



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Commission marks International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by reaching out to Family Resource Centres

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission marks the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination every year by renewing its commitment to addressing discrimination on the basis of ancestry, colour, race, nationality and ethnic origin.

Discrimination against Manitobans based on their ancestry and race is still a reality in workplaces, housing and in accessing services. Even so, the Commission is aware that many people choose not to initiate the formal complaint process under *The Human Rights Code*. As a result, the Commission is stepping up its efforts to educate the public about the rights and responsibilities in provincial human rights law.

The Commission is reaching out to family resource centres in Winnipeg who work with clients from racialized and marginalized communities to offer human rights education sessions. The sessions are intended to assist staff and clients to identify and address issues of discrimination.

This initiative is part of the Commission's *Making Connections* project. Announced on this day in 2016, the project is focused on identifying barriers experienced by Indigenous peoples and newcomers. Following the advice of its Council of Elders, the Commission has been working to build relationships in communities across the province and engage in reconciliation. Following a similar model that seeks guidance from those with lived experience, the Commission will be further engaging with newcomer communities over the next two years.

"We all have a role to play in shaping our society. Discrimination impacts a person's dignity. With knowledge of our legal protections, we are better equipped to call out that behavior whenever we see it. Human rights agencies and advocacy groups form part of the solution, but every one of us has a responsibility to uphold values of respect and understanding on a day-to-day basis – values that *The Human Rights Code* is based on", says Diane Dwarka, Human Rights Board of Commissioners.

The Commission will reach out to family resource centres beyond Winnipeg beginning in the fall of 2018.

See www.manitobahumanrightst.ca or to arrange interviews please contact: George Sarides, Assistant Executive Director; 204-945-5815; hrc@gov.mb.ca