**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 13, 2011**

**Canadians of Eritrean Origin in Winnipeg and Manitoba, the Eritrean Community in Winnipeg Inc. The Youth Association of the Eritrean Community in Winnipeg, the Women Association of the Eritrean Community of Manitoba**

**Will be holding a Demonstration**

**in front of the Offices of the Free Press 1355 Mountain Avenue**

 **on Thursday the 15th of December at 12:30 p.m.**

**To oppose and strongly reject the serious**

**Mass Media Distortion from the Winnipeg Free Press with unfounded allegations of terrorism against the Eritrean Community**

**-Dismayed by the irresponsible writing of two articles-stated below- that is harming our community and polarizing our members in Winnipeg and in Canada among Eritreans and other African Communities.**

**-Concerned that the one sided stories are promoting a sense of social marginalization and political selectivity among the new immigrant African Community in Manitoba that is affecting our relationship with our fellow Canadian neighbours.**

**-Concerned about the effect that this will have on our children and the new generation of Canadians of Eritrean origin.**

**-Dismayed by the irresponsible writing on the paper regarding issues pertaining the Eritrean community in general and the Eritrean Community In Winnipeg Inc. with unfounded allegation of terrorism links, money extortion and breach of privacy.**

**-Disturbed by the fact that your Newspaper had done no serious effort to listen to our voice and provide an opportunity to respond to the serious allegations against the Eritrean-Canadian Community.**

* **We urge the Winnipeg Free Press to stop incriminating, marginalizing the Eritrean Community In Winnipeg by posting unfounded allegations**
* **We urge the Winnipeg Free Press to rectify and restore the social stigmatization and defamations that has occurred due to the irresponsible writing.**

***Protest links seminar to Eritrean terrorists”*** *Matt Preprost*

*Posted: 08/23/2010*

[*http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/protest-links-seminar-to-eritrean-terrorists-101283344.htm*](http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/protest-links-seminar-to-eritrean-terrorists-101283344.htm)

**“**By Carol Sanders, Winnipeg Free Press November 25, 2011

**Country they fled has long tentacles Regime taps Eritrean refugees for cash**

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/country-they-fled-has-long-tentacles-134482753.html>

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/134812883.html>

For more information please contact

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Please find related reference/ articles to Eritrean Community in Winnipeg

 **Tutoring Program**

[**http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/our-communities/lance/Small-tutoring-program-yielding-big-results-97871699.html?device=mobile&c=y**](http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/our-communities/lance/Small-tutoring-program-yielding-big-results-97871699.html?device=mobile&c=y)

 **Photography Project**

[**http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/picturing-a-better-life-ahead-97650754.html**](http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/picturing-a-better-life-ahead-97650754.html)

**Eritrean Women Photography Project**

[**http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/photography-helps-ease-the-spirit-for-single-mom-97651279.html?viewAllComments=y**](http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/photography-helps-ease-the-spirit-for-single-mom-97651279.html?viewAllComments=y)

**Eritrean Women Photography Project**

[**http://www.cbc.ca/manitoba/scene/other/2011/05/18/post-11/**](http://www.cbc.ca/manitoba/scene/other/2011/05/18/post-11/)

 **ERITREAN COMMUNITY IN WINNIPEG INC.**

**DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION**

**The Eritrean Community in Winnipeg is an incorporated organization that represents the Eritrean community, one of the first African ethno cultural communities that was established in Manitoba. It is part of an umbrella organization, the African Communities of Manitoba Inc (ACOMI). Many people from the East African country of Eritrea came to Canada during the pre-independence years of intense turmoil and conflict. The first Eritreans came in the 70’s and established themselves as a formal community organization in 1983 in Winnipeg. Last year The Eritrean Community in Winnipeg celebrated 28 years of presence in Manitoba. The Eritrean Community in Winnipeg has 2,200 members.**

**The Eritrean Community in Winnipeg Inc is governed by a board of directors and a set of bylaws for more info visit** [**www.eritreancommunity.ca**](http://www.eritreancommunity.ca)

**The mandate of the organization includes promoting Eritrean culture in Manitoba, strengthening the Eritrean community, Foster good relations between Canada and Eritrea, fostering cooperation between community members and community organizations, preserve cultural heritage and history. The Eritrean community also assists in providing resettlement, addresses intergenerational issues and partners with agencies, assist emerging Eritrean-Canadian youth with Cross-cultural issues, advocates for immigrant youth and women, assists with special needs cases and is involved addressing racism issues, and assisting with disaster relief when needed.**

**The Eritrean community comes from a geographical and geopolitical position in the world where Middle Eastern and African culture intersect with a Greco-Roman influence. Eritrea is comprised of nine major ethnic groups, the Tigre, Tigrigna, Bilen, Saho, Rashiada, Nara, Kunama , Afar and Hidareb, each with diverse cultural traditions making for a rich and vibrant heritage. Offering members from this community the opportunity to develop a voice through art video will provide a window into this world, enriching both their own community as well as the larger Canadian community.**

**Major cultural activities of the community**

1. **Cultural celebrations**
2. **Traditional music - dances and training.**
3. **Contemporary Eritrean music - dances and training**
4. **Cultural performances by the Eritrean-Canadian Youth Group In Manitoba -Folklorama**
5. **Cultural performance of Eritrean-Canadian Women’s Group in Manitoba**
6. **Promote sports activities**
7. **Intergenerational classes for parents**
8. **Community Cased Education for newcomers on parenting In Collaboration with Mount Carmel**
9. **Organized and sponsored for 28 years the Eritrean Community Youth Soccer team**
10. **Foods and cooking classes**
11. **Traditional coffee ceremony performances at community level**
12. **Yearly Memorial Day Commemoration at Assiniboine Park.**
13. **Liberation day celebration**
14. **Organizes 2-3 major Social events per year.**
15. **Various social events**
16. **Movie nights and Arts promotion activities**
17. **Organizes 4-6 family oriented picnics per year.**

**Major projects and community support programs and advocacy.**

1. **Sponsoring refugees from war-torn areas**
2. **Welcoming newcomers - providing support and assistance with resettlement**
3. **Providing assistance for special refugee cases**
4. **Assisting refugee women, specially emotionally traumatized refugee women**
5. **Strengthening Eritrean families and addressing intergenerational issues**
6. **Partner in The Community Based Education for families**
7. **With Art Photography project for single headed families**
8. **Young emerging artists Video Project**
9. **Newcomers Educational after School Program**
10. **Women’s coffee ceremony project.**
11. **Assists and helps coordination of ACOMI Projects**
12. **Organizes regular bi-monthly session on Occupational Health issues.**

 **Major partners**

1. **Department of Labour and Immigration**
2. **Welcome Place**
3. **University of Manitoba**
4. **Occupational Health Center**
5. **Ethno-cultural Support Program**
6. **Manitoba Interfaith Council**
7. **Eritrean-Canadian Communities across Canada**
8. **Various service providers to newcomers and refugee agencies**
9. **Video Pool**

**10. Winnipeg Arts Council**

**11. Manitoba Arts Council**

**12. Canada Arts Council**

**11. Founding member of the Coalition for Newcomers Youth Educational Support**