



## **Press Release**

*For Immediate Release*

December 2, 2020

**Calgary-AB-Act2endracism stands in solidarity with the South Asian Canadian community, which has become a target of Premier Jason Kenney's racist remarks blaming them for the spread of Covid-19.**

Act2endracism supports the call for an apology from Alberta's Premier for his remarks made on Red 106.7 FM recently. Premier Kenney delivered what he called a "wake-up call" citing large gatherings as one of the reasons for higher transmission in the community.

***Cesar Cala, a member of Filipinos Rising, added, "Many of the South Asian community members are essential workers in health, retail, manufacturing and the food industry, making them more vulnerable to the exposure of the virus. Premier Jason Kenney ignores the difficulties many racialized Canadians face working on the front lines. This blame game and scapegoating ignore the intersection of race and class. Drawing an uninformed conclusion is the latest example of the lack of leadership in confronting the pandemic."***

On the weekend, an anti-mask protest in Calgary drew hundreds of people to City Hall. This dangerous behaviour coincided with an upward trend in cases with Alberta leading the way. And yet the Premier stayed silent. This double-standard leads many to question the concept of privilege. Why does one group get called out, and another does not.

***Former Alberta MLA and Act2endracism founder, Teresa Woo-Paw, added, "Imagine if the faces in the crowd looked different. We likely would have seen different messaging from leaders instead the Premier did not speak out. We possibly would have seen more law enforcement at the illegal gathering if the crowd were racialized. This double standard and racism must stop. We need leadership now more than ever."***

Act2endracism urges targets of racism to report incidents to its online reporting tool on its website [www.act2endracism.ca](http://www.act2endracism.ca) or by texting 1-587-507-3838. Most reports to the line are from women in public spaces, such as parks and grocery stores and most request mental health support.

### **For information and to arrange an interview:**

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