



**ACTION WEEK  
AGAINST RACISM  
MARCH 15-25, 2007**

**THE WORKPLACE: RACISM-FREE ZONE**

**8<sup>th</sup> Action Week Against Racism**

March 15 - 25, 2007

Montreal • Quebec City • Brussels

**Montreal, March 16, 2007** – The Montreal, Quebec and international partners launched the **Opening Ceremony** of the **8<sup>th</sup> Action Week Against Racism (AWAR)** on **Friday, March 16, 2007** at the **Écomusée du fier monde**. The theme of the 8<sup>th</sup> AWAR is *The Workplace: Racism-Free Zone*. This year's Action Week Against Racism runs March 15-25, 2007 in Montreal, Quebec City and Brussels.

Attended this year's Opening Ceremony : **Patricia Bittar**, municipal counsellor for Ville St-Laurent and assistant head of intercultural relations for the Ville de Montréal; **Lise Thériault**, Quebec's minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities; and a **representative from the Canadian government**. Also on hand will be **Alix Laurent**, co-founder of AWAR and Images Interculturelles/Inforacisme; **Guy Bado**, editorial cartoonist at *Le Droit* and designer for the 2007 campaign; **Hugo Latulippe**, filmmaker and spokesperson for the Montreal Human Rights Film Festival; and **Madeleine Bourgeois**, program director with the OFQJ and program coordinator with the OJIQ.

"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.

In Montreal, AWAR 2007 features the **Montreal Human Rights Film Festival (March 23-29)**, the **Rendez-vous international des Jeunes (March 16-23)**, and an *Open House* at the Holocaust Museum. In Quebec City and Gatineau, AWAR and its partners are presenting more than forty events, including conferences, performances, exhibits and employment fairs.

Created in March 2000 by five Quebec organizations, the **Action Week Against Racism** is one of many public events marking March 21, the United Nations *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*. AWAR is intended as a time for reflection, awareness, the exchange of ideas and intercultural rapprochement.

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