



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Pride Winnipeg Recognizes International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

**(Winnipeg, MB; March 21, 2015)** – Today is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as proclaimed in October 1966 by the United Nations General Assembly. The 2015 theme ‘Learning from historical tragedies to combat racial discrimination today’ aims to explore the root causes of racism and racial discrimination and stresses the essential need to learn the lessons history has provided in order to combat racism and racial discrimination today.

This theme is similar to Pride Winnipeg’s 2015 theme ‘Evolution,’ which aims to focus on the evolution of human rights. History holds many important lessons about understanding where we are today and how we can achieve more for the future.

This past year proved to be trying on our community. Winnipeg was dubbed ‘the most racist city in Canada’ by Maclean’s magazine. Despite mixed opinions over the quality of the reporting and validity of statistics reported, the article provided a real wake-up call for our city and Canada. It brought discussions of racism and racial discrimination to the forefront and reinforced the fact that racism and racial discrimination still occurs today.

For our community racism and racial discrimination can be overlooked as we face prejudice, discrimination, and inequality in other areas. However many prejudices exist within our community such as ‘thug’ pornography, hookup profiles with statuses indicating ‘no Asians,’ and notions about interracial couples being together for the stereotypes of the persons’ skin tone. Prejudices such as these can lead to acts of racial discrimination and racism and we must all do our part to stop them.

We call on everyone to reflect upon the themes for this year and to start doing your part to eliminate prejudices, racial discrimination and racism. We will continue to work with all members of our community in efforts to eliminate racism and racial discrimination.

**Pride Winnipeg** – The Pride of the Prairies – is one of the largest celebrations between Toronto and Vancouver of LGBTTTQ\* (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, queer, questioning, intersex, and pansexual) people and their allies, supporters and friends. Our mission is to affirm the lives of everyone by generating and participating in events that celebrate the history, culture, spirit and pride of people within the Winnipeg community. We invite everyone from far and wide to join our welcoming city and celebrate Pride in Winnipeg – the heart of the continent.

The 2015 Pride Winnipeg Festival will take place from June 5 – 14, 2015. During this time various community activities will be held across Winnipeg. The Pride Festival at The Forks takes place from June 13 – 14. Pride Day, the day of the Rally, Parade, Festival at The Forks and Closing Party, is June 14.

For more information about the Pride Winnipeg please visit [www.pridewinnipeg.com](http://www.pridewinnipeg.com).

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Pride Winnipeg media contact:

Jeff Myall  
Vice-president, Communications & Marketing  
Email: [media@pridewinnipeg.com](mailto:media@pridewinnipeg.com)



Pride Winnipeg Festival Inc.  
PO BOX 2101 - Station Main Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3C 3R4  
[www.pridewinnipeg.com](http://www.pridewinnipeg.com)

