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**Call for Nominations**  
Board Appointments to Nunavut Institutions of Public Government

The Government of Canada is currently seeking individuals interested in serving as a federal appointee on two of Nunavut's Institutions of Public Government:



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**GOVERNMENT REQUEST**

NEWS: Nunavut June 12, 2012 - 11:00 am

## Nunavut human rights system needs big changes: report

**"Certain essential functions are missing"**

**DAVID MURPHY**

The Nunavut Human Rights system needs serious revamping, two prominent human rights arbitrators said in a report tabled last week in the Nunavut legislature.

In a report for the Government of Nunavut, Dr. Gwen Brodsky and Shelagh Day outlined 18 recommendations for fixing the current system — the most prominent being establishing a Nunavut Human Rights Commission, something Nunavut doesn't have.

"This report identifies a serious structural problem that must be fixed for the Nunavut Human Rights Act to function effectively," said the report. "Specifically, certain essential functions are missing from Nunavut's human rights system."

Right now, Nunavut uses a human rights "tribunal."

According to the report, the tribunal does not:

- Provide broad human rights education to the residents of Nunavut;
- Provide pro-active education to respondents about compliance with the NHRA;
- Provide pro-active education to those who need the act's protections;
- Undertake studies, research, or inquiries;
- Develop policies or guidelines;
- Proactively address concerns about systemic discrimination;
- Provide assistance and advice to applicants about framing their notifications, evidence, documents, precedents, or witnesses; and,
- Advocate for applicants before the Tribunal (or in court in the event of judicial review or appeal proceedings).

The tribunal, consisting of five staff members, currently mediates discrimination matters and hears cases.

It was established based on the British Columbia system. Nunavut and B.C. are the only jurisdictions in Canada without a commission.

A Nunavut Human Rights Commission would act as a filter to help assess claims before the tribunal, dismiss claims that are not in time or not within the jurisdiction of the tribunal, and to help file claims and build cases.

It would also protect human rights, promote equality and education, and initiate research and reviews of the current system.

The commission would act in the same capacity as the Language Commissioner, reporting directly to the legislative assembly, the report said.

Brodsky and Day feel the commission should take a "made-in-Nunavut" approach to human rights enforcement, and recommend establishing an office in a "major centre of Nunavut" so that residents can gain easier access to the commission and the tribunal.

The tribunal is currently located in Coral Harbour.

"Since the headquarters ... moved to Coral Harbour, it has become increasingly apparent that public access to information about human rights generally, and the remedial aspects of the NHRA specifically, continues to lag significantly behind other jurisdictions nationally and internationally," said Jim Posynick, former adjudicator in human rights matters in the Northwest Territories, in a letter to the NHRT.



COMMENT ON THIS STORY

**(10) Comments:****#1. Posted by Anomak / Paulybear on June 12, 2012**

Thanks for sharing this info, I did not know there the difference between a Tribunal and a Commission.

By all means lets go for the Commission since it will have more powers to make changes, educate and promote Inuit Human Rights!!!

**#2. Posted by Joe on June 12, 2012**

I was a strong believer in decentralization in the past. However for important human rights functions- we must have it located in the Capital. It's pretty obvious the government of Nunavut does not value this institution therefore has shunted it off to Coral Harbour.

Don't get me wrong- I support the fine people of Coral Harbour need the jobs. However they should be jobs the local people can actually get- not just secretaries and menial jobs. I'd like to know how many jobs at the Tribunal are actually held by people there.

Move it to the capital and give it the needed support and teeth the rest of the western world has given their tribunals.

**#3. Posted by Tman on June 12, 2012**

BC doesn't have a commission; however, they have the BC Human Rights Coalition which essentially serves the same purpose and services that a Commission does.

**#4. Posted by John Black on June 12, 2012**

@Anomak just to clarify Human rights are for everyone, I think what you may be referring to are Cultural rights as defined below.

Every human being has the right to culture, including the right to enjoy and develop cultural life and identity. Cultural rights, however, are not unlimited. The right to culture is limited at the point at which it infringes on another human right. No right can be used at the expense or destruction of another, in accordance with international law.

Based on this International law the Nunavut Human Rights should be simply Inuit Rights and accordingly hear and deal with issues specific to Inuit. As it stands now the name implies the Rights of Nunavummiut meaning all residents of Nunavut not just Inuit.

My point is I think the first thing that needs to happen is to establish exactly what are they fighting for Human Rights, Nunavummiut Rights, Inuit Rights, or some combination of all three? That last one could get complicated.

**#5. Posted by Think about it on June 12, 2012**

You mean that this Commission will work to remove the systemic discrimination that plagues Nunavut? Where every person is equal; no matter, colour, race, gender, or orientation.

**#6. Posted by Taqulik on June 12, 2012**

Human rights are universal. The rights of Indigenous peoples are an integral part of human rights and a Human Rights Commission deals with all issues in respect of human rights, whether they are Indigenous or not. It does happen that there are conflicts between fundamental rights and it's then up to the courts (or the Tribunal) to establish which rights will supersede other rights. For instance, equality between men and women may conflict with freedom of religion (if and where men may have more rights than women) and the courts will then determine in each case which one will prevail - in this case, so far gender equality prevailed.

Further, there are individual rights and collective rights - often Indigenous rights are collective in nature, for example the right to land is collective, not individual. The right to culture, tradition and identity of Indigenous peoples often prevail as a failure to respect it means the possible extinction of a nation as a group.

**#7. Posted by sled dog on June 12, 2012**

a made in NU solution is needed. Heck, GN Justice has trouble tying their shoes let alone taming this beast. Heck, can't even build a jail on schedule so do not hold your breath on this one

**#8. Posted by Clarity on June 12, 2012**

Do I hear that big money sucking sound again? Oh yes I realize the NU Gov is hiding a big pot of gold for all these things people want LOL. Wow!

**#9. Posted by Campbell on June 12, 2012**

Ontario celebrates 50 years of human rights legislation on the 15th of June.

Hard to believe this is the same country.

**GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Department of Community and Government

**On-site Air Monitoring and Analysis  
Asbestos Removal MOT Houses**

The Government of Nunavut (GN) Department of Community and Government Services is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) for On-Site Air Monitoring and Analysis during Asbestos Abatement in two Buildings in Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavut.

— Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavut —

For the purposes of this proposal call the provisions of the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti (NNI Policy) apply. All or any of the proposals not necessarily accepted.

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**Employment Opportunities**

Managerial Affairs and Northern Development Canada (MANDC)

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We encourage all interested persons to apply to this exciting employment opportunity at MANDC's Northern Regional Office.

Please visit [www.job.gc.ca](http://www.job.gc.ca) to apply today!**Manager, Field Operations** (permanent full-time position)

Open to persons residing in Canada and/or Canada's four existing abroad.

Reference number: MANDC-446000-000004 - Closing date: June 28, 2012.

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**Notes:**

- The purpose of this process is to create a pool of qualified candidates to fill positions within MANDC, and other federal departments and agencies in the North. The pool may be used to fill other positions or temporary positions.

- A satisfactory score must be obtained which will be conducted prior to appointment.

- Medical clearance may be required prior to appointment.

- Staff housing may be available.

For more information on the requirements of these positions and to apply, visit our online at [www.job.gc.ca](http://www.job.gc.ca), visit the nearest office at 1-800-469-6666 or TTY at 1-800-933-9197. The federal code is used to create a comprehensive work description for this position please contact [Managers@job.gc.ca](mailto:Managers@job.gc.ca).Visit [www.job.gc.ca](http://www.job.gc.ca) to learn more about government jobs and services.

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**NUNAVUT HOUSING CORPORATION**

Hon. Peter Taptuna, Minister

**TENDERS****FURNITURE and APPLIANCES**

The Nunavut Housing Corporation will receive bids for  
FURNITURE and APPLIANCE SUPPLY SEALIFT

Tender # NHC-2012-SH-001

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**REQUEST FOR TENDERS  
AND PROPOSALS**

Government of Nunavut