2008-10-17

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

Subject: Submission for the Human Rights Act revision

Honourable members,

In the name of the members of the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, I would like to bring
forward our recommendations for the review of the Human Rights Act. We also
support the working document presented by the Yukon Human Rights Commission
that addresses our concerns.

We the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition would like to see in the Yukon Human Rights
Act the following items:

1. **Homelessness, and the right to housing and social condition** (add to part
   1 a number 7)

We believe that safe and affordable housing is a human right and that expulsion
without a cause is against this right, especially if this eviction causes the person
to become homeless.

2. **Prohibited discrimination** (add in part 2 number 7)

We believe that aboriginal identity should be in the Act as a distinct motif.

3. **Systemic discrimination** (modification of paragraph 9(a))

We are concerned that this term is not a clear definition so it has no utility.

4. **Equal pay for work of equal value** (modification of paragraph 15(2))

We would like to see the application of this right to all employers in the Yukon.

5. **Complaints** (modification of paragraph 20(2))

We strongly recommended that a complaint should be made within two years of
the alleged contravention and not six months.

We would like to conclude by bringing to your attention that the present Yukon Human Rights Act is one of the rare Human Rights Act in Canada that as not been seriously revise. Therefore, we recommend that the proposed modifications and the ones bring forward by the Yukon Human Rights Commission be in your discussion during the review process that your committee will do.

We are concerns citizens and believe that an inclusive, clear and just act will make better communities and make poverty history.

Sincerely,

Julie Ménard

Co-Chair of the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition