

# MHR *Connections*

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THE MANITOBA  
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DU MANITOBA

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## Manitoba Human Rights Commitment Award Call for Nominations

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission, the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Community Legal Education Association are inviting people to submit nominations for the 2002 Manitoba Human Rights Commitment Award. This award serves to recognize a group or an individual who has undertaken activities that have advanced human rights in Manitoba.

This is the Third Annual Human Rights Commitment Award. Past recipients include Kathy Mallett and Sherri Walsh (2000) and Hersch Zentner (2001). Ms Mallett and Ms Walsh were selected because of the significant contributions each made toward advancing human rights in the Manitoba justice system. Mr. Zentner, a retired educator, designed a Holocaust Awareness program and travelled throughout the province talking to students about racism and showing teachers how to teach the holocaust to students. Mr. Zentner died on June 11, 2002.

The award presentation will take place on December 10, 2002 at the International Human Rights Day luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel. Madam Justice Colleen Suche will be the guest speaker. Madam Justice Suche, a former human rights adjudicator, was appointed a judge of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench in July 2002. Throughout her legal career, her practice has been primarily in arbitration, mediation and human rights law. She was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1990.

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The United Nations **Declaration of the Rights of the Child** says that children have the right to grow up in freedom and with dignity, with wholesome food, housing, medical care, free education, and love and understanding. The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** says that all human beings are entitled to be treated equally, regardless of a number of characteristics, including age.

### The Rights Connection

by Janet Baldwin - Chairperson  
Rights of the Child

A poster by Health Canada depicts a chocolate chip cookie, one bite missing. It reads: "To a child, respect tastes this good". This message is as relevant to the legal rights of children as to their health. While our usual focus with respect to the legal rights of children is on protecting them, recognition of the human rights of children is also important.

The Human Rights Code prohibits unreasonable discrimination on the basis of a number of characteristics, including age, in areas such as services, housing and employment. The Manitoba Human Rights Commission accepts complaints that allege discrimination against a child.

The rights of children are not always given the same regard as those of adults. Service providers and businesses sometimes respond to problems with particular children or youth by barring all children, or children in groups, from their premises. In the aftermath of the "Smoking By-law" adopted by the City of Winnipeg, some restaurant operators chose to ban children from their premises, rather than smoking.

Children also face discrimination in the school setting. Sometimes there is a failure to take all reasonable steps to stop harassment of students on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, religion, and other protected characteristics. Schools, which respect the rights of children and other participants in the educational setting, teach them important lessons about human rights in the process. Studies have also shown that bullying diminishes in these schools.

At the Commission, we work to support the human rights of children, as well as adults. Watch this fall for a rights guide for youth, which we have developed with the Children's Advocate and the Office of the Ombudsman. Youth are invited to check out our interactive website and chat room, and attend our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Conference, to be held in Winnipeg on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Our publication "Human Rights in the School, Guidelines for Educators, Students, Parents and other School Participants" is on our website, and our lending library of videos on human rights themes is a free service.

## Commissioner Profile

### Fausto Yadao's Parents Put Education First

Fausto Yadao's parents believe that education is the key to a successful life. This was not an easy task considering that they were poor, had six children to raise and

lived in a small rural "barrio" in the Philippines where educational opportunities are limited. Since most colleges and universities are in Manila, his parents made the decision to



leave the barrio and move to the city. They encouraged their children to attend school and continue their education. "I am very proud of my parents and thankful that they had the vision and foresight to provide a good educational foundation for their children."

All six children pursued careers. Two became medical doctors, one a dentist, one a nurse, another a medical technologist. Fausto became an educator and immigrated to Canada.

He began his life in Canada as a science teacher in Port Dover, Ontario. He later became a Community Development Worker for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador before coming to Manitoba. In 1972 he began a long and successful career at Winnipeg's Red River College. Over twenty-seven years, Fausto held many positions at the College, including Chair of Adult Basic Education, Director of Regional Centre and Distance Education and Dean of Student Affairs. He retired in 1999.

He says one of his most rewarding challenges came in 1990 when he was

appointed Chair of the President's Task Force on Services to Aboriginal and Multicultural Communities. One of the most important results of this task force was the appointment of an Aboriginal person as Dean of Aboriginal Education and Institutional Diversity of Red River College. This appointment marked the first time that an Aboriginal person had been appointed to a senior executive position in a major college in Canada.

Since his retirement, Fausto has volunteered at Age and Opportunity and the Manitoba Museum. He is

active in the Philippine-Canadian Centre of Manitoba and is a Member of the Refugee Committee at St. Charles Parish Church. He was appointed to the Manitoba Human Rights Board of Commissioners in 2001.

Like his parents, Fausto has encouraged his own children to further their education and is very proud of their professional achievements. Franeli is a Certified Clinical Research Associate for Cangene Corporation, a Winnipeg-based biotechnology company and Tanya is co-owner of an environmental management consulting firm in Vancouver.

*Award Continued from page 1*

### Award Nomination Criteria

In describing the activity:

- 1) identify the human rights issues addressed;
- 2) identify the group(s) the activity has impacted and how;
- 3) what was done to bring about this change and its impact;
- 4) identify any obstacles and challenges that were overcome;
- 5) identify results - what was changed and/or broadened;
- 6) how did the group or individual demonstrate a significant commitment to human rights in Manitoba
- 7) if nominating an individual, in what way did this person contribute to the ultimate outcome;
- 8) if the individual being nominated carried out the activity as part of paid employment, please clearly outline what additional efforts were made to warrant the nomination; and
- 9) how did this activity contribute to the advancement of human rights in Manitoba?

Your nomination should clearly and thoroughly address each criterion.

Please be sure to include an address and phone number for a contact person. If at all possible, nominations should be submitted in typed form.

**Eligibility:** Any person (including deceased persons) or group may be nominated. All current CLEA, MHRC and CHRC employees and Board members are excluded.

Mail, Fax or deliver completed nominations no later than 4:00 pm, Monday November 18, 2002 to:

Manitoba Human Rights Commitment Award  
Manitoba Human Rights Commission  
750-175 Hargrave Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R8  
Fax: 945-1292

For further information or to purchase luncheon tickets, contact either:

Nicole Ritchot (CHRC) @ 983-4648  
Patricia Knipe (MHRC) @ 945-5112