



**ACTION WEEK  
AGAINST RACISM  
MARCH 12-22, 2009**

**10th annual AWAR - [www.inforacisme.com](http://www.inforacisme.com)**

**BE PART OF THE SOLUTION. WORDS MATTER.**

**10<sup>th</sup> annual**

**Action Week Against Racism**

March 12 – 22, 2009

Montréal • Quebec City and regions

Montreal, Thursday, March 12, 2009—The Action Week Against Racism (AWAR), inaugurated in March 2000, is part of the activities surrounding March 21st, designated by the United Nations as the *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*.

**Cartooning for Peace / Dessins pour la paix**, an international exhibition of editorial cartoons being shown in Canada for the first time, was the backdrop for the official opening of this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary AWAR, attended by representatives from the governments of Quebec and Canada and AWAR's partners in Montreal, nationally and internationally.

The Action Week was delighted to welcome two internationally known editorial cartoonists as its guests at this 2009 event: **Plantu**, from France's daily newspaper *Le Monde*, and **Kichka**, president of the Israel Cartoonists Association (ICA). The two came up with the idea for the exhibition, with support from the United Nations, to celebrate freedom of expression and recognize the journalistic work of newspaper cartooning.

From March 12 to 22, the 2009 AWAR is sponsoring activities in Montreal, Quebec City and other locations in the province to encourage reflection, the sharing of ideas, awareness and intercultural understanding. The 2009 slogan is **Be part of the solution. Words Matter**. The AWAR steering committee points out, "Racism lives in the everyday, in the places where we spend our lives. It is not just a concept. And it is not a simple infection. It is crossed with other kinds of identity-based discrimination. Taking action against racism forces us to recognize the 'crossed-words' that circulate all around us. And sometimes, words can heal."

The opening ceremony was attended by representatives from the **governments of Quebec, Canada and Montreal**, as well as by **Alix Laurent**, co-founder of AWAR and Images Interculturelles/ Inforacisme; **Victor C. Goldbloom**, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec Region; editorial cartoonists **Plantu** and **Kichka**; and other AWAR partners.

Coordinated by Images Interculturelles, AWAR is made possible by partnerships with several governmental, community and arm's-length organizations including Les Offices Jeunesse Internationaux du Québec, the Conseil des relations interculturelles, and the Tolerance Foundation. The event is sponsored by the Ville de Montréal, the Ville de Québec, the Quebec Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. AWAR's media partners are MusiquePlus and Cinq-FM.

More than fifty events are planned for Montreal, Quebec City and outlying areas including film screenings, discussions, conferences, performances and exhibits.

## **OVERVIEW: 2009 AWAR PROGRAM – MONTREAL**

**Cartooning for Peace/Dessins pour la paix**, a major international exhibit of 50 editorial cartoons, being shown in Canada for the first time. March 12-22, 2009 at the Intergenerational Centre, Outremont, with cartoon artists **Plantu** from France's daily *Le Monde* and **Michel Kichka**, president of the Israel Cartoonists Association (ICA).

Saturday, March 14. At **11am – 1pm** at the **Intergenerational Community Centre, Outremont: Meet Plantu and Kichka**. At **4pm** at the **Coeur des sciences, UQÀM: Cartooning Workshop with Plantu and Kichka**. Presented in partnership with Reporters without Borders Canada. Both activities are free of charge.

**4<sup>th</sup> Montreal Human Rights Film Festival** (FFDPM [www.ffdpm.com](http://www.ffdpm.com)). From March 12 to 22 at the Parc Cinema and the NFB Cinema, 72 films from 22 countries (including several Canadian premieres). Also featured, photo reportages on human rights presented by *Antropographia* (<http://www.anthropographia.org/concours/eng/info.html>) at the Cœur des Sciences, UQÀM.

**Solidarythmé**, the thinking person's action cabaret of music and multidisciplinary arts, with **Les Frères Diouf, Doriane, Nicolas Pellerin and 30 more performers**, Friday, March 20 from 5pm to 1am at the Théâtre Plaza.

**Le Code Noir**, a play by George Boyd starring Tyrone Benskin as the "Black Mozart", presented by The Black Theatre Workshop at the Segal Centre for Performing Arts, March 17 to April 5.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Research and Action on Discrimination (RADI)**, taking place March 12 to 22 in Montreal, brings together some 30 young adults (18 to 35) from Francophone Quebec and Europe around the theme **Words Matter: Rethinking action on discrimination**.

**Cinéjeunesse**, a program to raise awareness among the youngest members of society about issues of racism and discrimination, features short films and discussions, starting March 16 and running throughout the school year in Montreal's elementary and secondary schools. A feature event in the program is **Cinéjeunesse Spécial Migr@tions** to be held March 18 at 10am at Concordia University's Alumni Auditorium featuring five short films by the young winners in the **Radio Canada International** competition. Hosted by rapper **Eddy King**.

All-day conferences are also planned: the CRIEC-sponsored symposium **Les Multiples visages des inégalités** on Friday, March 13 from 9am to 6pm; and the conference at the Centre d'études ethniques des universités montréalaises on the theme **Racisme, antisémitisme et discrimination en éducation**, also taking place on Friday, March 13, from 8:45am to 5pm.

**Info and program details at [www.inforacisme.com](http://www.inforacisme.com)**

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**MEDIA: MARIE MARAIS, press agent**  
**(514) 845-2821 / [marais@cooptel.qc.ca](mailto:marais@cooptel.qc.ca)**