



RELEASE

## Marking the Hearing of Sophia Hosni v Rhonda Sam (formerly Janson) and Fritz Mandl

March 13, 2025 – Whitehorse, YT – Yukon Human Rights Commission

A hearing into Sophia Hosni’s human rights complaint of discrimination on the basis of physical or mental disability, source of income, and ancestry, including colour and race is scheduled to take place from March 18 to 21, 2025, commencing at 10 a.m. on the Third Floor of MacBride Museum, 1124 Front Street, Whitehorse, Yukon.

Sophia Hosni (the “Complainant”) filed a complaint with the Yukon Human Rights Commission in December 2020, alleging two issues. First, the Complainant alleges that Rhonda Sam (formerly Janson) discriminated against and harassed her on the basis of her physical or mental disability and source of income in connection with any aspect of the occupancy, possession, lease or sale of property offered to the public. Second, the Complainant alleges that Fritz Mandl discriminated against and harassed her on the basis of ancestry, including colour and race, in connection with any aspect of the occupancy, possession, lease or sale of property offered to the public.

Specifically, the Complainant alleges that she sought to rent a residential unit in Whitehorse owned by Mr. Mandl and advertised by Ms. Sam. She alleges that Ms. Sam and Mr. Mandl made discriminatory and harassing comments towards her when she chose not to rent the unit and asked for her deposit to be returned, and when she went to retrieve her belongings from the unit.

Subsections 7(a), 7(h) and 7(l) of the *Human Rights Act* list ancestry, including colour and race, physical or mental disability, and source of income as prohibited grounds of discrimination. Subsection 9(d) prohibits discrimination in connection with any aspect of the occupancy, possession, lease or sale of property offered to the public. Subsection 14(1)(a) prohibits the harassment of any individual or group by reference to a prohibited ground of discrimination.

With regard to the first issue, the Commission is taking the position that Ms. Sam discriminated against the Complainant on the basis of physical or mental disability and source of income. The remedy sought includes:

- a) damages for injury to dignity, feelings and self-respect per paragraph 24(1)(d) of the *Act*;

- b) damages for any financial loss suffered as a result of the discrimination as per paragraph 24(1)(c) of the Act;
- c) an order that the Respondents shall receive half-day training in human rights from the Commission or a third party; and
- d) orders for the Respondents to pay the Commission's costs, with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest.

With regard to the second issue, the Commission will not initially take a position with respect to this part of the complaint because evidence is limited to competing verbal statements about what Mr. Mandl may have said. The Commission will participate in the hearing regarding this issue 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), Julie Jai, 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 Michael DeRosenroll.

For further information please contact Caroline Grady, A/Director, at [caroline.grady@yukonhumanrights.ca](mailto:caroline.grady@yukonhumanrights.ca), call us at (867) 667-6226 or visit our website [www.yukonhumanrights.ca](http://www.yukonhumanrights.ca).