



UNLEARN ANTISEMITISM

A LEARNING GUIDE FOR UNLEARN IT





PART 4: **UNDERSTANDING ANTISEMITISM IN CANADA**

The History of Antisemitism in Canada and the Lived Experience of Canadian Jews

1. How does this video S.I.T. with you?
2. How do the [Four I's of Oppression](#)** apply to the examples in this video?
3. While, in Canada today, we may no longer see the same overt examples of institutional oppression of years past targeting Jewish people, structural antisemitism *does* still exist. How do you think that the other three I's (Ideology, Interpersonal, and Internalized) [oppression] impact Jewish Canadians today?
4. What can we do as individuals to recognize and eradicate behaviours, cultural norms, and practices within institutions that are ingrained, but unwritten, and are de facto maintaining and perpetuating an antisemitic status quo?
5. What do you think are some of the effects of antisemitism in Canada, on both Jews and non-Jews?

Slow down to consider Jess Burke's comments:

1. Consider how structural racism has persisted. This video provides a helpful construct for understanding the ways in which oppression takes root and is expressed within society. As you consider the two stories that Jess shares in this section (*The Ideal Maternity Home* and the *Hôpital Notre-Dame*), consider how Ideology, Institutional, Interpersonal, and Internalized oppression are at work in each case. Which I's were obvious to you? Which I's were more subtle to you?

****Extended Learning: The Four I's of Oppression**

- i. Ideological: the *idea* that one group is somehow better than another, and in some measure has the right to control the other group.
- ii. Institutional: the institutions of society—the laws, the legal system and police practice, the education system and schools, hiring policies, public policies, housing development, media images, political power, etc.—are grounded in and perpetuate the idea of one group's superiority.
- iii. Interpersonal: individualized behaviors by members of the dominant group that disrespect or mistreat individuals in non-dominant groups.
- iv. Internalized: when members of oppressed groups experience the oppression and come to believe (internalize) the negative messages about themselves and their group membership.

Additional Resources:

- [Christie Pits Riots](#) (The Canadian Encyclopedia)
- [Full text of Justin Trudeau's St. Louis apology](#) (The Canadian Jewish News)
- [Survivors of dark episode in Canada's history trace their past: The Butterbox Babies - Horrific Canadian Child Rights Story](#) (Canadian Children's Rights Council)
- [Dr. Sam Rabinovitch and The Notre-Dame Hospital Strike - Hôpital Notre-Dame](#) (Museum of Jewish Montreal)