2026 Human Rights Committee of Council Dialogue and Engagement Update

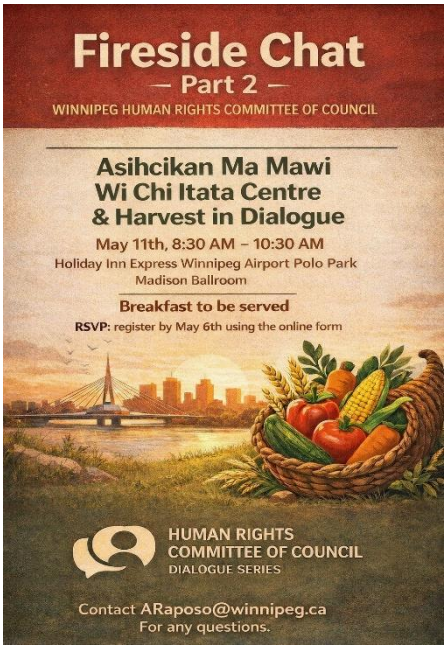
The Human Rights Committee of Council (HRCC) continues to advance its mandate through a series of targeted Age-Friendly engagements and broader community dialogue events in 2026. These initiatives reflect a commitment to inclusive, community-informed decision-making and align with HRCC's focus on equity, accessibility, and human rights across Winnipeg.

Age-Friendly Engagements

HRCC is actively facilitating a range of consultations and presentations to inform the development of its Age-Friendly work. On May 7, 2026, a consultation will be held with older adults from the Muslim community at the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute (CMWI), with engagement materials translated to support meaningful participation and reduce language barriers. This will be followed by a South Winnipeg Age-Friendly consultation on May 8, 2026, in collaboration with Councillor Janice Lukes and Councillor Markus Chambers.

On May 13, 2026, HRCC will host a presentation by Dr. Michelle Porter, Director of the Centre on Aging, providing expert insight to support the Committee's work. Planning is also underway for a high-level presentation in June 2026 in partnership with A & O: Support Services for Older Adults. These engagements will contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the needs, experiences, and priorities of older adults across Winnipeg.

Human Rights Dialogue Events



In addition to Age-Friendly consultations, HRCC continues to convene community dialogue events that address broader human rights issues. **On May 11, 2026, HRCC will host Part 2 of its Fireside Chat: *Asihcikan – Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre & Harvest Human Rights Dialogue* at the Holiday Inn Express Winnipeg Airport Polo Park.** Building on the previous year's discussion, which affirmed that food is a human right, this session will focus on collaborative strategy development. Participants will work collectively to identify actionable steps to address food insecurity in Winnipeg, reinforcing the importance of equitable access to basic needs.

Equity and Diversity Subcommittee Engagements

Through its Equity and Diversity Subcommittee, HRCC is also supporting key community-based events that advance inclusion and amplify diverse voices. **On May 20, 2026, HRCC will continue its partnership with the Rainbow Resource Centre and Probe Research by attending and collaborating at *Queer Space* at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.**

Queer Space is an evening of dialogue, storytelling, and community engagement that explores and celebrates the diverse dimensions of 2SLGBTQIA+ identity and experience. The event will feature speakers, panel discussions, and PechaKucha-style presentations that examine how affirming and inclusive spaces are created and sustained. It will also include the presentation of findings from the State of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community Survey conducted by Probe Research, with a focus on the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region. The concept of "queer space" highlights the importance of environments—both physical and virtual—that foster belonging, visibility, and safety, and have historically served as sites of cultural expression, resistance, and community building. Participation in this event will support

HRCC’s ongoing commitment to equity and inclusion and contribute to a deeper understanding of the experiences and needs of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

On June 17, 2026, HRCC will co-host a film screening and community dialogue featuring *Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance* in partnership with the National Film Board of Canada at the Gas Station Arts Centre. This documentary captures pivotal moments in Canada’s 2SLGBTQI+ movement, centering the voices of activists and elders whose efforts advanced rights and visibility. Through archival footage and first-person accounts, the film explores key milestones in community organizing and resistance, while underscoring the ongoing importance of protecting human rights. The screening will create space for intergenerational dialogue and reflection, further strengthening HRCC’s engagement with 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in Winnipeg.

Conclusion

Collectively, these engagements demonstrate HRCC’s continued leadership in fostering inclusive dialogue, strengthening community partnerships, and advancing human rights across Winnipeg. The insights gathered through these initiatives will inform ongoing policy development and contribute to the Committee’s broader Age-Friendly and equity-focused work.