

## Hate in the Pandemic Inquiry

### Counselling for Inquiry Participants Guideline January 2022

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Counselling for Inquiry Participants Guideline (“Guideline”) is to outline the process for the B.C.’s Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (BCOHCR) to fund counselling for individuals who are affected by participating in the Human Rights Commissioner’s [Hate in the Pandemic Inquiry \(“Inquiry”\)](#).

#### Definitions

1. **Inquiry participant** is an individual who participates in BCOHRC’s Inquiry into hate in the pandemic by completing the public survey, making an oral, written or video submission or by submitting an artistic expression to the Inquiry.
2. **Counselling professional** includes registered psychologists, registered social workers or registered clinical counsellors.

#### Guideline

1. Supporting individuals who participate in the Inquiry is not only critical to the Inquiry’s success but is also consistent with BCOHRC’s **guiding principles** of being trauma-informed, decolonizing, accessible, fair and democratic.
2. BCOHRC will provide a maximum of three 50-minute counselling sessions by a Counselling professional. Additional sessions may be approved on an exceptional basis.
3. BCOHRC will pay no more than \$150 for each 50-minute session in accordance with the BC Association of Clinical Counsellor’s fee schedule.
4. Participants can identify a counsellor of their choice or BCOHRC will support participants to find an appropriate counsellor.
5. Individuals who are affected by participating in the Inquiry can request counselling by sending an email to [Inquiry@bchumanrights.ca](mailto:Inquiry@bchumanrights.ca) with their contact information. An Inquiry team member will contact them to set up the counselling contract. Requests for counseling will only be shared with BCOHRC staff who will be assisting to set up and pay for the counselling.

6. BCOHRC has limited funding available for counselling support. Funding will be allocated on a first come first serve basis until the funding is used up or three months after the Inquiry final report is publicly released, whichever comes first.