

# A Special Message from the VHEC

June 4, 2020

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As an anti-racism education centre founded by survivors of the Shoah and dedicated to engaging audiences in learning about the Holocaust and its ongoing relevance, the VHEC has a proud tradition of championing diversity and social justice.

Through our work—which has included programs that bring together eyewitnesses of the Holocaust and survivors of Indian Residential Schools and the Rwandan genocide, as well as exhibitions exploring topics ranging from Shanghai as a refuge during the Holocaust to Albanian Muslim rescuers—the VHEC attempts to highlight the wide-ranging consequences of hate left unchecked.

The ongoing oppression of Indigenous peoples and anti-Black and anti-Asian violence across North America has focused our collective attention on the deeply rooted racism in Canada and around the world. Now, more than ever, communities must stand together, united against racism and hate. We must learn the lessons of the past to envision a more just, inclusive future.

**The VHEC stands in opposition to racism in all its forms and in solidarity with those who are its victims. Today we reaffirm our commitment to combatting racism through education.**

The power of education is underscored in this message received from Mila, a grade 10 student at Magee Secondary in Vancouver, who recently participated in our new [Online Symposium on the Holocaust](#): “I think that your messages were very inspiring and will stay with me for a very long time. **I feel motivated to ensure that I will never be a bystander and will always stand up for anyone experiencing exclusion or discrimination.**”

We invite you to explore this online symposium, which offers resources on how to become engaged citizens in response to injustice in today’s world.

There are many other worthwhile resources; recently the VHEC staff is spending time with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture’s new portal, [Talking About Race](#), developed to help individuals, families and communities engage in dialogue and self-reflection.

The hope conveyed by Mila’s words, and the words of Elie Wiesel, featured in the entrance of the VHEC, offer promise and guide our staff and Board: **“One person of integrity can make a difference.”**

Sincerely,



Nina Krieger  
Executive Director



Philip Levinson  
Board President