

## Justice Murray Sinclair to Speak at National Human Rights Conference

Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair will be the Keynote Speaker at the 2003 CASHRA - the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies - Annual Conference to be held in Winnipeg this month.



**The Honourable Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair**

Mr. Justice Sinclair was appointed the Associate Judge of the Provincial Court of Manitoba in 1988. He was Manitoba's first Aboriginal Judge, and at that time, Canada's second.

Shortly after his appointment, he was made Co-Commissioner, along with Court of Queen's Bench Associate Chief Justice A.C. Hamilton, of Manitoba's Aboriginal Justice inquiry.

The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry was established in April 1988 to investigate the condition of aboriginal people in the justice system. The scope of the AJI included all aspects of the system—policing, courts and correctional services.

The findings and recommendations of the AJI were released in 1991. Ten years later, the Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission released its final report.

Mr. Justice Sinclair also conducted an inquiry into the deaths of 12 infants in cardiac care in Winnipeg. He released the Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Inquest Report in December 2000. In his report he found that during 1994, the Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Program at the Health Sciences Centre did not provide its mandated standard of health care, which parents had a right to expect their children would receive.

In 2001 Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench.

When not writing groundbreaking reports, Mr. Justice Sinclair spends his free time with his wife and three children. His hobbies include reading, woodworking, photography and music. He has received numerous awards in community achievement and has three honorary doctorate degrees, from the University of Ottawa, St. John's College and the University of Manitoba.

Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair will address the CASHRA Conference on Monday, May 26, 2003 at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg.

## The Rights Connection By Janet Baldwin Chairperson Meeting at the Forks

"Human rights issues facing Aboriginal people" is the theme of this year's human rights conference, to be held May 25 to 28 in Winnipeg. The Manitoba Human Rights Commission is hosting the 31<sup>st</sup> annual conference of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (CASHRA), and if you have not already registered, I invite you to follow the link from our website, or visit [www.cashra.ca](http://www.cashra.ca), to obtain further information and to register online.

CASHRA is a national organization of provincial, territorial and federal human rights commissions. Its annual conference is a highly valued opportunity for human rights practitioners, advocates, educators, union reps, human resource professionals and others to participate in a forum rich in its exchange of ideas, information and contacts that sustain our common goal of furthering human rights practices and principles.

Conference workshops and keynote presentations will address such topics as "The Impact of the First Nation's Governance Act on Aboriginal Human Rights", "Equity Programs", "The Many Faces of Discrimination", "New Approaches to the Protection of Human Rights", and "Healing Circles: Are They Applicable to Resolving Human Rights Disputes?" One workshop featured as an annual event which always draws a keen audience is "Recent Developments in Human Rights Law", presented this year by legal counsel from the Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Canadian human rights commissions.

Keynote speakers and presenters will include Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair, Court of Queen's Bench, Manitoba, Professor Connie Backhouse, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa, Grand Chief Dennis Whitebird, Assembly of First Nations and Southern Grand Chief Margaret Swan, Southern Chiefs Organization Inc.

As President of CASHRA, I urge you to attend and hope to meet many of you at the conference workshops on May 26 and May 27!

## Coming Events

May is Asian Heritage Month. This acknowledges the long and rich history of Asian Canadians and their contributions to this country.

Manitobans are invited to take part in the festivities commemorating the legacy of Asian Canadians.

### Sunday May 18 and Monday May 19

Asian Canadian Festival  
The Forks Market Plaza and  
Forks Market  
Sunday 2:00 - 9:00 PM  
Monday 1:00 - 5:00 PM

### Saturday May 24 and May 31

Cooking Demonstration  
1:00 - 2:00 PM  
Hudson Bay Company  
Downtown Store 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

### Tuesday to Friday May 27-30

Asian Film festival  
Cinematheque 7:00 PM  
Admission \$3.00

### The Royal Commission on the Status of Women: Looking Back - Looking Forward

Brenda O'Neil  
Department of Political Studies  
University of Manitoba  
May 22, 2003  
11:30 - 1:00 PM  
Concourse Level - 155 Carlton Street  
Sponsored by:  
The Manitoba Women's  
Advisory Council  
For more information or to RSVP:  
945-6281

### Fundraising Event for Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Aboriginal Kings and Queen of Comedy

Burton Cummings Theatre  
364 Smith Street  
Friday, May 23 @ 7:00 PM  
Tickets \$20.00  
Sponsored by  
The Northwest Company  
For more information and tickets:  
925-0300

**New Video on MHRC Website**  
**"Michael Pinball Clemons"**  
speaking to students on  
**Elimination of Racism Day**  
[www.gov.mb.ca/hrc](http://www.gov.mb.ca/hrc)  
click on MHRC TV

# Canadian Human Rights Museum Proposed for Winnipeg

*"With the knowledge of the past, comes the hope for the future."*

Armed with support from such organizations as the Canadian Sikh Council, the Assembly of First Nations, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Women's Legal Education Action Fund, to name but a few, Dr. Israel Asper, president of the Asper Foundation announced plans to create the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

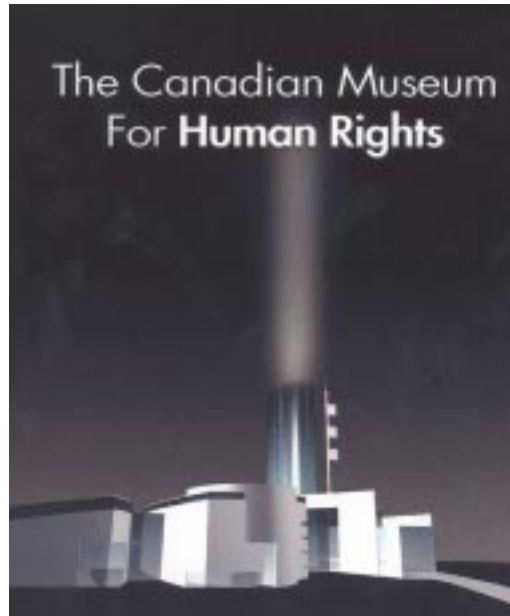
The announcement made on April 17, 2003, comes after three years of research and development by the Foundation. According to Dr. Asper, the concept of the

museum was first broached with Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau in 1983.

The site chosen for the museum includes approximately 15 acres located at the Forks in Winnipeg. When constructed, the museum would tie into the new Provencher Pedestrian Bridge.

Dr. Asper referred to the museum as an international symbol that will celebrate a country that is now one of the most inclusive and tolerant societies in the world. However he added that the museum would face squarely Canada's darker days.

Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage also announced that \$30 million in federal funding will go towards the museum. "This initiative will contribute enormously to maintaining our reputation as a leader in promoting connections and understanding across cultures and as one



*A proposed tower of glass and light could become an internationally recognized landmark for Winnipeg and the architectural signature of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.*

of the world's most diverse and inclusive countries," she said.

Recognizing the impact of this nationally significant project, Premier Gary Doer announced a commitment of \$6 million. Mayor Glen Murray welcomed the Museum and said he was prepared to recommend to City Council support in the form of \$20 million in land, infrastructure and forgiveness of property taxes.

"The announcement of the Museum is the realization of a dream for the Asper foundation and an historic moment for Canada," said Dr. Asper. "The Canadian Museum for Human Rights will be more than a tableau of past events; it will be an education centre dedicated to promoting understanding and respect of ethnic, religious and racial diversity, especially among our youth."

The proposed opening date for the building is Canada Day, July 1, 2006 with the Museum fully operational by July 1, 2007.

### Mark your calendars

B'nai Brith Canada will present a Taking Action Against Hate workshop entitled "Investigation of Religious Motivated Crimes" as part of the "Respect in Service" Programming.  
June 4, 2003 - Winnipeg Convention Centre  
For More information Contact: Carmen Neufeld  
at 257-5205 or [Carmen@plannersplus.ca](mailto:Carmen@plannersplus.ca)  
Cost: \$350.00

### Congratulations

**Dianna Scarth, the Manitoba Human Rights Commission's Executive Director, has been nominated in the leadership category for the 2003 Manitoba Service Excellence Awards**