

## Facts about the Museum

*The Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) was declared a national museum in 2008 by the Government of Canada, with a mandate “to explore the subject of human rights with special, but not exclusive, reference to Canada, in order to enhance the public’s understanding of human rights, to promote respect for others and to encourage reflection and dialogue.”*

***It opens September 20, 2014.***

***High-res photos of the Museum can be viewed and downloaded at [www.flickr.com/photos/cmhr\\_mcdp](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cmhr_mcdp)***

## About the building

- Total capital cost, including building and exhibits, is \$351 million. The private sector is the largest contributor, with \$142 million raised as of December 2013. The Government of Canada contributed \$100 million, Manitoba \$40 million and Winnipeg \$23.6 million.
- World-renowned American architect Antoine Predock borrowed images from the Canadian landscape: mountains, clouds, Prairie grass, ice and snow. Complex geometry and human rights symbolism grace every component, weaving light through darkness.
- The four stone Roots represent all humans as children of the Earth. Three sprout indigenous Prairie tall-grass, the fourth forms an outdoor amphitheatre. Inside are classrooms, restaurant, retail, ticketing and – in future – a theatre and temporary gallery.
- The site, on First Nations Treaty One land and the homeland of the Métis people, has been a meeting place for thousands of years. In consultation with Aboriginal Elders, the CMHR funded an archaeological excavation that recovered more than 400,000 artifacts. Traditional medicine bags were deposited in over 500 holes drilled for the piles.
- The Tower of Hope rises to 100 metres, equivalent to a 23-storey building. The building’s total area is 24,155 square metres (equal to four Canadian football fields).
- Built by PCL Construction and Smith Carter Architects, the CMHR is a high-performance “green building” constructed to meet LEED Silver certification. There are 1,300 individual pieces of glazing. About 35 000 tonnes of concrete was used: equal to 3,000 elephants!
- Visitors ascend through exhibit spaces along a kilometre of glowing ramps clad in Spanish alabaster. An enormous glass “cloud” wraps around the northern façade, designed in the image of dove wings, flooding the upper levels with natural light.
- Up through the Mountain Galleries are the Museum’s main exhibits, housed between walls of Manitoba Tyndall Stone and concrete. The interior Garden of Contemplation is a space of light and serenity, full of water, greenery and Mongolian basalt rock arranged to facilitate peaceful reflection.



## About the experience

- The Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Mondays. A free evening will be held on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning in January 2015. Adult admission will be \$15 (taxes included), youth (age 7 to 17) will be \$8, and students and seniors \$12. Children under 7 may visit for free. A family of six or less can enter for \$42. A membership program will also be available.
- Developed by expert CMHR researcher-curators, the Museum's content was informed by cross-Canada public engagement with over 2,000 people, input from a Human Rights Advisory Council, peer-reviewed approach papers and rigorous ongoing scholarship.
- Dynamic, interactive exhibits – presented by master exhibit designer Ralph Appelbaum Associates – are arranged around human rights themes, using multimedia technology and stunning visuals. Artifacts and artwork become tangible touchstones that connect visitors to human rights. Storytelling and performance make concepts come alive.
- The Museum's exhibits include over 100 hours of video; four feature films; an immersive multimedia experience; 26 small format films; 37 large scale linear media projections; 512 video clips; more than 250 artifacts and works of art; 2,543 images; two soundscapes; 18 mixed-media story niches; 19 digital interactive elements; 100,000 words of original text; and seven theatres.
- Human rights stories will be showcased from multiple perspectives, in unique and remarkable ways. The Museum will also house a vast digital collection of recorded oral histories, relayed by people with lived experience of human rights in Canada and around the world.
- Interpretive learning programs use human interaction to enhance the museum experience. Activities include guided tours, games, issue-based theatre, art, music, debates and discussion. Beyond the walls, programs extend to a robust online presence, lectures, outreach kits, a national teachers' resource data base and a national student program.
- Inclusive design has been embraced by an approach that sets new Canadian and world standards for universal accessibility. Cutting-edge technology, nationwide input from the disability community, and pioneering Canadian research ensure the visitor experience is designed to include the full range of human diversity.
- Fully bilingual exhibits and programs make the Museum a first-class destination for francophones and French-language students from across the country and beyond.

## Built in Winnipeg...for good reason

The CMHR stands as the first national museum built outside the National Capital Region in Ottawa. It sits on a historic site, surrounded by a city with an inspiring human rights legacy – from the labour rights struggle of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike to Nellie McClung's fight for women's right to vote, defence of French-language rights, the push for Aboriginal self-determination... and so much more.

Winnipeg is a city of diversity, home to the country's largest urban Aboriginal population, immigrants from around the globe, and the largest French-speaking community in Western Canada. It boasts globally-inspired cuisine, world-class arts organizations and vibrant ethnic festivals. It is also a growing centre of human rights scholarship at its four universities.



## What you'll find inside

*The Museum's galleries are built around human rights themes. Complex issues must be explored from multiple perspectives. As a result, the Museum weaves human rights stories of many diverse groups throughout its galleries – reflecting powerful lessons that transcend individual experiences. For example, equality rights are relayed through stories about Indigenous Peoples, women, children, persons with disabilities and the LGBTQ community. Democratic rights and freedoms are also an important focus, examined from a uniquely Canadian perspective.*

1. **What are Human Rights?** Visitors are immersed in a multisensory experience when they enter this physically imposing installation, featuring a remarkable “object” theatre and undulating timeline that presents a survey of human rights concepts throughout the ages and around the world.
2. **Indigenous Perspectives:** Aboriginal concepts of humanity and our responsibilities to each other are explored in one of the most dramatic spaces of the Museum. The focus is a circular theatre of curved wooden slats representing the multitude of Canadian Aboriginal traditions, which will play a 360-degree film and serve as a space for storytelling, performance and discussion.
3. **Canadian Journeys:** This largest gallery takes a multi-layered approach to dozens of Canadian human rights stories from French-language rights to the Chinese head tax, from voting rights to cultural dispossession in the North. A digital canvas relays stories across a 96-foot screen, while others are told in floor stations and story niches.
4. **Protecting Rights in Canada:** Legal aspects of Canadian human rights are examined here. An ambient “living tree” projection evokes the constant growth of laws with social change, while a digitally interfaced debate table enables visitors to explore pivotal cases from different perspectives.
5. **Examining the Holocaust:** This gallery explores the fragile nature of human rights and the importance of defending them for all. A “broken-glass” theatre examines Canada's own experiences with anti-Semitism. Touch-screen monitors allow visitors to analyze Nazi techniques of genocide and compare them to methods used in other genocides around the world.
6. **Turning Points for Humanity:** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a central focus of this gallery, examining how grassroots movements have expanded the concepts of rights. Large monitors relay the power of activism and the role of social movements in motivating change.
7. **Breaking the Silence:** This gallery explores the role of secrecy and denial in many atrocities around the world. It includes a focused examination of the Ukrainian Holodomor, the Armenian genocide, the Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide and the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia.
8. **Actions Count:** Human rights express a vision for the world we wish to create for the next generation. This gallery includes an interactive table about action against bullying and inspiring stories of Canadians who have worked to make a difference.
9. **Rights Today:** Bringing visitors face-to-face with contemporary human rights struggles and action, this gallery features an interactive wall map, a tapestry of human rights defenders, and a media literacy theatre.
10. **Expressions:** A changeable gallery that will feature a diverse range of temporary exhibits focused on many aspects of human rights.
11. **Inspiring Change:** Intended to spark a personal commitment to positive social change, this gallery incorporates objects and images from events that have promoted human rights, and asks visitors to contemplate their own role in building a better world for all people.



CANADIAN MUSEUM FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS

## To find out more

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**Twitter:** @CMHR\_News

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/canadianmuseumforhumanrights](http://www.facebook.com/canadianmuseumforhumanrights)

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