

# Lewis to speak at breakfast

BY LISA BECKWICK  
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**S**TEPHEN Lewis has dedicated much of his life to helping make the world a better place. He is eloquent, impassioned, inspiring, informed. To many, he is a hero.

He has worked as a labour mediator, columnist and broadcaster before being appointed Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations. In this role, he was introduced to Africa, and fell in love with the country and the people.

His next appointment was with UNICEF in 1990. In 1994 he investigated the genocide in Rwanda, and in 2001 Kofi Annan appointed Lewis his special envoy for HIV and AIDS in Africa. His work there has been much of the focus of his life since then. When he speaks of his experiences, his voice often breaks with emotion.

Stephen Lewis will be the keynote speaker at the breakfast celebration marking the 10th anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination organized by Diversity Thunder Bay and co-presented by the City of Thunder Bay and its Anti-Racism and Respect Committee. This will be an event you will not want to miss.

The UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed on March 21 of each year to remember the 1960 Sharpeville massacre where 69 unarmed and peaceful demonstrators were killed by South African police as they protested the country's unjust apartheid laws.

Since proclaiming the Day in 1966, the General Assembly has called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. Racist laws and practices have been abolished in many countries but despite much progress, racism continues to exist and to affect the lives of individuals, and ethnic and religious groups worldwide. Racism violates human rights and communities suffer from the injustice.



Lewis

Diversity Thunder Bay is a community-based organization whose mission is to work towards an equitable community free of racism and discrimination of any kind.

Stephen Lewis is the author of the best-selling book, *Race Against Time*, and holds 37 honorary degrees from Canadian universities. He was the inaugural recipient of Canada's Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 and in 2003 was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada, Canada's highest honour for lifetime achievement. In April 2005, *Time* magazine listed Stephen Lewis as one of the "100 most influential people in the world."

At the Thunder Bay breakfast, Mr. Lewis will speak on *The Raging Force of Inequality*. His presentation will examine escalating economic and financial inequality within countries, and among countries, in the developed and developing worlds. He contends that poverty is a fatal blight that destroys the prospect of human progress and fosters the worst dimensions of injustice at home and abroad.

Join Stephen Lewis at Diversity Thunder Bay's 10th annual International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Celebration Breakfast on Tuesday, March 22 from 7:30-9 a.m. in the Valhalla Inn Ballroom. Tickets are only \$25 and can be purchased online at [www.diversitythunderbay.ca](http://www.diversitythunderbay.ca).

*Thunder Bay's Anti-Racism Advisory Committee produces this monthly column to promote greater understanding of race relations in Northwestern Ontario.*

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