HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

DECEMBER 10TH

2017.

December 10, 2017 marks the United Nations' signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. For the first time in history, the Declaration set out fundamental human rights to be universally protected and provided a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations.

This year, Human Rights Day kicks off a year-long campaign to mark the upcoming 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being -- regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. ...

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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights empowers us all. The principles enshrined in the Declaration are as relevant today as they were in 1948. We need to stand up for our own rights and those of others. We can take action in our own daily lives, to uphold the rights that protect us all and thereby promote the kinship of all human beings.

This foundational document outlines the many freedoms to which we are all entitled, including that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." The Declaration has inspired the development of other instruments and institutions for human rights protection, including Alberta's own human rights legislation and commission.

Canada's own John Humphrey, who was the Director of the UN Division of Human Rights at the time, was integral in the development of the Declaration, gathering and analyzing background documents that formed the basis for subsequent debates and considerations of the