



JOURNALISM COMPETITION - DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

In recognition of *March 21 - The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*, ACCC partnered with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Canadian Heritage to coordinate a national journalism competition. This competition was carried out with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and with financial assistance was provided by the multiculturalism programs of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Students from Canadian colleges and universities were invited to write an op ed article in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the need to challenge racism. Students were asked to submit English articles between 800 and 1,000 words and French articles between 1,000 and 1,200 words. The following criteria were taken into account during the review process: clarity of style, forcefulness of presentation, sound reasoning, sustained quality, depth of research and understanding of issues.

Each institution was asked to establish a submission review process for selecting one article to be forwarded to the national level. The local review processes included someone from the editorial staff of the local newspaper, one person from the student newspaper plus others appropriate to the particular institution.

Each institution was also asked to honour its internal winner on March 21 and publish the winning article in the student newspaper and/or an internal institutional newsletter. Institutions were also encouraged to have the article published in a local daily newspaper on March 21.

Two National Selection Committees, one for English submissions and one for French submissions, were formed to review the articles submitted. Members of the selection committees were:

Ashok Chandwani, Assistant
 Managing Editor
 Montreal Gazette

Michael Sasges
 Vancouver Sun

Andrew Cardozo, President
 Pearson-Shoyama Institute

Frédéric Wagnière
 La Presse

Carola Vyhnak, City Life
 Editor
 Toronto Star

Raymond Groulx
 Le Soleil

Bob Reade
 The Ottawa Citizen

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Winning articles at the local level were submitted from across Canada. They were:

1. *A Life's Lesson* submitted by Allison Swan, Kwantlen University College, British Columbia
2. *Peut-on encore parler de discrimination raciale en 1996?* submitted by Inès Mpambara, Université de Moncton, New Brunswick
3. *Racism: The Problem We Need To Solve* submitted by Chantelle Eucharia Jones, Vanier College, Quebec
4. *Racism: The Canadian Experience* submitted by Jack Kohane, Ryerson Polytechnical University, Ontario
5. *Untitled article* submitted by Lauren Blankstein, Humber College, Ontario
6. *The Need to Challenge Racism: Language, Culture and Personal Identity* submitted by Masha Giller, Concordia University, Quebec
7. *In Your Eye* submitted by Naomi Goldstone, Red Deer College, Alberta

The above articles were judged by the National Selection Committees and the national winning articles were:

A Life's Lesson (English) and *Peut-on encore parler de discrimination raciale en 1996?* (French).

The two national winners (Allison Swan and Inès Mpambara) attended the Parliamentary Breakfast launching the March 21 Campaign which took place in the Parliamentary Restaurant. The winners were acknowledged at the breakfast and the cash award of \$1,500 as well as commemorative plaques were presented to both of them. Other activities took place during their stay in Ottawa which included a tour of Rideau Hall, visit of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, visit of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), attendance at Question Period, lunch at the Press Club with journalists from the Hill, visit of the Press Gallery.