



“It is time we teach a broader educational platform if we truly embrace the cultural diversity that Canadians are so proud of” -Roger Mooking

World-renowned chef **Roger Mooking** is a Canadian of Trinidadian descent. He’s also a father of four and the host of shows such as *Man Fire Food* and *Everyday Exotic*.

In recent weeks, Mooking has seen signs of potential change. He notices that “We are currently in the midst of a reckoning and I am suddenly having conversations both personally and professionally that I have never had with people that I never thought would entertain these types of conversations.”

We spoke to Mooking about the change he hopes to see in Canada.

How would you compare racism in other parts of the globe to racism in Canada?

There is a strong white supremacist contingency in Canada with several of those groups having main branches throughout the country. Generally speaking, Canada has the type of institutional racism that marginalizes certain groups from access to the people, financial tools, resources, and mindset to engender empowering outcomes. For instance, I just received a resource from a wealth management institution and every single person on the Executive group of that particular support team was a middle-aged white person.

I find it interesting that while I have beat my statistical odds for achieving a certain level of perceived “success,” it is noteworthy that these tools are centralized, disseminated, and executed by a disproportionately homogeneous demographic.

What do you think can be done about our country’s culture of denial related to racism? How can Canadians best turn the tide on racism in their country, communities, or themselves?

It’s important that we understand Canada’s history beyond the European colonization of Canada. This is an intentional

indoctrination and time tested method of colonizers globally that does a disservice to those who are exploited. It is time we teach a broader educational platform if we truly embrace the cultural diversity that Canadians are so proud of, because that can’t truly become a reality unless we understand the breadth of history that has been very Eurocentric to date.

Can you share an anecdote about an instance of racism in your life or career that caught you by surprise? How did you feel? How did you respond? What did you learn?

[While on the road for work] I’ve been told that “I should swing from that tree by a rope,” “we got guns out here BOY,” and been flashed guns, swastikas, and confederate flags in threatening gestures. In every instance mentioned I was simultaneously shocked, alarmed, afraid, angry, and yet totally not surprised.

I responded differently in every situation, but was very aware that I was in “their town” and calling the police would likely not work in my best interest.

In spite of these incidents, Roger remains determined. “I’ve learned that my life work is to reinforce the spreading of positivity and public imagery of people of colour. Success is the greatest revenge.”