SCY’s vision is a British Columbia where all children and youth thrive, and we recognize that our vision cannot be realized in a society where Black lives don’t matter or where racism prevails. The recent killing of George Floyd and subsequent global protests have laid bare for SCY the need for us to make a sustained commitment to the work of dismantling racism and white supremacy. Additionally, our location in BC on unceded territories is a reminder of the ongoing legacy of colonialism and the importance of true reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. The injustices faced by our Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour communities are both distinct and interconnected. Seeking justice for Black and Indigenous lives lost this spring, such as George Floyd, Eishia Hudson, Breonna Taylor, Chantel Moore, Ahmaud Arbery, and numerous others, requires us to commit to the work of anti-racism, today and every day.

While we have worked on numerous projects addressing issues of racism in the past, we could and should have brought greater focus to this work. The work of dismantling racist and colonialist systems is not separate from the realization of children’s rights but deeply intertwined, both because the negative impacts of these systems begin in early childhood and because we see youth at the heart of protest movements and campaigns for change time and time again.

In our recent report for the United Nations regarding Canada’s progress implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), we highlighted numerous issues of systemic discrimination, oppression, and colonialist practices that continue to negatively impact young people across Canada. As non-discrimination is a guiding principle of the UNCRC, we urged the Canadian government to “take urgent action to better implement the principle of non-discrimination into the lives of children and youth through systematic anti-racism training, review of funding schemes, compliance with all current and future orders for reparations due to past discrimination, and consultation directly with marginalized youth.”

We’ve come back to these words while reflecting on the work we have ahead of us to become better allies and accomplices to Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) in our communities. As an organization situated on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, led by a predominantly white staff, we have much to examine and significant work to do. We are making the following commitments to deepen our work on this area:

- **Uplifting BIPOC Voices**: we will work to amplify the work of, and expand our relationships with, Black, Indigenous and POC-led organizations whose work relates to children’s rights, and learn from their leadership
- **Decolonizing**: we are making the work of decolonizing a central theme of our next strategic plan, which we are currently in the process of developing, with guidance and leadership from experienced professionals
- **Developing an Anti-Racism and Racial Equity Long-Term Strategy**: we are creating an anti-racism working group to help develop our long-term strategy
- **Organizational Training**: we will prioritize opportunities for anti-racism training from professionals for staff, Board, and volunteers.

We plan to share publicly again about our progress implementing these and further action steps, sometime in the fall of 2020. Email info @ scyofbc.org if you have feedback.