

Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD)

What is CMARD?

The Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) is part of a larger international network of municipalities working together to combat racism and discrimination in their communities. CMARD addresses the need for a platform to broaden and strengthen the ability to protect and promote human rights through coordination and shared responsibility among local governments, civil society organizations and other democratic institutions. It is based on a common desire to achieve two goals:

1. Share experiences and lessons learned with others.
2. Strengthen policies to counter all forms of discrimination to achieve greater social inclusion.



Signatory municipalities of CMARD rely on Ten Common Commitments to inform and guide their work. These commitments relate to three primary areas of municipal responsibility:

1. The municipality as a guardian of public interest.
2. The municipality as an organization in the fulfillment of human rights.
3. The municipality as a community sharing responsibility for respecting and promoting human rights and diversity.

[Click here](#) to watch a brief video, shot at the 2014 Come Together Alberta Conference, which provides a comprehensive overview of CMARD.

For more information on CMARD, [click here](#).

For more information on the International Coalition of Cities Against Racism, [click here](#).

Who are Alberta's Signatories?

In Canada, the Coalition is supported by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. Through help from the Alberta Human Rights Commission, the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities (WIC) initiative has championed and promoted the Coalition in Alberta. To date, 14 Alberta municipalities have passed resolutions to join the Coalition representing approximately 2.4 million Albertans. This places Alberta second only to Ontario, which has 19 signatories.

Alberta's signatories include:

• Wood Buffalo	• Brooks	• Fort Macleod
• Calgary	• Lethbridge	• Provost
• Grande Prairie	• St. Albert	• Devon
• Edmonton	• Innisfail	• Red Deer
• Drayton Valley	• Wetaskiwin	

Why Municipal Governments?

Municipal governments function at the most practical level and are most involved in the lives of their residents. They are an ideal place to develop policies, programs and strategies, and take meaningful action towards eliminating racism and discrimination.