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# News Release      Communiqué

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## The Government of Canada Launches 9<sup>th</sup> Action Week Against Racism

**QUÉBEC CITY, March 18, 2008** – The Honourable Jason Kenney, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity) today marked the launch of the ninth edition of the Action Week Against Racism (AWAR) in Quebec. The Montréal launch of AWAR will take place on March 20, 2008.

With the theme “Unbutton Your Mind – Freedom of the City: Young People and Human Rights,” the 2008 edition of AWAR focuses on the concerns of young people, including discrimination, racial profiling, and ghettoization and its consequences. It offers initiatives to foster reflection, sharing, and the development of strategic actions on racism and human rights.

“Canadian and Quebec societies are pluralistic, which is certainly an asset but also a great challenge,” said Secretary of State Kenney. “It is important that our young people—our future—are educated about the harmful effects of racism and become part of the solution in eliminating it.”

The AWAR program will feature four major activities: Espace débats, which is a series of forums, workshops, seminars, and meetings; Espace culturel, which demonstrates the power of art in denouncing, demystifying, and fighting racism; Espace éducatif, which uses educational activities to call young people to action; and the public education and awareness campaign, which features a variety of mass communication products.

AWAR will take place from March 20 to 30, 2008, mainly in Montréal and Québec City, but also in various cities across the province. AWAR is part of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, celebrated on March 21.

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