



## RELEASE

### **Marking the Hearing of Journey Zsohar (formerly Vincent) v Romi Dhillon**

December 27, 2023 – Whitehorse, YT – Yukon Human Rights Commission

A hearing into Journey Zsohar’s human rights complaint of discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression and/or sexual orientation is scheduled to take place on January 3 and 4, 2024, commencing at 10:00am at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Multi-Purpose Room, at 1171 Front Street, Whitehorse, Yukon.

Journey Zsohar filed a complaint with the Yukon Human Rights Commission in April 2021, alleging that their identity as a person who is transgender and bisexual was a factor in why the Respondent ended their tenancy. Specifically, the Complainant alleges that the Respondent provided them with a 3-month notice to end tenancy because:

- a) of their “lifestyle” which the Complainant understood to be a reference to their sexual orientation and gender identity and expression; and
- b) the property was “not an LGBT-friendly building”.

The Respondent’s position is that he ended their tenancy because of excessive noise that was causing a disruption to other residents in the building. He further states that his remark about the Complainant and their partner’s “lifestyle” referred to their work lifestyle (i.e. shift work). He denies stating that the building was “not LGBT friendly”.

Subsections 7(f.01) and 7(g) list gender identity or expression and sexual orientation as prohibited grounds of discrimination. Section 9(d) prohibits discrimination in connection with any aspect of the occupancy, possession, lease or sale of property offered to the public.

The Commission will not initially take a position with respect to the complaint because evidence is limited to competing verbal statements about what the Respondent said was the reason for ending the Complainant’s tenancy. The Commission will participate in the hearing by presenting evidence on the law of discrimination, and presenting the complaint to the Board of Adjudication by questioning the parties and witnesses. The Commission may take a position after it has the opportunity to assess the parties’ credibility at the hearing.

The hearing is before Yukon’s Human Rights Board of Adjudication, an independent body created under the Yukon *Human Rights Act* to hear human rights complaints once they are investigated and referred by the Commission. The Board of Adjudication will consist of Judith Hartling (Chief Adjudicator), Vincent Larochelle, and Carol Geddes.

The Yukon Human Rights Commission is an independent body that promotes equality and human rights through research, training, public education, and enforcement of the Yukon *Human Rights Act*. The Commission will be represented at the hearing by Alexander Dezan and Vida Nelson.

For further information please contact Alexander Dezan, Legal Counsel, at [alexander.dezan@yukonhumanrights.ca](mailto:alexander.dezan@yukonhumanrights.ca), call us at (867) 667-6226 or visit our website [www.yukonhumanrights.ca](http://www.yukonhumanrights.ca)