

# THE ASPER FOUNDATION

## **Twentieth Anniversary of Announcement to Create the Canadian Museum for Human Rights**

*April 17, 2023* – Today marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Israel Asper’s April 17, 2003 announcement to establish the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba. During a Winnipeg ceremony held at The Forks, a National Historic Site of Canada, Dr. Asper remarked “Today’s announcement is the realization of a dream for The Asper Foundation and an historic moment for Canada. The Canadian Museum for Human Rights will be more than a tableau of past events; it will be an education centre dedicated to promoting understanding and respect of ethnic, religious and racial diversity, especially among our youth.”

The Museum is a unique partnership between the Government of Canada, Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg and the private sector. It was the fifth national museum to be established in Canada and the first to be developed outside of the National Capital Region.

On July 3, 2010, the Museum cornerstone was unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She had personally selected a stone from Runnymede, the English meadow where the Magna Carta, a landmark human rights charter, was sealed in 1215. This stone is inscribed with a message from the Queen.

Opened on September 20, 2014, the Museum, topped at 100-metres by the Israel Asper Tower of Hope, is over 24,000 square metres and has over 4,300 square metres of exhibit space.

To date, the Museum has received over 50 national and international recognition awards across many fields of activity, including accessible and inclusive design, architecture, communications, construction, cultural leadership, education and financial management.

The dream of Dr. Asper and so many others has flourished with hundreds of thousands of people from around the world visiting the Museum annually as well as tens of thousands participating in virtual visits.