



Amnesty International Lethbridge Action Circle

NEWS
For Immediate Release

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Lethbridge Action Circle Asks City of Lethbridge to Join UNESCO Coalition to Combat Racism

LETHBRIDGE – Members of the Amnesty International Lethbridge Action Circle have written to Mayor Bob Tarleck to request that the City of Lethbridge participate in the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination. This coalition is an initiative of the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The local action circle has asked city hall to put this initiative on the agenda for a council meeting, and a number of people were interested in attending the council meeting to show their support.

The Canadian coalition is part of an international coalition which was launched in 2004, and already a large number of cities and towns in Canada have joined, including Calgary, Edmonton, Drayton Valley and Brooks.

The platform of the Coalition has ten commitments or goals for municipalities to meet to show their commitment to ending racism and discrimination and promoting respect and equality for all people. Each city or town develops its own plan of action for meeting these goals. The Coalition provides an opportunity for sharing best practices around the issues of racism and discrimination with other communities.

Cities and towns which are Coalition members work in conjunction with civil society organizations, the public and private sectors, and government to adapt and implement a plan of meeting the ten common goals.

According to Stan Knowlton, a member of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, ending racism and discrimination must start at the grassroots level, with ordinary people. The Coalition provides the citizens of Lethbridge with an opportunity to carry out this important work alongside other cities and towns across Canada and the world.

For more information, or to schedule an interview, contact Mary Kosta at 403-327-8196.

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