

# RACISM HITS CLARINGTON AGAIN



DURHAM - It appears that the ugly head of racism has sprung up again in Durham. This time in Clarington.

A municipality that has had it's share of race related crime. The Municipality of Clarington has issued the following statement condemning the anti-Black racist graffiti found at the Visual Art Centre of Clarington.

Statement from Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster:  
"As Mayor of Clarington, I am both frustrated and angry to learn of the defacement of a cherished public facility with racist graffiti. This act is completely unacceptable and does not represent the beliefs and values of our community. Let me be clear: hate has no place in Clarington."

The Visual Arts Centre of Clarington, housed in a stunning heritage building, is a creative cornerstone of our community. To see it vandalized in such a hateful manner was deeply disheartening. I want to sincerely thank the staff who quickly removed the offensive graffiti, demonstrating their commitment to our values.

On behalf of Clarington Council, I want to stress that our Municipality stands firm in its commitment to creating an inclusive community for all. We will not ignore or indulge the actions that seek to divide us. We will work tirelessly to make sure Clarington remains a place where everyone can feel welcomed and supported."

Councillor Lloyd Rang, Council Liaison for the Clarington Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee:  
"Imagine choosing to express yourself with graffiti. Now, imagine that the thought you choose to express is hateful. You can't, because the vast majority of us know how lazy

and vile you have to be to do such a thing. We in Clarington condemn this and all anti-Black racism."  
Officials in Clarington are decrying an instance of racist vandalism at Bowmanville's Visual Arts Centre.  
The Visual Arts Centre of Clarington reported Thursday that someone had defaced the building with anti-Black hate messaging.  
"We are deeply saddened and angered by this incident, which directly opposes everything we believe in as a community arts organization," they wrote.  
"The investigation is ongoing, and all potential motives, including the possibility of a racial element, are being thoroughly examined," they noted Thursday. "The Durham Regional Police Service does not tolerate any form of hate speech or hate motivated crimes in our community. We believe that safety, dignity, and respect are fundamental rights for all, and we remain firmly committed to protecting those values."

Mayor Adrian Foster described the incident as 'unacceptable':  
"As Mayor of Clarington, I am both frustrated and angry to learn of the defacement of a cherished public facility with racist graffiti. This act is completely unacceptable and does not represent the beliefs and values of our community. Let me be clear: hate has no place in Clarington."  
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"Imagine choosing to express yourself with graffiti," added Councillor Lloyd Rang, liaison with the Clarington Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee. "Now, imagine that the thought you choose to express is hateful. You can't, because the vast majority of us know how lazy and vile you have to be to do such a thing. We in Clarington condemn this and all anti-Black racism."

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# Band-Aid Budget: More cuts, less relief, and a missed opportunity to strengthen Ontario

QUEEN'S PARK – Marit Stiles, Leader of the Official Opposition NDP and Shadow Minister for Finance Jessica Bell (University of Toronto) have issued the following statement in response to the 2025 Ontario Budget:  
"This is a missed opportunity to strengthen Ontario," said Stiles. "The Premier and his government had a choice -- to build a tariff-proof future so Ontario can take on the economic uncertainties from Donald Trump's reckless tariffs.  
"For families already stretched thin, for the over-worked health care and education workers struggling to make ends meet, for the auto workers worried about their livelihoods -- this budget delivers little hope and no reassurance."  
"Instead of choosing a future where workers and their families can get ahead, the government missed the mark with a budget that is full of cuts and no new investments in the services that people rely on," said Bell.  
"Over the past few months, the people of Ontario have been asking themselves: Why wasn't Ontario in a stronger position to take on these tariffs? The budget offers a clue."  
"This year's budget makes serious cuts to post-secondary education, fails to close the gap for our schools, doubles down on Ford's housing failures, and delivers no relief for communities stuck with closed emergency rooms and delayed hospital projects." Schools, homes, hospitals are nation-building infrastructure to strengthen Ontario and build a tariff-proof future. This is a band-aid budget that misses the mark on reassurance, relief, and results for the people of Ontario."  
The Ontario NDP has called for a plan to strengthen Ontario that will:  
Accelerate public infrastructure projects — hospitals, schools, affordable housing so Ontario can address social challenges and spur job creation.  
1 Invest in training and apprenticeships to build a resilient workforce.  
2 Grow Ontario's economy, strengthen local supply chains, and bolster efforts to find new markets for Ontario goods and services.  
3 Protect jobs and implement tough measures to stop jobs and manufacturing from leaving the province.  
4 Bring real income supports for workers and emergency funding for tariff-exposed industries.  
A missed opportunity to keep good jobs in Ontario: While thousands of jobs continue to leave the province putting workers and their families' futures at risk, this year's budget has no clear plan to stop manufacturers and equipment from leaving the province.  
A missed opportunity in public education and child care: Now more than ever, we need to strengthen our colleges and universities to create a more resilient workforce, instead this year's budget brings billions in cuts to colleges, universities, and stagnant funding to schools.

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