

Winter 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

***“It makes it more real.”***

How often do you take a moment to think about human rights? Like most of us, including 14-year-old Alex Butler from Halifax, Nova Scotia, probably not very often.

Alex recently spent two days learning at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights through The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program. He said that visit gave him a lot to think about.

Before visiting the museum, ***“We saw two guys – the same age as me or younger – from Sierra Leone speak,”*** he said. After hearing first-hand about their experiences of escaping civil war, their reality started to sink in.

***“It makes it more real than reading something in a paper. We were in shock. It really opened us up to what came next when we were exploring the galleries.”***

The “genocide table” in the Breaking the Silence gallery was one area that stayed with Alex, even after he returned home. Although he had heard about some of the global atrocities before visiting the Museum, he felt he needed to learn more.

***“I went over to my friend’s when we got home and started looking up some of the stories we saw at the Museum. We went into research and we were completely floored.”***

And now that Alex’s eyes have been opened to human rights issues around the world, he’s taken action at home.

***“The visit did get me more involved in the community. I applied to volunteer at the hospital and the multicultural centre.”***

Knowledge is power, and the donations you have made to Friends help us to continually improve the Museum, which helps to empower human rights champions – like Alex – in Canada and around the world.

This holiday season, give a gift that really matters by donating to Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. What happens next is up to you!

Best wishes to you and your family over the holiday season.



Catherine Thiessen, B.A., CPA, CGA  
Chief Operating Officer



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*Happy  
Holidays!*

