

Talaga brings message of hope to diversity celebration

BY LISA BECKWICK

Award-winning journalist to speak at event marking Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



ONE CITY,
MANY VOICES

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

religious groups worldwide. Racism violates our human rights and our communities suffer from the injustice.

Talaga was the 2017-18 Atkinson Fellow in Public Policy, the 2018 CBC Massey Lecturer, and author of the national bestseller *All Our Relations: Finding The Path Forward*. For more than 20 years, she has been a journalist at the *Toronto Star* and is now a columnist at the newspaper. She has been nominated five times for the Michener Award in public service journalism.

Seven Fallen Feathers examines



THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL/BRENT LINTON

Journalist Tanya Talaga spoke at a Indigenous health summit in Thunder Bay on Jan. 22. The *Toronto Star* journalist will return to the city to speak at Diversity Thunder Bay's 13th annual Celebration Breakfast on March 21.

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the deaths of seven Indigenous youth in Thunder Bay and was the winner of the RBC Taylor Prize, the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for political writing, and the First Nation Communities Read Award: Young

Adult/Adult; a finalist for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Nonfiction Prize and the British Columbia National Award for Nonfiction; CBC's Nonfiction Book of the Year, a *Globe and Mail* top-100 book and a

national bestseller.

Talaga says that now it is time to come together to find a new path towards understanding so that all who call Thunder Bay home feel as though they belong. She believes that we are all responsible for our past, and therefore, we are all responsible for our future, and a new way forward.

Her inspiring keynote will touch on how the community did not look after its children, and thereby allowed them to be lost; the positive changes have already taken place in Thunder Bay to better support children; what more could be done by the community to make it safer, and; what more each community member can do, to support a safer, more welcoming community.

Diversity Thunder Bay's 13th annual International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Celebration Breakfast will be held on March 21 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Victoria Inn. Tickets are only \$25 and can be purchased online at www.diversitythunderbay.ca.

Lisa Beckwick is the director of organizational and people development for St. Joseph's Care Group, is co-chair for the Celebration, and has been a member of Diversity Thunder Bay since 2005. The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author.