



## Winnipeg rallies together against hate

On September 9 hundreds gathered together at the Legislative Building grounds for the Winnipeg Diversity Rally Against Hate.

The event was organized by the Islamic Social Services Association as a counter-protest following the announcement that the Worldwide Coalition Against Islam Canada was planning an anti-immigration rally in Winnipeg. The group made their announcement only days after the riots in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The day before the scheduled events, it was confirmed that the anti-immigration group would not be proceeding with their rally, but the word was out and Winnipeggers gathered in any event to stand up against fascism and hate and to celebrate diversity.

*The Human Rights Code* charges the Commission with promoting human rights and the principle that we are all born free and equal in dignity and in rights.



The Commission was pleased to stand with Winnipeggers to show the importance of accepting diversity and to honour the principles of equality that underly *The Code*.

## The Rights Connection

By Isha Khan, Executive Director

The past month has brought us much success but also some very sad news as well.

It is always difficult to lose a member of our team. The passing of our friend and Commissioner André Doumbè has allowed us to reflect on the value of administrative tribunal decision-making and in particular of panels of members making decisions together.

The diversity of our Board of Commissioners as representatives of the public we serve has always been a cornerstone of our human rights system in this province and has strengthened the Commission's ability to exercise its gatekeeping role with fairness and in keeping with natural justice.

André served the public with integrity and dedication to advancing the rights of individuals and groups who have been historically disadvantaged. His absence will be felt at our Board room table.

On the other hand, we have received overwhelmingly positive reaction to our new website and the mirror French site is also now up and running.

The exercise of migrating resources from one site to another gave us the opportunity to review our publications and begin revising them for plain language and otherwise update the content.

The new site also gives us greater flexibility to communicate with the public. We are now better able to integrate our communications across social media platforms, through our website and in print.

It remains our objective to make the Manitoba Human Rights Commission the primary resource on human rights in this province.



## Commission remembers André Doumbè

It is with great sadness that the Commission announced the passing of Commissioner André Doumbè on September 12, 2017.

André was appointed in December 2011. With remarkable ease he brought together sensitivity, compassion and reason in his decision making and served the Commission until his last days.

He had dedicated his life to promoting human rights; over twenty years of grassroots community organizing and involvement with the African Communities of Manitoba Inc., the Manitoba Immigration Council and the United Way and through that work touched many individuals in our community.



A celebration of his life was held on September 23, 2017. He will be missed.

## Now accepting nominations

The Manitoba Human Rights Awards event will be held on December 7 at the RBC Convention Centre in celebration of International Human Rights Day.

Use the online nomination process at: [www.manitobahumanrights.ca](http://www.manitobahumanrights.ca):



- The **Human Rights Commitment Award** honours an individual or group who has worked to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in Manitoba
- The **Sybil Shack Youth Award** honours an individual or group under the age of 25 that has worked to promote human rights in Canada and abroad
- The **Reconciliation Award** will be given out this year for the second time only to recognize a significant contribution to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Manitoba.
- The inaugural **Aaron Berg Award** will be given to an individual involved in the legal profession who has contributed to the advancement of human rights.

For more information and a list of past recipients see [www.manitobahumanrights.ca/v1/news-events/human-rights-awards.html](http://www.manitobahumanrights.ca/v1/news-events/human-rights-awards.html).

**Deadline: October 15, 2017 at midnight.**



We are all different.  
We all deserve to be treated  
with respect.

Calling all Grades 1-6 students:

Submit a picture, paragraph or poem  
telling us why YOU believe human rights  
are important in Manitoba.



Help us spread the word!

Submissions must be received at [hrc@gov.mb.ca](mailto:hrc@gov.mb.ca) by November 1, 2017 at midnight.

The winner will be profiled in our event publications and selected to light the candle at the awards event on December 7 in Winnipeg.