

# BACKGROUND

The International Coalition of Cities against Racism was launched in March 2004 by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) as part of the organization's follow-up strategy to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001). The goal of the International Coalition is to establish a network of cities interested in sharing their experiences in order to improve their policies against racism, discrimination, exclusion and intolerance. The network is comprised of several regional coalitions: Europe, Africa, Asia and Pacific, Arab states, Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States, and Canada.

In response to the challenges arising from racism and discrimination, and recognizing the jurisdiction in Canada of municipal authorities on many of these issues, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO organized a meeting of representatives of municipalities, NGOs, human rights commissions and researchers in January 2005. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the feasibility of establishing a Canadian Coalition. In 2005, The Canadian Commission for UNESCO and its partners invited Canadian municipalities to become part of this larger international movement by joining the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD).

**As of 2016, 69 municipalities have joined the Coalition:**

## ALBERTA

Brooks, Calgary, Cochrane, Devon, Drayton Valley, Edmonton, Fort Macleod, Grande Prairie, Innisfail, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Provost, Red Deer, St. Albert, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (Fort McMurray), Wetaskiwin

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

Burnaby, Lions Bay, Prince George, Vancouver, Victoria, Williams Lake

## MANITOBA

Winnipeg

## NEW BRUNSWICK

Saint John

## NEWFOUNDLAND

Grand Bank

## NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax, Kentville, County of Kings, New Glasgow, Truro

## ONTARIO

Aurora, Belleville, Caledon, Georgina, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Markham, Newmarket, Oakville, Oshawa, Ottawa, Region of Peel, Richmond Hill, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Tecumseh, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Vaughan, Windsor

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Stratford

## QUEBEC

Brossard, Chapais, Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government, Gatineau, Longueuil, Malartic, Montreal, Quebec, Saguenay, Saint-Justin, Sherbrooke, Terrebonne, Varennes

## SASKATCHEWAN

Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Saskatoon

## YUKON

Whitehorse



# CCMARD

## The Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination

“...by taking action to combat racism and multiple forms of discrimination, municipalities are able to build respectful, inclusive and safe societies where everyone has an equal opportunity to participate in the economic, social, cultural, recreational and political life of the community.”

– Call for CCMARD, 2005



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



The Commission operates within the  
Canada Council for the Arts

For more information on the Coalition visit:  
[www.unesco.ca](http://www.unesco.ca) and [www.ccmard-ccmcrd.ca](http://www.ccmard-ccmcrd.ca)

## OBJECTIVES OF CCMARD

- ▶ Share experiences and lessons learned with others
- ▶ Strengthen policies to counter all forms of discrimination to achieve greater social inclusion

## WHY MUNICIPALITIES?

- ▶ They share responsibility to protect citizens from racism and discrimination
- ▶ They have the ability to bring together a broad range of stakeholders
- ▶ They are often a first point of contact for citizens
- ▶ They have the capacity to be critical actor in efforts to foster equality and respect for all citizens

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS

of investing time and resources to create a more welcoming and inclusive community?

- ▶ Improved community life
- ▶ Improved economic life of the Municipality
- ▶ Increased municipal efficiency
- ▶ Improved response to discrimination

# THE 10 COMMON COMMITMENTS

Signatory municipalities of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination rely on the 10 Common Commitments to inform and guide their work. A municipality may choose to focus on a few priority areas and address other Commitments as its work progresses. Also, a municipality may find that its current programming already meets the objectives of a plan of action. These initiatives should be recognized and identified alongside any newer strategies designed to meet the defined Commitments. The 10 Common Commitments relate to three primary areas of municipal responsibility: the municipality as a guardian of public interest, the municipality as an organization in the fulfillment of human rights, and the municipality as a community sharing responsibility for respecting and promoting human rights and diversity.



**SINCE WARS BEGIN IN THE MINDS OF MEN, IT IS IN THE MINDS OF MEN THAT THE DEFENSES OF PEACE MUST BE CONSTRUCTED**

– UNESCO Constitution (1945)

### The Municipality AS A GUARDIAN OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST

- 01 Increase vigilance against systemic and individual racism and discrimination
- 02 Monitor racism and discrimination in the community more broadly as well as municipal actions taken to address racism and discrimination
- 03 Inform and support individuals who experience racism and discrimination
- 04 Support policing services in their efforts to be exemplary institutions in combating racism and discrimination

### The Municipality AS AN ORGANIZATION IN THE FULFILLMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- 05 Provide equal opportunities as a municipal employer, service provider and contractor
- 06 Support measures to promote equity in the labour market
- 07 Support measures to challenge racism and discrimination and promote diversity and equal opportunity in housing

### The Municipality AS A COMMUNITY SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESPECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIVERSITY

- 08 Involve citizens by giving them a voice in anti-racism initiatives and decision-making
- 09 Support measures to challenge racism and discrimination and promote diversity and equal opportunity in the education sector and in other forms of learning
- 10 Promote respect, understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Aboriginal and racialized communities into the cultural fabric of the municipality