

REDI, Set, Go!



Centre for
Human Rights
Centre des droits
de la personne

APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

The Centre for Human Rights works to provide education programming to the York community that is dynamic, critical and relevant to its constituents.

A number of customized human rights training sessions were developed this past year for York members including sessions for York's varsity teams. Additionally, a new professional development program for York's Work-study students was launched this year.

The Centre for Human Rights would like to thank the York community for participating and supporting our education programming. Below is a snapshot of past events:



YOU HAD ME AT CONSENT
September 2014



BLACK HISTORY MONTH
February 2015



**TRANSDAY OF
REMEMBRANCE**
November 2014



**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY**
March 2015



**NATIONAL DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE & ACTION ON
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**
December 2014



**INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR THE ELIMINATION
OF RACISM**
March 2015



**INCLUSION DAY
CONFERENCE**
January 2015

The Centre for Human Rights looks forward to building partnerships and connecting with York community members to increase respect, equity, diversity and inclusion on our campuses.



LISA'S REFLECTION

With the school term, and my internship with the CHR, coming to an end I have been reflecting upon my time here and what has transpired this past academic year. A few years ago, I read a book titled "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" by Steven Covey, who recommends that people "begin with the end in mind" which helps individuals to stay on track with their goals. In choosing a potential placement, I had kept the end in mind: my aspiration to enter a field that would provide opportunities to create change, potentially through research and/or policy development.

But, to get there, I wanted practical experience of what policy looks like, on the ground, in the everyday. Through the CHR, I have been provided an opportunity to learn about how policies, such as the Ontario Human Rights Code, are addressed everyday within a university context. I have now been on both ends of the spectrum, as a university student unaware of the application of such policies and now as an intern understanding how the university's departments, such as the CHR, engage and inform individuals to understanding our rights, as well as the rights of others. My time with the CHR has provided a glimpse into the dedication and effort that goes in to creating a respectful, equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment at YorkU through trainings, workshops, case advising, events and numerous other initiatives.

The topic of human rights is not necessarily an area that many people engage with or consciously think about. It seems to only enter our consciousness when our rights, or the rights of people we know, are violated causing us to spring into action, wanting to learn and do more. I have been reflecting about the pertinence of knowing and understanding human rights policies, since awareness is the first step to ignite the spark in creating action. As author Elie Wiesel states, "human suffering anywhere concerns men and women everywhere"; thus, by understanding human rights issues, people are better positioned to promote social justice through their actions. If we are keeping the end in mind and an objective is a just society, what can each of us do to advance that vision?



Did You Know?

In addition to general human rights education, the CHR Education team is also responsible for specific portfolios!

NADIA BELLO

Sexual Harassment Education

JOSEPHINE TCHENG

Accessibility Education

JODIE GLEAN

Antiracism Education

Look out for the enriching programs in the new year!

WHAT CAN YOU LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR...

Anti-racism TalkShop Lunch Series

7th annual Inclusion Action

International Women's Day Conference

Transday of Remembrance & Action

National Day of Remembrance

on Violence Against Women

Black History Month events