



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

5th annual Peace Days comes to Winnipeg, September 11-21 *A festival of peace and compassion*

(Winnipeg, MB-August 13, 2014) In a month that promises to bring human rights, peace and compassion to the forefront of public awareness in Winnipeg, the fifth annual **Peace Days** (peacedays.ca) takes place September 11-21 at various locations throughout the city.

Peace Days brings together a variety of events that celebrate peace and compassion, beginning with the **Compassion Games** on Thursday, September 11 and ending with **A Walk for Peace and Community** on Sunday, September 21.

A public launch of *Peace Days* will take place at 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 11 at the festival stage at the Forks.

“Our purpose at *Peace Days* is to facilitate and inspire people to work together on issues that advance understanding, goodwill, peace and compassionate action,” says Peace Days organizing committee spokesperson David G. Newman. “It’s fantastic that our celebration this year coincides with the opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and opens up the discussion of Winnipeg’s place as a compassionate city.”

Julie Turenne-Maynard, membre du comité organisateur déclare que “la programmation du festival de paix et compassion, *Journées de la paix*, est diversifiée et échelonnée sur plusieurs jours. Nous encourageons que toute personne y participe et se joint à nous à poser un geste compatissant durant cette période. Nous espérons que ceci inspirera davantage les collectivités à travailler ensemble à l’année longue pour faire une différence positive dans notre société”.

New to *Peace Days* this year is the Compassion Games (compassiongames.org), a worldwide initiative to inspire positive change through individual and group compassionate actions. Individuals and teams are encouraged to “cooperate to compete” and “out-give” each other by performing random acts of kindness and getting involved in worthy community projects

In addition to celebrating the opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, some key events in the *Peace Days* line-up include:

- Compassion Games: Survival of the Kindest
September 11 -21
Various initiatives throughout the city
- Amanda Lindhout
Keynote speaker: Freedom in Forgiveness
Thursday, September 18, 7 p.m.
St. Boniface Cathedral, tickets \$25/ Seniors & Students \$15
Workshop: Friday, September 19, 9a.m.-noon, \$75
- Peace in Policing Series
Various dates and locations

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- Building a Culture of Peace art exhibition
September 15-21
Soka Gakkai International (SGI) Community Center, 1185 Pembina Hwy.
- A Walk for Peace and Community
Sunday, September 21, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm
Meeting place: St. Boniface Cathedral Ruins (walk to the CMHR)

In the lead up to the event, *Peace Days* is presenting a panel discussion:

Winnipeg - A Compassionate City?

August 20, 7:00 p.m.

Winnipeg Free Press Café

Panelists will include Gregg Hanson, distinguished business and community leader; Dave Thorne, Deputy Chief of Police, City of Winnipeg; David Northcott, Executive Director, Winnipeg Harvest; a representative from the United Way; and Darcia Senft from *Peace Days*, who will moderate.

Peace Days encompasses the UN International Day of Democracy, September 15 and UN International Day of Peace, September 21.

For full event listings and ticket info: peacedays.ca

Peace Days acknowledges with gratitude its sponsors and donors, including Rotary International District 5550 – World Peace Partners, The Winnipeg Foundation, Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba, Cathédrale Saint-Boniface Cathedral, The Canadian Museum for Human Rights, The Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg Public Library, The University of Manitoba, The University of Winnipeg – Menno Simons College, Red River College, Canadian Mennonite University, Miles MacDonnell Collegiate, SGI Winnipeg Community Centre, Rotaract Club of Winnipeg, Congregation Shaarey Zedek, The Anglican Parish of St. Mary Magdelene, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Manito Ahbee, LIGHT, Pitblado Law, East Kildonan Dental Group, Peter Pauls Auto Broker, Subway, Doowah Design, Elite Designs, Nüman Films, Esdale Printing, David & Brenda Newman, and Darcia & Gary Senft.

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