

WHAT IS PROFILING?

Definitions of racial profiling have consistently demonstrated a common central theme: Persons in authority attributing criminal intent to individuals or groups based on stereotypes of race, colour, ethnicity or other markers of identity.

Profiling can occur in many contexts involving **safety, security and public protection** issues. A few examples are:

- A law enforcement official assumes someone is more likely to have committed a crime because he is African Canadian. [1]
- School personnel treat a Latino child's behaviour as an infraction of its zero tolerance policy while the same action by another child might be seen as normal "kids' play". [1]
- A bar refuses to serve Aboriginal patrons because of an assumption that they will get drunk and be rowdy. [1]
- A landlord asks a Chinese student to move out because she believes that the tenant will expose her to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) even though the tenant has not been to any hospitals, facilities or countries associated with a high risk of COVID-19.

Typically definitions of racial profiling have consistently demonstrated a common central theme: persons in authority attributing criminal intent to individuals or groups based on stereotypes of race, colour, ethnicity or other markers of identity. However, our research and discussions with stakeholders have demonstrated that profiling also occurs when people in positions of authority discriminate based on stereotypes regardless of criminal intent.