

THE MANITOBA  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION



LA COMMISSION DES  
DROITS DE LA PERSONNE  
DU MANITOBA

## **NEWS RELEASE: The Manitoba Human Rights Commission**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 2, 2002**

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### **ENTERTAINERS TALK TO STUDENTS ABOUT BULLYING AND HARASSMENT**

**Ian Ross (AKA Joe from Winnipeg) and Andrea Henry of Sugar Jones  
encourage kids to speak out on bullying**

"To admit you are being bullied makes you feel as if you've done something wrong or it makes you feel like you're not able to stick up for yourself - that why it's hard to tell parents."

"Sometimes you worry that if you tell someone the bully will just get madder at you."

"When I'm bullied I know its embarrassing to admit it or to come to terms with it."

"If we stick together and lend each other support, the bully's power is less."

"We should have poster that say "BULLYING IS NOT COOL."

Participants in Manitoba Human Rights chat room  
discussions on harassment and bullying, March 19, 2002

Students know bullying is a problem. Some live with it everyday. Most don't know who to talk to about it.

Once again the Manitoba Human Rights Commission has invited guests to join students in a chat room discussion about harassment and bullying. A human rights officer will also be on line to help answer any questions.

Manitoba playwright TV/radio personality Ian Ross is encouraging students to speak out about bullying. He will be a guest in the Manitoba Human Rights chat room "Bully Alert" Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Andrea Henry of Sugar Jones eagerly accepted an invitation to talk to Manitoba students about bullying. She will be in the chat room on May 7<sup>th</sup> between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Dianna Scarth Executive Director of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission says the Bully Alert Chat room discussion is an opportunity for students to talk about harassment and bullying and know that someone is listening and able to offer assistance.

"Two months ago we invited politicians and an Olympic medallist to join our chat room discussion. The response from students was terrific. We later received an email from one student thanking us on behalf of all the bullied kids," says Scarth.

Scarth also wants to encourage teachers to contact the Manitoba Human Rights Commission to arrange for on line classroom discussions on bullying and harassment. A human rights officer can be in the chat room to answer questions and offer advise at specific times requested by the school.

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For more information, contact  
Patricia Knipe 945-5112