

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2015

Holocaust Survivors Speak to Strasbourg Students, Teachers at Symposium

Over 300 students and teachers attended a first ever “Embrace the Past, Shape the Future” Holocaust Symposium in Strasbourg. Two Holocaust survivors, Adam and Rachel Shtibel, traveled from their home in Toronto to tell their compelling stories to high school students from across the Horizon School Division. Together, the couple highlighted the all day remembrance and learning event on May 5.

“We are proud to welcome high school students from across Horizon School Division to gain a greater understanding of the events, impact, and human rights lessons that humanity must learn as a result of the Holocaust. One of Horizon's goals is to provide safe and caring school environments for our students and staff. Events like this highlight the importance of having that goal,” said Kevin C. Garinger, Director of Education for Horizon School Division. “It is a rare opportunity to learn from Holocaust authorities, and particularly Holocaust survivors, so we are honoured and excited to offer this opportunity to students and staff in our division.”

The idea for the symposium came from William Derby School social studies teacher, Larry Mikulcik. Mikulcik was one of 25 teachers from around the world, and the only Canadian, selected by the USC Shoah Foundation to travel to Poland in 2015 in order to participate in the “Auschwitz: The Past is Present” professional development program. Mikulcik, who also serves on the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission’s citizenship education teacher development working group, connected the Commission to the symposium.

“Thanks to the good work of teachers like Larry Mikulcik, and through the support of the school division, students here today are learning about the Holocaust and also about the real importance of protecting and respecting the rights of others,” said David Arnot, Chief Commissioner for the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. “I am hopeful that students will also have a better understanding about their responsibilities, as Canadian citizens, to demonstrate respect for others.”

Challenging sessions on the historical events that lead to the Holocaust, current expressions of anti-Semitism, and a discussion about life and justice in Israel today, provided a critical learning opportunity for students and teachers.

For more information contact:

Lance Hiltz
Horizon School Division
Phone: (306) 682-8609
Email: lance.hiltz@hzsd.ca

Darrell Seib
Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission
Phone: (306) 933-5952
Email: darrell.seib@gov.sk.ca