
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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June 15, 2010

Ministry of Citizens' Services

B.C. STUDENTS MAKE A CASE AGAINST RACISM

BURNABY – A music CD compilation with an anti-racism theme demonstrates how art and music can inspire young British Columbians to work for positive social change, Mary McNeil, Minister of Citizens' Services and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism said today.

The Make A Case Against Racism program complements the British Columbia curriculum for grades 4-7 students. Through music and art, students are encouraged to challenge racism that exists in communities and express themselves through art.

“This CD project shows what can happen when students take personal responsibility for preventing racism,” said McNeil. “The compilation of music and artwork makes for a beautiful celebration of our province’s cultural diversity.”

The CD features 10 B.C. musicians, and each track carries a message of respect and diversity. Artwork featured on the CD cover and insert was selected from hundreds of entries created by grades 4-7 students from across the province.

“This program gives teachers across the province an opportunity to openly discuss racism with their students,” said Education Minister Margaret MacDiarmid. “Creating a world where all people feel like they belong begins with this kind of dialogue.”

Make A Case Against Racism was inspired by a project led by Abbotsford Community Services. The first MACAR CD compilation was released in 2008. The project is administered by the Government of British Columbia through EmbraceBC with funding provided by the Government of Canada.

“Racism impacts people’s sense of belonging and acceptance in the community,” said Dr. Alice Wong, MP for Richmond and Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship and Immigration Canada. “Engaging youth in projects like the Make A Case Against Racism CD encourages intercultural understanding and is critical to Canada’s future success in building an integrated society.”

To learn more about Make A Case Against Racism, listen to the Top 10 Countdown that inspired the artwork, and to see the winning artwork entries, visit www.EmbraceBC.ca.

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BACKGROUND

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The Artwork

More than 500 grades 4 to 7 students throughout British Columbia participated in this year's Make A Case Against Racism contest.

Overall winner Elizabeth L. will have her artwork featured on the CD cover and receive a 32-GB iPod Touch to recognize her achievement. Fifteen runners-up will have their artwork displayed in the CD insert.

The winning artwork was selected by an independent panel of youth judges.

Grade 7 Students

- Teagan S., Sherwood Park Elementary school, North Vancouver
- Daryn D., Roy Wilcox Elementary, Kitimat
- Jamie V., Seaforth Elementary school, Burnaby
- Jordi M., Sherwood Park Elementary school, North Vancouver

Grade 6 Students

- Elizabeth L., Seaforth Elementary school, Burnaby (Cover artwork winner)
- Natalie R., John Knox Christian school, Burnaby
- Caleb C., Nechako Elementary school, Kitimat
- Chloe W., George Bonner Elementary school, Mill Bay
- Manraj G., Beaver Creek Elementary school, Surrey

Grade 5 Students

- Shannon G., Lord Byng Elementary school, Richmond
- Dallis K., Nechako Elementary school, Kitimat
- Erin F., St. Michaels University school, Victoria

Grade 4 Students

- Alex G., Coquihalla Elementary school, Hope
- Haliegh A., Wells-Barkerville Elementary school, Wells
- Priya B., École Baker Elementary, Quesnel
- Manon G., École Entres Lacs, Penticton

The Music

Musicians represented by the Music BC Industry Association submitted songs with anti-racism themes that help build understanding about cultural diversity. In addition to creating artwork, participants in the Make A Case Against Racism contest voted online for their 10 favourite songs for inclusion on the CD. Artists and songs selected are:

- Delhi 2 Dublin – “Dil Nachde”
- Jarimba – “Freedom”
- Brave Waves – “Make It Beautiful”
- Sandy Scofield – “Broken Land”
- Ezeadi Onukwulu – “Mek We Partie”
- Mythos – “Alten Mara”
- Murray Porter – “1492, Who Found Who?”
- Alpha Yaya Diallo – “Imme”
- Anna Baignoche and the Heartbones – “Sage and Pine”
- Rick Scott and Harry Wong – “Family”

A Top-10 Countdown, featuring background information about the musicians, their selected song and how their music encourages respect for people and diversity, is available online at www.EmbraceBC.ca.

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