



MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Multicultural Association's Human Rights Day event Honours Diverse Voices in the Wood Buffalo region

FORT McMURRAY, AB — December 2, 2019 — Speakers from the local Indigenous and Newcomer communities will gather together to discuss common issues regarding diversity representation and preserving traditional knowledge at the free annual Human Rights Day event from the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo (MCA).

With the theme of “Honouring Diverse Voices”, the event takes place Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at Shell Place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Local participants will discuss issues in the form of panel discussion and keynote speeches, with an opportunity for community dialogue through a conversation café in the afternoon.

“As an Elder in my First Nations community, I know it is important to showcase our culture and heritage to Newcomers to Canada so that they are aware of the important role the First Nations people have played in our country’s history,” says Robert Cree, MCA Board member. “Through its work with Newcomers to Canada and local cultural heritage groups, the MCA provides opportunities to connect with other members of the Wood Buffalo community and share our rich history and traditions.”

The morning will see a discussion on the importance of preserving traditional knowledge with a panel that includes Elder Cree, McMurray Métis CEO Bill Loutit, Somali community member Jama Ali, and Pradeep Mehta, who is overseeing the development of McMurray’s Hindu Temple.

A talk by guest speaker Wayne Arthurson, a professional writer of Cree and French-Canadian descent, will address the need for cultural sensitivity when depicting different cultures through writing and art. Arthurson will then participate in an afternoon panel alongside local artists Fred McDonald, Julia McDougall and Sharon Heading.

The day will also include performances by Indigenous and Newcomer artists, as well as a free lunch and dessert being served during the conversation café.

The event is being held with the assistance of funding from the Alberta Ministry of Culture and Tourism and in partnership with the Athabasca Tribal Council and Arts Council Wood Buffalo.

The event is free to the public, who can register their attendance at www.mcawb.org/human-rights-day-conference

Human Rights Day is observed annually on December 10 of every year in commemoration of the day in 1948 that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. In 1950, the Assembly passed resolution 423 (V), inviting all States and interested organizations to observe 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day. Individuals, institutions and social profits come together to recommit to the principle that all persons are equal in dignity, rights and responsibilities without regard to race, religious beliefs, colour, gender identity, physical disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, sexual orientation or otherwise.



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO



Alberta
Culture and Tourism



ARTS COUNCIL
WOOD BUFFALO



United Way
Fort McMurray
and Wood Buffalo

Media photos available upon request.

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