



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 2024

The Yukon Human Rights Commission (YHRC) is delighted to share the news that its former Director of Human Rights, Birju Dattani, has been appointed Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC). His appointment came by way of an Order in Council, signed by Her Excellency, Mary Simon, the Governor General, on the recommendation of the federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Arif Virani, Canada. Mr. Dattani's five year appointment as Chief Commissioner commences August 8, 2024.

The Chief Commissioner of the CHRC is the chief executive of Canada's national human rights institution. It was established by Parliament through the [Canadian Human Rights Act](#) in 1977, with the broad mandate of promoting and protecting human rights in Canada, as well as contributing to the elimination of barriers for women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and racialized groups through enforcement of legislation that addresses systemic discrimination in areas such as accessibility, pay and employment, and housing. The mission, values and structure of the CHRC, although not identical to those of the YHRC where Mr. Dattani served as Director between 2020 and 2023, are strongly equivalent.

Minister Virani stated:

The appointment of Mr. Dattani as Chief Commissioner comes at a pivotal time for the Canadian Human Rights Commission. He brings a wealth of both professional and personal lived experience to this role. Our government remains committed to the protection of all human rights in Canada, including the fight against racism, and to strengthening our country's role within the international human rights system.

The Yukon Human Rights Commission Chair, Michael Dougherty, issued congratulations to Mr. Dattani as follows:

On behalf of all the Commission, members and staff, I would like to again thank our former YHRC Director of Human Rights, Birju Dattani, for providing three years of exceptional leadership at a critical time in our history and congratulate him on his new national challenge. We are confident that under his capable leadership he will ably guide the CHRC in dealing with the challenges now confronting it, internally and externally, from unresolved issues with Indigenous communities to the ongoing concerns over Canada's stances on international conflicts such as the Middle East crisis.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-justice/news/2024/06/new-chief-commissioner-of-the-canadian-human-rights-commission-appointed-by-minister-of-justice.html>