



**SAMUEL CENTRE  
FOR SOCIAL  
CONNECTEDNESS**

**Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness  
2024 Fellowship Program  
Project Proposal**

**PARTNER ORGANIZATION:**

Coastal Research, Education, & Advocacy Network (CREAN)

**PROJECT TITLE:**

Investigating Anti-Racism & Belonging

## **Partner Organization: Coastal Research, Education, & Advocacy Network**

The Coastal Research, Education, and Advocacy Network (CREAN) empowers vulnerable youth through research, education, and advocacy. Our community-based research informs our services, with the intention of deepening connections and improving the lives of youth, families, and their communities. We work closely with residents and community leaders to advocate, both locally and nationally, on behalf of youth to make our cities a better place to live.

Learn more at: <https://creansociety.ca/>

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

### **Location of the Project: Canda, Remote or Victoria BC Office**

This project is available to applicants in Canada. Candidates from Victoria BC can connect in person with the Victoria-based team.

### **Section 1: Description of the Project**

Since 2018, CREAN has gathered information on racism and anti-racism through the Anti-Racism in the Education System project (ARIE), in collaboration with schools, organizations, and community members in British Columbia (BC). The ARIE project aims to understand the racism that exists within BC public high schools, make recommendations for the implementation of anti-racism initiatives, advocate for racialized students, and improve educational outcomes. In line with other recent studies, the ARIE results so far highlight the different ways that racism and discrimination continue to harm racialized students in BC schools and impact their health, safety, and wellbeing. Research also shows that experiences of racism in youth can have negative short- and long-term impacts on youth's physical and mental health, learning, and behaviour. Racism can also impact many other socio-political and socio-cultural factors and issues such as income/wealth, education, politics, and social integration.

The Anti-Racism & Belonging project will use the data collected through the ARIE project, and additional data, to better understand the impacts of experiences of racism on racialized student's wellbeing and sense of belonging. The Fellow will also help us understand the impacts of anti-racism projects on racialized students' sense of belonging and social connectedness.

### **Section 2: Goals of the Project**

This research will be used for CREAN's future advocacy and policy work. This project will support and contribute to CREAN's mission of conducting community-based research and activities that aim to support and empower vulnerable low-income and racialized youth, and deepen connections and improve the lives of youth, families, and their communities.

## The goals of the project are to:

- Better understand the connection between racism and belonging/social connectedness for racialized youth in BC, and the impacts of racism on social connectedness.
- Enhance and spotlight the vital importance of anti-racism work for youth in BC.
- Better understand what can be done to improve anti-racism and increase youth's sense of belonging and social connectedness in BC schools.
- Help CREAN produce anti-racism materials that can be used in our advocacy, in the school system, and in communities to advocate for increased health and well-being of racialized youth.

## Section 3: Guiding Questions

The selected Fellow will help us answer the following key questions:

1. What do the terms belonging/social connectedness mean to racialized youth in BC?
  - a. What does it look like when belonging and social connectedness are present in communities of racialized youth?
2. How can we know if/when racialized youth feel a strong sense of belonging and social connectedness in schools? What are some indicators?
3. How does racism in school impact racialized youths' wellbeing and belonging?
4. What anti-racist initiatives and activities in schools are the most effective at increasing racialized students' sense of social connectedness and belonging?
5. What are examples of where anti-racism initiatives and activities have increased racialized youths' sense connection, wellbeing and belonging?
6. Are there other indicators of wellbeing and belonging that should be included (i.e., sense of autonomy, or respect)? (Case studies outside of Canada and within are encouraged)

## Section 4: Key Deliverables

- **1 blog post** (500 – 1,000 word), posted to SCSC's website
- **A Community Engagement Initiative** (CEI) in support of the Final Report
- **A Final Research Report**
  - A 25 – 40-page research report supported by primary and secondary source data that synthesizes the project's findings and recommendations.
- **A Final Presentation** with the cohort

## **APPLICANT INFORMATION**

### Key Attributes and Skills in the Applicant

- Excellent research skills
- Working knowledge of, and active commitment to, challenging different forms of oppression.

- Strong interpersonal communication skills and ability to collaborate with volunteers and community members; willingness to learn and communicate through consensus decision-making and respect for process.
- Strong organizational skills and time management.
- Ability to work independently, take initiative and follow through.
- Confidence with computers and social media tools.
- Strong writing skills and media literacy.

**Assets:**

- Experience working with community groups, community networks, and/or working in collectives.
- Previous experience with community-based action research, community organizing, or popular education tools and techniques.
- Experience with social media campaigns.
- Experience with creating creative outreach materials such as posters, pamphlets, email newsletters, and events postings specific to the project.
- Familiarity with computer/web tools and platforms

**Preference will be given to applicants with lived experience, specifically racialized experiences.**

**About the Fellowship/What the Fellowship Offers**

The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness (SCSC) Social Connectedness Fellowship empowers young people and people with a variety of different types of lived experience to partner with groundbreaking organizations from around the world to carry out innovative research on social isolation and belonging.

SCSC defines belonging as connection to the 4 Ps: people, place, power, and purpose. This is to say that belonging comes through our relationships with other people as well as through our rootedness in nature, our ability to influence social, political and economic decision-making, and our capacity to find shared meaning and purpose in our lives. The Fellowship offers a unique opportunity to apply the lens of Belonging, thinking intersectionally, and holistically about the problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

These are paid positions, starting on **May 6, 2024**, and ending on **September 27, 2024**. From **May – August the position is full time, 35 hours per week** and in **September the hours are reduced to part time, 10-20 hours per week**.

**SCSC Offers:**

- Competitive wages adjusted according to each Fellow’s geographic location and experience.
  - Applicants to this project can expect a range of \$22-27 CAD per hour.
- Opportunity to work with national & international community partners

- Capacity building, skills development, & mentorship
- Ability to network, and be part of an international cohort
- All Fellowship works are published on the SCSC website
- The Fellow's work will be supported by regular supervision meetings with both organizations, and a 1-week long orientation at SCSC.

### **Program Requirements:**

- Be able to work at least 4 hours per day (in alignment with the 9-5 workday) in Eastern Standard Time to ensure overlap with the Toronto-based team.
- Be ready to engage in regular online meetings, check-ins, capacity building sessions, and work remotely.
- Ability to take initiative, manage their time effectively, work independently, and draw from different resources to support their work.
- Have a passion for research and building a more inclusive, belonging-oriented world.

### **EQUITY STATEMENT**

The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness is an equal opportunity employer, and we encourage applicants to apply even if they do not meet all the criteria. We believe all candidates have something to bring to the organization and the role. If you have skills outside the job description that you think can benefit the project, let us know in your cover letter. We encourage all equity-seeking groups, such as immigrants, Black and Indigenous communities, people of color, women, young people, 2SLGBTQ+ community members, people with disabilities, and people who have been justice-impacted to apply.

**Please tell us if you need accommodation throughout the application process and we are happy to support you.**

You can email any accommodation requests to [scfellowship@scscglobal.org](mailto:scfellowship@scscglobal.org)