

In & Around Montreal

Learn to teach the Shoah in elementary and high schools

Compiled by CJA Staff

The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (MHMC) and the Riva and Thomas O. Hecht Scholarship Program for Educators are presenting a daylong teachers' conference on Oct. 22 to encourage Quebec teachers to teach the

Holocaust.

Participants will be shown practical examples of how the subject can be taught, including as part of human rights education. Workshops will be given for elementary and high school teachers in both English and French.

"Quebec teachers are interested in teaching about the

Holocaust and current-day anti-Semitism, discrimination, racism and human rights violations," said Riva Hecht.

"The Quebec education program offers opportunities to teach students to take positions on these issues, as well as engage students in action to promote respect for diversity."

The Hechts and the MHMC recognize that teaching the Holocaust can be intimidating, especially at the grade-school level. The conference will address this challenge, suggesting that learning about the Holocaust can be an important way for children to learn how to live together and how to stand up against inequalities.

The keynote speaker is Marie McAndrew, a professor in the department of educational administration at the University of Montreal. She holds a PhD in comparative education and has specialized in the education of minorities and intercultural education.

At the workshops:

- Teachers Carole Touchette and Linda Shetzer will discuss teaching tools learned at the International Seminar for Educators at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.
- Mélanie Blondin and Emmanuelle Sonntag will give tips on how to encourage students to talk about what they have seen after visiting the MHMC Museum.
- Teacher Joanne Druker will show how to access and research Holocaust education websites.
- Andréanne Pâquet and Julie Guinard will talk about "From Prejudice to Genocide," a program of the Tolerance Foundation and the MHMC designed to develop social conscience among high school students.

Detailed program and registration forms can be found online at www.mhmc.ca/en/events/view/1.

For information, call the MHMC at 345-2605.