

# Rights award for Asper family

## Foundation hosts Holocaust studies

Canwest News Service

FREDERICTON — The New Brunswick Human Rights commission will honour the Asper Foundation for its promotion of tolerance Saturday by presenting it with its rare Pioneer of Human Rights Award.

The foundation, honoured for its Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program, will be in prestigious company since the award has only be given three times.

"The foundation is making a difference in allowing students to participate in a program that creates sensitization in tomorrow's leaders. The human rights commission is proud to support this kind of awareness," said Gordon Porter, chairman of the commission. "The Asper family has set a great example for us to follow, and we challenge others to step forward and join their pioneer efforts to advance human rights among youth."

Started in Winnipeg in 1997 by the late Israel Asper, founder of Canwest Global Communications Corp., the program aims to sensitize Grade 9 students to the consequences of racism.

"We were deeply honoured to be receiving this wonderful and prestigious award and very grateful that the province is recognizing our commitment to education on human rights and our commitment to providing that education nationally — because this is one of the only national privately driven education programs in Canada," said foundation president Gail Asper.

It's the first time the awarded is being handed out since it was created in 2002 and given to three people including former New Brunswick premier Louis Robichaud and Senate Speaker Noel Kinsella. The first chief commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, Gordon Fairweather, was the award's only other recipient.

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