

# Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

## Final Report Bill 204, *Anti-Racism Act*

Thirtieth Legislature  
Third Session  
April 2022



Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS**

April 2022

**To the Honourable Nathan Cooper  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
of the Province of Alberta**

I have the honour of submitting, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills, the Committee's final report containing recommendations on Bill 204, *Anti-Racism Act*, for consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Sincerely,

*[original signed by]*

Brad Rutherford, MLA  
Chair, Standing Committee on  
Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

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## MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

### 30th Legislature, Third Session

Brad Rutherford, MLA  
Chair  
Leduc-Beaumont (UC)

Jeremy P. Nixon, MLA  
Deputy Chair  
Calgary-Klein (UC)

Mickey K. Amery, MLA  
Calgary-Cross (UC)

Pat Rehn, MLA  
Lesser Slave Lake (UC)

Michaela L. Frey, MLA  
Brooks-Medicine Hat (UC)

Miranda D. Rosin, MLA  
Banff-Kananaskis (UC)

Janis Irwin, MLA  
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP)

Lori Sigurdson, MLA  
Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)

Martin M. Long, MLA  
West Yellowhead (UC)

Heather Sweet, MLA  
Edmonton-Manning (NDP)

Christian E. Nielsen, MLA  
Edmonton-Decore (NDP)

### Substitutions pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4):

Deron Bilous, MLA\*  
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)

Lorne Dach, MLA†  
Edmonton-McClung (NDP)

Peter Singh, MLA‡§  
Calgary-East (UC)

Mark W. Smith, MLA\*\*  
Drayton Valley-Devon (UC)

Devinder Toor, MLA††  
Calgary-Falconridge (UC)

Matt Jones, MLA‡‡  
Calgary-South East (UC)

### Members also in attendance on April 7, 2022, and April 21, 2022:

David Shepherd, MLA  
Edmonton-City Centre (NDP)

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\* Substitute for Janis Irwin on April 7, 2022

† Substitute for Heather Sweet on April 7, 2022

‡ Substitute for Michaela Frey on April 7, 2022

§ Substitute for Michaela Frey on April 21, 2022

\*\* Substitute for Miranda Rosin on April 7, 2022

†† Substitute for Martin Long on April 21, 2022

‡‡ Substitute for Miranda D. Rosin on April 21, 2022

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Bill 204, *Anti-Racism Act*, was introduced and received first reading on March 24, 2022.

## 2.0 ORDER OF REFERENCE

Pursuant to Standing Order 74.11:

- (1) After a public Bill other than a Government Bill has been read a first time, the Bill stands referred to the Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills Committee.
- (2) The Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills Committee shall report back to the Assembly within 8 sitting days of the day on which the Bill was referred to the Committee.

## 3.0 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

As part of the Committee's review of Bill 204, a Committee meeting was held on April 7, 2022. At that meeting the sponsor of Bill 204, David Shepherd, Member for Edmonton-City Centre, made a presentation on the Bill to the Committee, and the Committee received a technical briefing from the Ministries of Labour and Immigration and Service Alberta. Another meeting was held on April 21, 2022, to complete deliberations on Bill 204.

## 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to Standing Order 74.2 the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills recommends

**that Bill 204, *Anti-Racism Act*, not proceed.**

## APPENDIX A: MINORITY REPORT

### Minority Report

#### Bill 204 - Anti-Racism Act

#### Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

The NDP Caucus Members of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private members' Public Bills (the "Committee") disagree with the UCP Caucus Members of this Committee. They voted to recommend that Bill 204, *Anti-Racism Act*, is NOT worthy to be considered for debate in the legislature. Let's be clear about what they're saying. The UCP Caucus Members have voted to stop the Anti-Racism Act before it can be debated. This UCP vote is a vote against the merits of collecting race-based data to inform actions to end racism.

The Alberta NDP is proposing a Bill that flows from the advice provided directly to the UCP Government in March 2021 by the Anti-Racism Advisory Council, and a bill informed directly by hundreds of community voices and policy experts. Blocking the Bill from debate can only be considered a cynical act of partisanship and we ask that the Legislative Assembly, rather, act in the interests of Albertans to have Bill 204 be debated.

For many Albertans, systemic racism is part of their daily experience - even when accessing government programs and services like education and healthcare. This is often caused by policies, practices, and procedures that appear neutral on paper, but in practice, they disadvantage racialized groups, and are often perpetuated by a failure to identify and monitor racial disparities, preventing mapping and implementing real change.

These truths have been articulated by Indigenous, Black, Muslim, and other racialized people to governments throughout the world, and here in Alberta, the NDP Caucus heard the same from the hundreds that were consulted on Bill 204 and solutions to address racism.

Bill 204, *Anti-Racism Act*, proposes a necessary first step in combating racism in this province through the collection of race-based data by public bodies, and answers a call from racialized communities in Alberta and key recommendations of the government's own Anti-Racism Advisory Council.

Instead of rising to the challenge of addressing racism in Alberta, the United Conservatives chose to use their committee majority to block further debate on Bill 204, and voted against a motion that the Bill proceed to the Assembly.

This decision is contrary to the solutions advocated for by Indigenous and racialized Albertans, and experts in this field, and should not be supported by the members of this Assembly.

We must all collectively work towards making Alberta a place where everyone can be successful by taking meaningful steps towards solutions. Words are meaningless if they are not accompanied by concrete action.

If the members of the Legislative Assembly are committed to working with Indigenous and racialized Albertans to ensure a better future for everyone, they will vote to debate Bill 204 in the Assembly, and then they will vote in support of the Bill and the solutions proposed within to combat racism, the fulsome debate and consideration it, and those whose lives it seeks to improve, deserves.

If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

NDP Committee Members

Janis Irwin

Chris Nielsen

Lori Sigurdson

Heather Sweet