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WITH
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It's Time for A Racial Reckoning

It's time for a racial reckoning Canada. Our history of systematic racism is long and has not gone away. For instance, while women of European descent got the vote in Canada in 1918, women of South Asian Chinese and Japanese origin had to wait until 1949 to vote. And if you were an Indigenous woman you had to wait until 1960.

This type of systematic racism, of racial hierarchy, has not gone away. We're seeing it played out in COVID. Today, 79% of those who have contacted COVID in Toronto have been identified as racialized persons. Here in BC, we are so failing to provide primary and preventative healthcare that Indigenous persons are 75% more likely to end up very sick in emergency rooms.

One of the most heartbreaking things for me though is that while residential schools are, thankfully, a thing of the past we are failing yet another generation. There are more indigenous children in government care today than there were at the height of residential schools. It also breaks my heart and I often speak up when I sit in a coffee shop or on a bus and I overhear people talking about "The Asians" are buying all the houses or taking all the spots at the university. Or I have to say something when I hear the neighbours worrying that just because two of the Eritrean-Canadian boys who live down the street left the house at the same time, no that does not mean the neighborhood has a "gang problem." And my goodness this man in Montreal who does the right thing and calls the police when he witnesses a crime only to find himself accused of such crime and thrown in jail. We should all be ashamed.

It is Lent. As Christian it is a time for self-examination, penitence, and prayer. It is a time to look at systematic racism. It is a time to look at implicit bias. It is a time to build a country where we respect the dignity of every human being. We are long overdue in doing this. Amen.