



**8th Action Week Against Racism
March 15 - 25, 2007
*The Workplace: Racism-Free Zone***

**in Quebec City
Speakers, exhibits, music, theatre, film, literature**

Quebec City, March 15, 2007 – Presented by Images Interculturelles in partnership with the Office Québec-Amériques pour la Jeunesse, the Musée de la Civilisation, the Centre Rire 2000, the Ville de Québec, Cegep Limoilou, the Bibliothèque Gabrielle-Roy, and several other partner organizations, this year's **8th Action Week Against Racism (AWAR)** takes place **March 15 to 25** in Quebec City and several other cities in Quebec.

THE QUEBEC CITY LAUNCH WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 15 AT 9:30 AM IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE BIBLIOTHÈQUE GABRIELLE-ROY, 350 SAINT-JOSEPH EST. PARTNERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT WILL BE ON HAND.

With the slogan ***The Workplace: Racism-Free Zone***, AWAR features debates, speakers, educational activities and training, exhibits, arts events and screenings.

“For years now, Quebec has been faced with the difficult task of creating a work environment that is free of discrimination. When organizations and companies are actively involved in managing cultural diversity, and propose concrete measures for avoiding potential conflicts, they also create *racism-free* work environments. New immigrants are coming to cities and rural areas in increasing numbers. Their right to equal access to employment and a workspace *free of racism and discrimination* is first and foremost a struggle to educate people, and an appeal to society in general to open their minds,” says **Alix Laurent**, co-founder of AWAR and Images Interculturelles/ Inforacisme.

More than forty activities in Quebec City – speakers, symposia, exhibits, films, musical theatre, intercultural evenings, children's films, performances, and training and educational events – make up this year's 8th Action Week Against Racism.

OVERVIEW OF AWAR EVENTS IN QUEBEC CITY:

All events are in French. Some films may be presented with English subtitles.

The Bibliothèque Gabrielle-Roy presents a host of activities including exhibits, speakers and debates, film screenings, and a special film program in the schools, **CinéJeunesse**. Among other events is the exhibit ***Racism. It's Pointless***, running March 8 to April 1, open from 12 to 5 pm (Wednesdays til 8). The exhibit brings together some 70 drawings by the best political cartoonists in Canada and 24 other countries including Russia, Germany, Croatia, Costa Rica and Cuba. Guided tours will be available.

Also at the Bibliothèque Gabrielle-Roy, on Sunday, March 18 at 2 pm, another performance for children, *Le cirque de l'Arc-en-ciel*, a show that uses comedy to encourage young people to think about accepting difference, presented by Solaris Productions, based on a text by Luc Boulanger. For children 3 to 10. The Bibliothèque has several other activities planned.

The Quebec Chamber of Commerce has organized an event that fits right in with the 2007 AWAR theme. Their *Job Fair / Foire de l'emploi* invites job seekers to come out to meet hundreds of employers, March 23 and 24, at the ExpoCité – Centre de foires. Admission is free for visitors. Job seekers can also attend a pre-Fair Workshop, March 5 to 22, with one of the participating organizations.

Cegep Limoilou is a major AWAR partner and this year, it is back stronger than ever with a rich and varied program including a **Conférence sur le racisme** with biologist and doctor of anthropology Jean-Jacques Chalifoux, Wednesday, **March 21**, from 12 pm to 2 pm. The Quebec campus is hosting the **Match d'improvisation** with the group **Les joyeux pyromanes** and host Anaïs Jalbert from the Cegep Limoilou students association. Also on **Wednesday, March 21**, from 8 to 10 pm, and again on **March 22** at 7 :30 pm, the Cegep is screening **Le chemin de la gloire (Glory Road)** by American filmmaker James Gartner. The docudrama deals with the cultural and racial disturbances involving the African-American community in Texas in the 1960s. A discussion will follow, moderated by teacher and anthropologist André Tessier.

Productions Rhizome is doing something new this year with the presentation of **Par/Courts**, a video-literature rally. In a race against the clock, a videographer and a writer from different backgrounds are paired in a creative team. Each pair will have one week of intense activity to write, shoot and edit a short film. The results will be screened on **March 24** at **Coupé court au racisme!**, in Auditorium I of the Musée de la civilisation de Québec. The **Par/courts** shorts will then move to the **Montreal Human Rights Film Festival** (March 23-29). The shorts will also be posted on the Ville de Québec and Productions Rhizome websites.

The **Musée de la civilisation** has several events planned. **March 19** at **7:30 pm** in the Chapelle of the Musée de l'Amérique française, it's the **Musique imprudente** show by the music collective **.d'escabeaux**, a group that blends touches of jazz with new music, with texts read by Bernard Langevin. On Wednesday, March 14, at 7:30 pm, the Musée is featuring an evening of film with **La tête de l'emploi**, in which men and women looking for work talk about their experiences, from Montreal to Moncton with a stop in Toronto. The six film shorts, produced by the NFB's French citizen activist program **Paroles citoyennes**, will be followed by a discussion. And on **March 24** at **8 pm**, it's the multimedia show **Coupé court au racisme!** featuring the short films produced for the video-literature rally by Productions Rhizome.

The **Centre Rire 2000** is pulling out all the stops for this year's 8th AWAR, with a series of speakers for youth audiences, on **March 15-25**. Titled **Conjuguons la diversité**, it is organized by high school students from the Ville de Québec and will feature all the richness and cultural diversity that can lead to an informed dialogue on racism. Also during that time, a Cyber-Rally titled **À la découverte de notre diversité culturelle** and a **Cyber radio mobile sur la diversité** will be streaming online, and youth will be able to take a fine-tooth comb to the reporting on immigration and talk about it together in a special radio program.

And on Friday, **March 23** at 9:30 pm, we will celebrate yet another anniversary for the **Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse** with the show **Zona libre: Afrobrasil**, presented in collaboration with the Centre Jacques-Cartier. On the program, a performance piece somewhere between circus and dance, with Quebecois and Brazilian members of the **Cirque du Monde**. Following that, you will be captivated by the music group **Bombolessé**, who will be joined by a troupe of *capoeira* dancers and *batucada* performers from Quebec.

Created in March 2000, the **Action Week Against Racism (AWAR)** offers cultural, artistic and educational activities to encourage reflection, the exchange of ideas, awareness and intercultural rapprochement. AWAR is one of many public events marking March 21, the United Nations *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*. AWAR is presented by Images Interculturelles in partnership with the Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse, the Agence Québec Wallonie Bruxelles pour la jeunesse, the Conseil des relations interculturelles, the Fondation de la Tolérance, and the Mouvement contre le Racisme, l'Antisémitisme et la Xénophobie (Belgium). The event is sponsored by Canadian Heritage, the Quebec ministry of Immigration and Cultural Communities, the Ville de Montréal and the Ville de Québec, the Institut canadien de Québec, the Musée de la Civilisation and the Offices Jeunesse Internationaux du Québec. AWAR's media partners include MusiquePlus, CH Télévision, CIBL FM, CINQ FM and Zeste Productions. The website is at www.inforacisme.com

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// AWAR is also playing at other locations in Quebec and Europe! //

Find out more at

Quebec City: www.inforacisme.com

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