

THE MANITOBA
HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION



LA COMMISSION DES
DROITS DE LA PERSONNE
DU MANITOBA

News Release: The Manitoba Human Rights Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Conference Goes North

Human rights are not just the rights of adults

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission is pleased to announce that it is taking its very successful Youth Awareness Conference to Thompson, Manitoba.

“Many northern schools found the cost of coming to Winnipeg prohibitive,” says Jerry Woods Vice Chairperson of the Commission, “so we decided to take the conference to them.”

The Commission has received a huge response. “We are expecting students from such northern communities as Shamattawa, The Pas, South Indian Lake and Lynn Lake, just to name a few”, says Woods. The Commission has registered students from twelve northern schools.

On the agenda for the students are three of the Commission’s most popular workshops; Sticks and Stones, which is about bullying and harassment, Taking Care of Business, about rights and responsibilities in the workplace and “Not So Trivial Pursuit”, the Human Rights Game Show.

The goal of the Conference is to ensure that students are aware of their human rights. They are given the opportunity to talk, ask questions and listen. All the workshops deliver the message that equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination are non-negotiable rights.

The City of Thompson was selected because of its successful efforts in past years to hold weeklong activities revolving around International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which is March 21st. Thompson Mayor Bill Comaskey will welcome the students.

The one-day 2004 Northern Youth Conference takes place on Tuesday March 23, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Juniper Centre, 108 Nelson Road, in Thompson, Manitoba.

For more information, contact
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**Manitoba Human Rights Commission
Youth Awareness Conference 2004
Tuesday March 23, 2004
Juniper Centre
108 Nelson Road
Thompson, Manitoba**

- 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.** Registration
- 9:30 -10:00 a.m.** **Welcome - Mayor Bill Comaskey**
Greetings and Opening Remarks - Jerry Woods Vice-Chair Manitoba Human Rights Commission
- 10:00-10:50** **1st Round of Workshops**
Workshop #1 **Sticks and Stones - Freedom from discrimination is a fundamental right yet some students continue to endure harassment and bullying at school. The truth is sticks and stones may break bones, but words can destroy hopes, dreams, ambition and ultimately lives.**
- Presenters: Simon Gillingham and Kevin Chief
Location: Location: Main Room
- Workshop #2** **Taking Care of Business - Every day, Every way. You've got a new job and everything seems to be going great. Or is it? Taking Care of business doesn't just mean getting the job and doing it well. It also means your workplace should be a harassment and discrimination free zone. Rights and responsibilities in the workplace are *everybody's business*.**
- Presenters: Pam Pople and Lorraine Lambert
Location: Location: Small Room
- 10:50 - 11:10** **Lifestyle Break**
- 11:10 - 12:00** **2nd Round of Workshops** (see 1st round descriptions)
Workshops are in the same locations
- 12:00 - 1:15** **Lunch / Entertainment**
- 1:15 - 2:30** **Workshop #3**
"Not So Trivial" Pursuit - So you think you know it all? Test your knowledge of human rights by playing the game. Human rights issues affect you in your everyday life - in school, at work, while shopping in the mall. Do you know the answers? Schools select two students to participate. The rest are the cheering section.
- Presenters: Janet Baldwin and Beatrice Watson
Location: Main room
- Sheena Rae Reed and Lorraine Lambert
Location: Small Room
- 2:30 - 3:00** **Wrap - Video screening - door prizes**

Location: Main Room