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THE MANITOBA
HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION



LA COMMISSION DES
DROITS DE LA PERSONNE
DU MANITOBA

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Awards Recognize Dedication to Reconciliation and Advancement of Human Rights

The Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties, the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Manitoba Human Rights Commission proudly announce the recipients of the 2015 Human Rights Awards. These awards are given out every year in celebration of International Human Rights Day.

The Annual Human Rights Commitment Award of Manitoba recognizes those who have promoted respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and have advanced the rights of Manitobans.

In honour of the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Report, the 2015 Commitment Award of Manitoba will be awarded to a group that has worked towards reconciliation between Indigenous people and others within Manitoba, **Meet Me at the Bell Tower (MM@BT)**. This group has been meeting weekly at the corner of Selkirk and Powers for the past four years to create a voluntary alternative to violence and provide examples and opportunities to participate in building a stronger community. In 2015, MM@BT has taken a specific focus on inviting different communities (Muslim, Filipino and new comer, for example) to connect with Indigenous leaders to become part of the “bell tower family”.

The Annual Sybil Shack Human Rights Youth Award recognizes the work of a person or group of people, 25 years old and under, that has had an impact on the advancement of human rights as guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and human rights legislation in Manitoba.

The 2015 recipient of the Sybil Shack Human Rights Youth award is **Christie McLeod**. Christie is active on both the local and national human rights scene working in areas that range from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, to sex trafficking, to women’s rights. She is also the founder and managing director of the Human Rights Hub, an innovative website that just launched providing Winnipeggers with a portal to important human rights events and information.

Everyone is invited to attend the award reception in honour of this year’s recipients. This will take place on December 9, 2015 at the Union Centre 206-275 Broadway, Winnipeg, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The event is free and light refreshments will be served. Everyone must register in order to attend this event. Online registration is available at www.manitobahumanrights.ca or call 204 945-7653.

For more information please contact:

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Background on recipients follows on page 2

2015 Human Rights Commitment of Manitoba Award Recipient Meet Me at the Bell Tower

November 20th marked the 4 Year Anniversary of Meet Me at the Bell Tower (MM@BT), a North End grassroots, family focused, solution oriented safety movement. Since November 2011, MM@BT has been gathering weekly at the corner of Selkirk and Powers to create a voluntary alternative to violence and provide examples and opportunities to participate in building a stronger community.

MM@BT uses the North End Megaphone to welcome their neighbours and relatives to the gathering. They hang the banner of hope, ring the bell, share announcements and hopes, take a “family portrait”, give away prizes and plan their next weekly gathering. The hope is to amplify the solutions, making the good louder than the bad.

Following the January 2015 MacLean’s Article which proclaimed Winnipeg the most racist city in Canada, MM@BT consciously invited different communities (Muslim, Filipino and newcomer communities) together to the Bell Tower to connect with Indigenous youth leaders and North Enders and to become part of the Bell Tower Family. In 2015, several of the MM@BT events have reached nearly 200 attendees. Meet me at the Bell Tower has recently welcomed such guests to the Bell Tower as Wab Kinew, local indigenous leader and author; Clara Hughes, Olympic Medal Winner; and John Ralston Saul, internationally renowned author.

2015 Sybil Shack Human Rights Youth Award Recipient Christie McLeod:

Christie graduated from the University of Winnipeg’s International Development Studies and Human Rights & Global Studies programs in June 2014. Christie was involved in numerous initiatives throughout university, and since graduation, she has engaged on both the local and national human rights scene.

Christie has played a pivotal role in advocating for justice in Shoal Lake 40 First Nation. This past winter, she created the *#Shoalidarity* campaign, in which she continued to live under Winnipeg’s short-lived boil-water advisory for an additional 18 days to raise awareness about SL40’s 18 year boil-water advisory.

She is actively working to improve women’s rights through her involvement with the Institute for International Women’s Rights-Manitoba and the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba Inc. and their Resolutions Committee. Though this committee, Christie is working on a resolution for the National Council of Women of Canada regarding the right to potable water in First Nations communities. This past March, Christie served as a delegate for the National Council of Women of Canada at United Nations’ 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

Recently she launched the [Human Rights Hub](#), an innovative website that features a shared blog a shared blog and calendar, as well as an opportunities portal, providing a platform to further engage Winnipeggers in the local human rights sector.

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