



Combating hatred in communities

[April 6, 2016](#) [Ryen Veldhuis](#)

The Tour for Humanity bus is in North Bay today, visiting local high schools for the next few days. This educational initiative, presented by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC), with the assistance of the North Bay Police Service, is a fully self-contained mobile classroom designed to inspire and empower students to raise their voices and take action against hate to help make the world a better place.

“Seven years ago, I was one of 30 Canadian police officers who had the privilege of attending an FSWC-sponsored workshop at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. The workshop was designed to provide officers with the necessary tools to identify, confront and deal with issues of hate

and segregation in society in all forms,” said Inspector Kirk Kelusky, North Bay Police Service. “The Tour for Humanity bus is an extension of the FSWC’s programming designed for audiences at the secondary school level and we are pleased to have played a role in bringing this rich education experience to our community.”

A variety of issues and topics are explored on the Tour for Humanity bus including racism, prejudice, the Holocaust, universal genocide, real-world heroes, the Canadian residential school system, and the internment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War. Current issues of cyber bullying and examples of intolerance are also discussed.

Elena Kingsbury, of the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, said the workshops and visits to schools help give the students perspective on issues they may not fully understand. “Most issues related to racism and anti-semitic actions are usually a result of ignorance,” she said.

Kingsbury talked about once incident in Southern Ontario where students had set up an anonymous social media account to propagate hate speech against some students.

Keusky believes these informative workshops are very important for the community, not only for the benefit of making North Bay a more inclusive city but because he believes it to be important for our youth to learn these ideas before they head out around the province, the country and the rest of the world. He mentioned how even issues across the globe reach us, as with the Syrian refugees, so it’s important to learn the context behind these global issues and become more knowledgeable and inclusive as a city.

The bus will be at the following schools on the following days:

Widdifield Secondary School – yesterday

École secondaire publique Odyssee, 480 Norman Avenue – Wednesday, April 6th, 2016

Saint Joseph’s Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School, 675 O’Brien Street – Thursday, April 7th, 2016

West Ferris Intermediate and Secondary School, 60 Marshall Park – Friday, April 8th, 2016