-beat-reckoning-black-2020-8>

*Insider, by Neha Maqsood (opinion piece)*

September 6, 2020

In this opinion piece, Maqsood examines the pigeonholing that BIPOC journalists face in newsrooms. Maqsood explains that she is tired of being assigned to race and/or racism-related stories merely because of the colour of her skin. As she explains, placing the burden of responsibility to cover systemic racism onto BIPOC journalists alone allows white journalists to "bypass the subject."

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<https://www.sprawlalberta.com/bipoc-representation-in-local-newsrooms>

*The Sprawl, by Hadeel-Abdel Nabi (article)*

June 23, 2020

In this article about systemic racism in Canadian newsrooms, Nabi argues that "Canadian media is white- like, extremely white." As she explains, racialized journalists have to carry the burden of change when it comes to tackling racism perpetuated in/by the media. Nabi writes that Canadian media can do better and that it is necessary to go beyond the performative action, or "cosmetic change," that so many newsrooms are guilty of adopting.

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/05/sunday-review/black-lives-matter-protests-floyd.html>

*The New York Times*, by Jenna Wortham

June 5, 2020

While the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement began years ago, Wortham argues that there is something unique about the 2020 movement. In her article, Wortham investigates the current BLM movement, asking why it has now become “more powerful than ever.” She concludes that the COVID-19 pandemic, in conjunction with increased use of technology, has made it increasingly difficult to ignore the effects of anti-Black systemic racism in the U.S.

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<https://thetyee.ca/Culture/2020/02/14/Desmond-Cole-Skin-Were-In-Book-Black-Canadians/>

*The Tyee*, by Olamide Olaniyan (interview)

February 14, 2020

An interview with writer Desmond Cole, the article talks about Cole’s encounters with white supremacy. As a Black person living in Toronto, Cole was stopped more than 50 times by the police. He defines white supremacy as “a system of power that seeks to benefit white people over all others.”

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[Debra Arbec. CTV My Montreal](#)

*CTV My Montreal* (YouTube video)

April 22, 2012

This cultural segment, hosted by CTV’s Debra Arbec during the 2000s, covers just about every ethnic group for a decade. This short video gives an overview of the show’s approach and features clips from different episodes.

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[Prita Chhabra on CTV News](#)

*CTV My Montreal* (YouTube video)

December 12, 2010

This is a My Montreal segment centering a South Asian aspiring musician named Prita Chhabra.

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## Great Journalism by Racialized Journalists

[NewsThink - With Cindy Pom](#)

*Launched in May 2020* (YouTube channel)

Cindy Pom is a multimedia journalist based in Paris and the founder of the YouTube channel NewsThink. Through this channel, she tells stories about science and technology, and analyses current news topics.

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[Standing Tall. A Survivor’s Journey](#)

*CTV News*, reporting by Maya Johnson (broadcast)

January 29, 2019

This is the story of Aymen Derbali, a victim of the Quebec city mosque shooting. Derbali stood in the line of fire, risking his life to protect his fellow worshippers. The episode talks about his rehabilitation and his move into a new home with his family. The video gives insight into his long road to recovery.

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[This is Vancolour - A Podcast hosted by Mo Amir](#)

*Launched in 2018 (Podcast)*

Mo Amir is a Vancouver-based opinions columnist at CBC who also runs the blog "This is Vancolour"

The blog is a series of podcasts on culture and politics that is available on iTunes and Spotify, Google podcasts and Stitcher.

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[California wildfires impact marine life](#)

*CBC News: The National, reporting by Kim Brunhuber (broadcast)*

*April 16, 2018*

The Thomas wildfire in California destroyed more than 1,000 structures in 2017. It also affected marine life. This CBC report analyses how exactly the fires impacted marine life in the Pacific ocean.

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[Viola Desmond's sister recounts family's Halifax Explosion experiences](#)

*CBC News, by Sherri Borden-Colley (news article)*

*November 28, 2017*

Wanda Robson, the youngest sister of Viola Desmond, narrates the story of her family's experience in the Halifax ship explosion in 1917 that killed about 2,000 people. Desmond, a businesswoman and beautician, was jailed because she sat in the "whites only" section in New Glasgow, N.S. Her court challenge against the sentence was a fundamental turn that helped end racial segregation in Nova Scotia.

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[Music in the Key of Oscar](#)

*Produced and directed by Sylvia Sweeney (broadcast)*

*October 7, 2017*

Eight-time Grammy award winner Oscar Peterson's legacy of unforgettable music is documented in this episode. The reporting is an in-depth journey into his life. He discusses his 200 recordings, early days and his roots. Considered to be one of the world's greatest jazz pianists, Peterson's life is documented in the Music in the Key of Oscar documentary.

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[Fake degrees: Exposing Canadians with phoney credentials \(Marketplace\)](#)

*CBC Marketplace, reporting by Asha Tomlinson (broadcast)*

*September 15, 2017*

This award-winning episode (paired with a written story) by Marketplace is an investigation about the world's largest diploma mill. The reporters discovered many Canadians could be putting their health and well-being in the hands of medical practitioners and other professionals with phoney credentials. CBC's investigation exposed this scam involving hundreds of Canadians purchasing fake degrees.

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[A Thousand Farewells: A Reporter's Journey from Refugee Camp to the Arab Spring Hardcover](#)

*By Nahlah Ayed, 2012 (book)*

The story of a reporter from a refugee camp to the Arab Uprisings. This is a story narrated by Nahlah Ayed, whose family left their comfortable life in Winnipeg for the squalor of a Palestinian refugee camp in Amman, Jordan. The book talks about the transition and the discomforts they had to go through. Through the use of a first-person account, this text provides the reader with a better understanding of conflicts in the Middle East.

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[One Big Idea: Supervised drug use on the Downtown Eastside \(The Globe and Mail - Subscription required\)](#)

*The Globe and Mail, by Ian Bailey (news article)*

*November 8, 2010*

An article centred on an interview that presents science fiction author, Spider Robinson's argument that drugs should be legalized in Canada.

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[RCMP fire Tasers multiple times despite health hazards: probe](#)

*CBC News, reporting by David McKie (broadcast)*

*June 11, 2008*

This article is a bold take against RCMP officers who were likely to use fire tasers and electronic stun guns multiple times during an altercation despite the health risks that may involve. To understand the gravity of the situation they also got a BC resident, Curtis Wasylenko, who mentioned he was hit multiple times with a taser when RCMP was involved during his dispute he was having with a Kelowna cab driver in 2004.

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[The Fifth Estate - Cold War brainwashing](#)

*The Fifth Estate, reporting by Adrienne Clarkson (broadcast)*

*March 11, 1980*

During the cold war, the CIA funded a series of secret brainwashing experiments at a McGill University psychiatric clinic. Their methods involved the use of LSD, hypnosis, prolonged periods of induced sleep and electrical shocks to the brain. Patients were given this treatment without explanation and without having consented. Decades later, many still report never having fully recovered. This episode centres on the stories of two Canadians who had never before shared their experiences publicly.