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Alberta Mayors Pin Local Human Rights Heroes in Celebration of International Human Rights Day

December 10, 2007, Calgary, AB: Mayors throughout Alberta recognized local human rights heroes today in honour of International Human Rights Day.

December 10th has been deemed International Human Rights Day, as it marks the anniversary of the member countries' adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Over the years, a whole network of human rights instruments and mechanisms has been developed to ensure the primacy of human rights and to confront human rights violations wherever they occur.

As Canadians, we should be particularly proud today, as a Canadian - John Peters Humphrey - was the prime author of the declaration.

In Alberta we have a long history of championing human rights, multiculturalism and equity. The first human rights legislation was introduced in Alberta in 1966. Since that time, Alberta's human rights laws have evolved and been strengthened, specifically by the Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act which works to protect Albertans from discrimination.

Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights is in the midst of a private sector fundraising campaign to raise funds towards the \$265 million Museum project. To date, \$83 million has been raised from the private sector, with \$5.6 million being raised in Alberta, including almost \$80,000 from the Alberta Teachers' Association – equivalent to \$2 per member – announced today in Edmonton.

On April 20, 2007, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the Government of Canada's intent to create this museum as a federal institution, and history was made. It is proposed to be the first national museum to be built outside the National Capital Region and the first national museum to be created in 40 years. The Museum has the support of all levels of governments, as well as 50 ethno-cultural and human rights groups from across the nation. In addition, several corporations, labour groups, associations and private donors from across Canada are among its supporters. Visit the Museum website at www.canadianmuseumforhumanrights.com

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To schedule interviews with Alberta co-chairs of the Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights Campaign, or for more information, please contact:

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