

September 8, 2021

Hi Jay,

Thank you for reaching out, I appreciate your advocacy on this very important issue.

New Democrats believe that we cannot stand by and allow racism to flourish in our communities, putting lives at risk. It's time to choose: we must turn the talk of diversity into action to confront systemic racism, and put an end to it for good. It's time to take on the systemic racism and inequalities that led to these tragic outcomes.

The federal government must take a leadership role in understanding how policies impact racialized communities and contribute to systemic racism. A New Democrat government will prioritize the collection of race-based data on health, employment, policing and more with the goal of improving outcomes for racialized communities. We will work with the provinces to improve race-based data collection and develop reporting and accountability mechanisms alongside racialized and Indigenous communities.

Employment discrimination on the basis of race continues to be an unacceptable problem in Canada, one that the federal government has failed to take on. Today, a university-educated Canadian-born member of a racialized community earns, on average, only 87.4 cents for every dollar earned by their white peers, a gap that is even more pronounced for racialized women.

A New Democrat government will conduct a comprehensive review of the existing employment equity regime to help close the racialized wage gap. New Democrats will strengthen labour laws and ensure diverse and equitable hiring within the federal public service, and in federally regulated industries. Jobs and training for under-represented groups will be a core part of federal infrastructure plans. Lastly, we will work with the provinces and territories to develop and enforce effective employment equity legislation, and to collect and analyze data on the racialization of poverty – because everyone should be able to build a good life with equal opportunity.

Now more than ever, we need a feminist government. But the Liberals have failed to back up their words with strong action to address systemic discrimination against women, and the Conservatives slashed funding for women's equality while they were in power, setting us back decades.

Lisa Marie Barron