



Canadian Association of  
Statutory Human Rights Agencies  
*Association canadienne des  
commissions des droits de la personne*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** - November 1, 2018

**Human rights commissions across Canada applaud BC Government's move towards reinstating a BC Human Rights Commission**

Human Rights Commission across Canada - members of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (CASHRA) - applaud the government of British Columbia's plans to establish an independent human rights commission.

CASHRA is comprised of Canada's territorial, provincial and federal human rights commissions. It has a mandate to promote human rights in Canada and take public positions on issues of concern on behalf of its member agencies. In September of 2002, members of CASHRA strongly urged the BC Government to maintain its human rights commission. In the fall of 2017, CASHRA members expressed support and provided input into the BC Government's public consultations on the creation of a BC Human Rights Commission.

"Since 2002, British Columbians have been denied the benefits of the expertise, education, and advocacy of an independent human rights commission," said Charles Dent, CASHRA Chairperson and Chair of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission." CASHRA members look forward to welcoming and working with the new BC Human Rights Commission."

Human rights commissions play an important role in the prevention and elimination of discrimination. Commissions provide free and accessible public education, undertake research on broad systemic issues, develop guidelines, provide policy advice and support, and promote human rights compliance.

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Signed by,

 Kim MacKay, Vice-Chair Human Rights Commission of Newfoundland and Labrador  	 John Rogers, Chair PEI Human Rights Commission  	 Nathalie Chiasson, Chair New Brunswick Human Rights Commission  
 Christine Hanson, Director and CEO Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission  	 Philippe-André Tessier, Président par intérim, Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse  	 Renu Mandhane, Chief Commissioner Ontario Human Rights Commission  

 Brenlee Carrington Trepel, Chairperson Manitoba Human Rights Commission 	 Russ Knutson, Chair Yukon Human Rights Commission 	 Michael Gottheil, Chief of the Commission and Tribunals Alberta Human Rights Commission 
 Charles Dent, Chairperson Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission 	 Marie-Claude Landry, Ad. E. Chief Commissioner Canadian Human Rights Commission 	

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