



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 21, 2016

The eyes around the world will be focused on a key issue today, the 50th International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Set in place by a United Nations proclamation calling on the international community to increase efforts to eliminate all forms of racial inequality, this annual observance recalls the violent events of March 21, 1960. On that day, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid, in Sharpeville, South Africa.

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission (the Commission) knows that people around the world and at home in Manitoba, still experience discrimination on a daily basis.

“Racial discrimination occurs in many different forms, some obvious and others quite subtle.” says Board Commissioner Diane Dwarka. *“On this day, it’s important to reflect on the profound impact that discrimination and intolerance has on how we function as a society. It’s also an opportunity to renew our commitment to facing this issue head-on, through open dialogue and education.”*

Earlier this year, the Commission began reaching out to Manitobans to look specifically at how it could break down barriers and defy stereotypes that result in discrimination against Indigenous peoples.

The Commission has already gathered information from those who have participated in its complaint process. Now, it is seeking guidance from Elders across the province about how best to undertake a broader, public consultation that is thoughtful, respectful and focused on objectives that it can deliver.

The aim is to gather information that will contribute to the Commission’s work to eliminate racism and prejudice and will assist in educating Manitobans about their rights and responsibilities under *The Human Rights Code (Manitoba)*.

The Commission will continue to release information about the public consultation in the coming months.

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

Pam Roberts
Human Rights Officer, Communications
Manitoba Human Rights Commission
Main: 204-726-6262
Cell: 204-223-9163
Email: pam.roberts@gov.mb.ca