

HUMAN RIGHTS

June 21st marks National Indigenous Peoples Day.

National Indigenous Peoples Day is a day for all people to connect with one another and share in Indigenous culture, ceremony, and tradition. It is a time to come together and celebrate, but it is also a time to increase our understanding of Indigenous history and reflect on the issues facing Alberta's Indigenous people today.

Human rights issues facing Alberta's Indigenous community

Important human rights issues impacting Indigenous people today are that:

- Indigenous people experience high rates of racism and discrimination, especially when looking for housing and employment, or when accessing the education, justice, and health care systems.
- Profiling, stereotyping, and racial bias are significant factors in the discrimination that Indigenous Albertans encounter. This limits their ability to get a job, receive high quality public services, and find a place to call home.
- Discrimination is both overt and subtle or covert.
- Media and social media heighten and reinforce stereotypes and support continued discrimination.

What can we do?

- Educate ourselves,
- Educate others,
- Get to know the indigenous community around you
- Engage and get involved
- Take interest in Indigenous history
- Advocate.

There are a variety of Pow Wows listed online. Check out Pow Wows Alberta.

Karen Caig
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