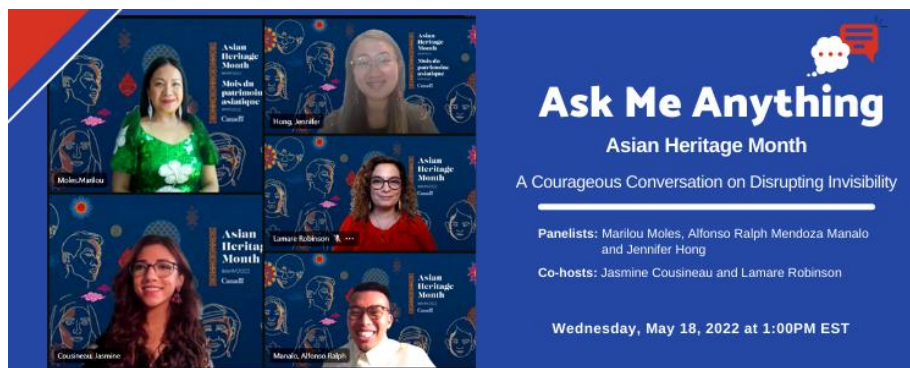




Ask Me Anything: Asian Heritage Month

By: Shelby Racine, Events Management Officer



On Wednesday, May 18, we held our interdepartmental Ask Me Anything event celebrating [Asian Heritage Month](#), in collaboration with the Department of National Defence and Health Canada. Participants tuned in virtually from many departments to take part in a powerful and compelling conversation on Asian heritage and diversity efforts within the government. Among the passionate speakers were:

- Jennifer Hong, Co-chair of the Visible Minority Advisory Council (VMAC), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
- Marilou Moles, Senior Advisor, Integrated Planning and Coordination in the Afghanistan sector, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
- Alfonso Ralph Mendoza Manalo, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy Advisor, Race-based Data Collection Policy Advisor, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

The conversation was co-moderated by Jasmine Cousineau, Event Officer and Communication Advisor, Internal Communications, Event Management and Publications Team, Canadian Coast Guard; and Lamare Robinson, Acting Section Head, Lead Advisor for Diversity and Inclusion, Materiel Group, Department of National Defence.

The conversation covered many different topics. Panelists opened up about their individual experiences and the past discrimination they have faced as a Canadian of Asian descent and conversations surrounding how to eliminate this discrimination in the public service. They also shared about their Asian heritage, including the traditions they practice, holidays they celebrate, and other key aspects of their culture.

Within our everyday routines we all have the opportunity to practice allyship and advocate for equality in every space. It is not up to our Asian colleagues to initiate this change; rather it is up to everyone to push for equality. Conversations like this one help

us all to reflect on issues of discrimination and why we need to work hard to ensure our workplace environments and practices are safe for everyone.

Thank you to all of our speakers for sharing your sincere thoughts, feelings, and ideas with us, and for ultimately helping public servants keep an active mindset when it comes to supporting our Asian co-workers and elevating their voices. Thank you also to all who attended the event or watched the recording online for being a part of the change we are creating in government. Together, we're creating space for these important conversations within the Government of Canada.

For those who didn't get a chance to tune in live, we invite you to watch the [event recording](#) and to share this event with members of your family, friends, and community.

DFO-CCG events: Diversity and Inclusion and Ask Me Anything series

Have ideas for upcoming AMAs, want to share more of yourself with our organization, or share general feedback? Contact the [Internal Communications, Event Management and Publications Team](#)! We are committed to learning more and doing better and hope you join us on this challenge.

To get involved with the Ask Me Anything Community and access documentation from past events, join us on our new [Ask Me Anything site on GC Wiki collab](#). Together, we're creating a safe space for these important conversations within the Government of Canada.