

THE ASPER FOUNDATION

Launch of annual award-winning human rights program for Canadian youth includes visit to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights

WINNIPEG, MB. – November 29, 2018 – The Asper Foundation is proud to launch the 2018-2019 Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program for grades 7 to 9 students from Canada. The program deals with topics ranging from racism to genocide and is aimed at promoting understanding and sensitizing Canadian students to the consequences of racism. All students are required to take an 18-hour education program, or its equivalent, on human rights and the Holocaust with an added emphasis on Canadian history and the current situation in the world today. The students are also required to volunteer for 10 hours in their communities on public projects that meet program requirements. The program trip destination is Winnipeg, MB including a visit to the incredible Canadian Museum for Human Rights and other sites of interest

Since its 1997 inception, the program has become one of Canada's largest philanthropic educational initiatives, reaching over 14,000 students and chaperones in 204 communities spanning 12 provinces and territories.

Complete information on the program can be found at:

<http://hrhsp.asperfoundation.com/about-the-program/>

<http://humanrights.asperfoundation.com>

The Asper Foundation recognizes and appreciates the many administrators who have made such a strong commitment to the program over the years. This transformative program changes for the better the lives of students and the world they are inheriting. Past program administrators and students are proud that they are an important part of a program whose success provided the inspiration to Dr. Israel Asper and The Asper Foundation to create the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (<http://www.humanrightsmuseum.ca>) which opened 2014 in Winnipeg after fourteen years in development. Dr. Asper felt very strongly that Canadian students should have a Canadian experience when it came to learning about human rights. See <http://tinyurl.com/j556fwl> re: the partnership between the Museum and The Asper Foundation.

To those schools/organizations that have not yet contacted The Asper Foundation and to those who have never participated, you are warmly invited to participate in the 2018-2019 program.

Please note that The Asper Foundation pays for approximately 30% of the program's value (approximately 40% of the hard costs) including a trip to Winnipeg, MB.

Program schools/organizations participate in a compelling trip that leaves their students with a life-changing experience. The 2018-2019 program including the trip to Winnipeg is open to all schools/organizations in communities across Canada outside of a 2 hr.-drive radius from Winnipeg. As this program is open to any Canadian schools/organizations that can meet the program's requirements, please feel free to forward this invitation to any educators or administrators from schools/organizations that may be interested.

The Asper Foundation is in the process of making hotel reservations and transportation for the spring 2019 trips to Winnipeg, MB. ***Program space is limited. Therefore, participation in the program is not guaranteed unless confirmed.***

Please read the wonderful article by student Hallie Benjamin who participated in the 2016 program. She describes the powerful impact the program had on her: See <http://www.cjnews.com/perspectives/opinions/learned-canadian-museum-human-rights>

Please contact The Asper Foundation by Friday, January 18 or earlier to confirm if your school/organization is, or is not, interested in participating in the 2018-2019 program.

If a school/organization is interested and it has not already done so, as soon as possible, please e-mail The Asper Foundation the approximate number of students that would participate and a draft budget will be e-mailed. The number of chaperones is based on a program student-chaperone ratio requirement.

If a school/organization has never participated in previous programs but will be participating in the 2018-2019 program, it would be sent an updated educators' program curriculum binder.

If the participation of a school/organization is confirmed, it would be provided with specific travel dates of the trip to Winnipeg, MB, one of potentially several trips being held in the spring of 2019 due to the size of the program. Given the complexity of logistical planning, program school/organizations are not able to make requests for specific dates that participants would prefer to travel.

Program travel-related issues/questions can be directed to Canada One Travel (in Winnipeg). Contact is Iris Jamieson at toll-free 1-800-668-6889 or e-mail ijamieson@canada-one.com.

If a school/organization will be flying to Winnipeg, MB, please note that the sooner its program participation is confirmed, the more flexibility Canada One Travel will have in choosing specific flights and seats for groups.

For interested and participating program schools/organizations, all key materials for the 2018-2019 program have been posted to the program Web site at: <http://humanrights.asperfoundation.com>. Prospective schools/organizations should contact The Asper Foundation to be provided with a password in order to access the administrative materials which address almost all aspects of the program.

The Asper Foundation was established in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada in 1983 to build upon the philanthropic objectives of Israel Asper and the Asper family. It undertakes and develops major initiatives in the areas of Jewish charity as well as culture, education, community development and human rights locally, nationally and internationally.

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