



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Select Committee on Human Rights

32nd Legislative Assembly

September 18, 2008

News Release

Over the next three weeks, the Select Committee on Human Rights will be holding public hearings in 16 communities throughout the territory. The Committee's first public hearing will take place on Monday, September 22nd, at the Curling Lounge in Mayo. On Wednesday, October 8th, the Committee will be holding a public hearing in Whitehorse at the High Country Inn (Conference Room "A"). On Friday, October 10th, the Committee will wrap up its tour at the Community Hall in Tagish.

This all-Party Committee, pursuant to the mandate in the motion that established the Committee on April 9, 2008, is holding public hearings to receive the views and opinions of Yukon citizens and interested groups on legislative options for amending Yukon's 20-year old *Human Rights Act*. While the Committee will not be drafting legislation, it is seeking opinions on Bill #102, which was referred to the Committee in the motion appointing the Committee. Bill #102, *Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*, is a Private Member's Bill that was introduced in the Yukon Legislative Assembly by Don Inverarity on April 23, 2007. The bill received some second reading debate on May 23, 2007 (the debate was adjourned) and remains on the Order Paper.

The three permanent members of the Select Committee on Human Rights are Hon. Marian Horne (Pelly-Nisutlin), Don Inverarity (Porter Creek South), and Steve Cardiff (Mount Lorne). The Chair of the Committee is Hon. Marian Horne. Steve Nordick (Klondike), who introduced the motion (Motion #374) in the Legislative Assembly establishing the Committee, will be attending the Committee's first two meetings (Mayo on September 22nd, and Old Crow on September 23rd) in place of Ms. Horne. At the first of these hearings, Mr. Cardiff will serve as Acting Chair. At the second hearing, Mr. Inverarity will serve as Acting Chair. Traveling with the Select Committee will be the Committee's Advisor, Brian MacDonald (Barrister and Solicitor), Committee Clerk Linda Kolody (Deputy Clerk of the Assembly), and House and Committee Assistant Sue MacDonald.

The Select Committee on Human Rights has held 8 meetings to date. The Committee's first meeting was on May 13th, 2008. The Committee has also met 7 times during the intersession, most recently on September 11th, to plan for the Committee's public hearings.

In addition to the public hearings, the Committee is also accepting written submissions until October 17th. Submissions may be sent electronically to the Select Committee on Human Rights at schr@gov.yk.ca or in hard copy to:

The Select Committee on Human Rights
Yukon Legislative Assembly (A-9)
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Information about the committee's activities is posted on its webpage at:
<http://www.legassembly.gov.yk.ca/429.html>

For further information contact:

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| Hon. Marian Horne, MLA Committee Chair (867) 633-7973 | Linda Kolody Clerk of the Select Committee on Human Rights (867) 667-5499 |
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Attachments: Motion #374, Schedule of public hearings

Motion #374 (carried on April 9, 2008):

THAT this House establish an all-party Select Committee on Human Rights,

THAT Hon. Marian Horne be the chair of the Committee,

THAT the honourable members Don Inverarity and Steve Cardiff be appointed to the Committee,

THAT Bill #102 entitled An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act be referred to the Committee,

THAT the Committee hold hearings for receiving the views and opinions of the Yukon Human Rights Commission, Yukon citizens and interested groups on legislative amendments to the *Human Rights Act*,

THAT decisions by the Committee require unanimous agreement by members of the Committee,

THAT the Committee report to the Legislative Assembly no later than the 15th sitting day of the next regular sitting of the Legislative Assembly:

- (1) its findings, if any, relating to public opinion for legislative change,
- (2) its recommendations, if any, regarding what form legislation implementing changes recommended by the Committee should take,

THAT in the event the Legislative Assembly is not sitting at the time the Committee is prepared to report, the Chair of the Committee forward copies of the report to all Members of the Legislative Assembly, thereafter make the report public, and subsequently present the report to the Legislative Assembly at the next regular sitting of the Legislative Assembly,

THAT during its review of public opinion on legislative options for amending the *Human Rights Act*, the Committee be empowered:

- (1) to invite the members of the Yukon Human Rights Commission to appear as witnesses,
- (2) to invite officials from the Government of Yukon to appear as witnesses on technical matters,
- (3) to engage a technical expert who is not a Member of the Legislative Assembly or an employee of the Government of Yukon to act as a facilitator in providing information at the public hearings,
- (4) to invite such other persons as it deems necessary to appear as witnesses on technical matters,
- (5) to hold public hearings,
- (6) to print such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it; and

THAT the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly be responsible for providing the necessary support services to the Committee.



**Yukon Legislative
Assembly**

**Select Committee
on
Human Rights**

The Yukon Legislative Assembly established the Select Committee on Human Rights on April 9, 2008. The mandate of this all-party Committee includes holding public hearings to receive the views and opinions of Yukon citizens and interested groups on legislative options for amending Yukon's *Human Rights Act*. The Committee members are Hon. Marian Horne, Don Inverarity, and Steve Cardiff.

Public Hearing Schedule

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|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Mayo | Monday, Sept. 22 7:00 p.m. | Curling Lounge |
| Old Crow | Tuesday, Sept. 23 6:00 p.m. | Community Hall |
| Dawson City | Wednesday, Sept. 24 7:00 p.m. | Downtown Hotel Meeting Room |
| Pelly Crossing | Thursday, Sept. 25 7:00 p.m. | Link Building |
| Carmacks | Friday, Sept. 26 7:00 p.m. | Recreation Centre Meeting Room |
| Faro | Monday, Sept. 29 7:00 p.m. | Sportsman Lounge Recreation Centre |
| Ross River | Tuesday, Sept. 30 7:00 p.m. | Community Hall |
| Watson Lake | Wednesday, Oct. 1 7:00 p.m. | Recreation Centre |
| Marsh Lake | Thursday, Oct. 2 7:00 p.m. | Recreation Centre |
| Burwash Landing | Sunday, Oct. 5 1:00 p.m. | Jacquot Building |
| Beaver Creek | Sunday, Oct. 5 7:00 p.m. | Community Hall |
| Haines Junction | Monday, Oct. 6 7:00 p.m. | Council Chambers – Convention Centre |
| Teslin | Tuesday, Oct. 7 7:00 p.m. | Community Hall |
| Whitehorse | Wednesday, Oct. 8 7:00 p.m. | High Country Inn – Conf. Rm A |
| Carcross | Thursday, Oct. 9 7:00 p.m. | Community Hall |
| Tagish | Friday, Oct. 10 7:00 p.m. | Community Hall |

For more information call 667-5499 or toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext 5499 or visit the Committee's web page via the link at www.legassembly.gov.yk.ca