



## National Secretariat on Hate and Racism in Canada (NSHRC)

Calgary, October 14th, 2004

### **AGENDA**

1. Finalizing the workplan
2. Confirming final list of members
3. CBA resolution on Aboriginal appointments to the Supreme Court (S.C.C.)
4. Environmental Scan
5. Posting information on the website and communications
6. Setting up agenda items for future meeting(s)
7. Others business

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### **PRESENT**

- + Charles C. Smith, Charles C. Smith Consulting
- + Michael Kerr, National Anti-Racism Council of Canada (NARC)
- + Liz Panighel, Student Commission of Canada (SCC)
- + Anita Bromberg, League of Human Rights, B'nai Brith Canada
- + Dianne Corbiere, Indigenous Bar Association (IBA)
- + Margaret Froh, Indigenous Bar Association (IBA)
- + Ahmad Ktaech, Canadian Arab Federation (CAF)
- + Soni Dasmohapatra, Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)
- + Mannie Dick, Canadian Ethnocultural Council (CEC)
- + Sandra Carnegie Douglas, Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF)
- + Victor Wong, Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC)
- + Jinny Thibodeau, Quebec Native Women (QNW)



## 1. Advocacy

- ✚ Race based litigation – *B'nai Brith Canada, CAF, ACRC, NARC Minority Adv.Rights Council, SALCO, Metro Toronto Chinese and Southern Asian Clinic, NWAC, CEC, Court Challenge.*
- ✚ Hate crimes – **All members except Aboriginal organisations.**
- ✚ Redress, reparations - *CRRF, NARC, ACLC, CCMC, CEC.*
- ✚ Appointment to S.C.C. – *IBA, CEC, CBA.*
- ✚ Youth issues / racism in education – *ACLE CASSA, S.C., CRRF, B'nai Brith, QNW, NWAC, AFN, NARC, CCMC, Metis Council.*
- ✚ Poverty / Aboriginal peoples, people of color – *CRA, NARC, ACLC, AFN, CASSA, SALCO, CRRF, Student Commission*
- ✚ Health / AIDS, substance abuse, life expectancy, infant, mortality – *QNW, CCMC, Student Commission, CEC, Dalhousie Project, CRRC.*
- ✚ Immigration and refugees – *CCR, CCMC, ACLC, CEC, all groups except Aboriginal organisations.*
- ✚ Racial Profiling – *ACLA, CRRF, CAF, NARC, CEC.*
- ✚ Employment equity – **All members.**
- ✚ National security – *CAF, CRRF, CCMC, ACLC.*
- ✚ Electoral representation, decision making – **All Aboriginal organisations as QNW and IBA, CEC, CAF, B'nai Brith, NARC.**
- ✚ Policy and legislative development - **All Aboriginal organisations as QNW and IBA, CEC, CAF, B'nai Brith, NARC.**
- ✚ Race and gender (intersectionality) – *QNW, CASSA, NWAC, ACLC, CCMC, Students Commission, CRRF, NARC.*
- ✚ Criminal Justice – *All Aboriginal organisations, ACLC, NARC, CBA, Student Commission*
- ✚ Access to processing / Trades – *CASSA, ACLC, CEC, CCMC, NARC.*
- ✚ Core funding

*The group felt it was important to concentrate on priority issues that affect all of our organisations so as not to exclude organisations that are not involved in those other issues. It was also felt that each organizational member needs to think of what they want on the agenda. This will ensure effective use of monthly teleconferences*

## ACTIONS

### A. Communications

- ✦ NARC, CRRF, NSHRC to workout. Those three groups will have to meet time to time to make sure that we support each other and not going on each others toes.

### B. Priority issues

- ✦ One day dialogue to create open dialogue with (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary RCAP) Aboriginal leadership: CBA Resolution.
- ✦ Members seek input on issues
- ✦ Put Aboriginals / Peoples **first** – Direction from IBA
- ✦ April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the section 15 of the Charter: ACLC and NARC are doing special events on it. (See *Environmental Scan* just below).

## 2. Confirming final list of members

- ✦ Quebec Native Women (QNW)
- ✦ National Anti-Racism Council of Canada (NARC)
- ✦ Canadian Ethnocultural Council (CEC)
- ✦ Indigenous Bar Association (IBA)
- ✦ Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF)
- ✦ Council on Research and Race Relations (CRARR)
- ✦ Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC)
- ✦ Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)
- ✦ League of Human Rights, B'nai Brith
- ✦ Canadian Arab Federation (CAF)
- ✦ Law Commission of Canada (LCC)
- ✦ Student Commission of Canada (SCC)
- ✦ United Nations Association (UNA)
- ✦ African Canadian Legal Clinic (ACLC)

*Others possibilities to add, but according to our funding (IBA), we'll see eventually:*

- ✦ National Aboriginal organisations
- ✦ Philippine Canadian Commission
- ✦ Faith-based
- ✦ Youth
- ✦ Indigenous African Canadian Commission
- ✦ Groups can request...



### **3. CBA Resolution on Aboriginal Appointments of the Supreme Court**

Suggestions from the table:

- ✦ Letter campaign to CBA/Provincial branches, Federal Gov. Cotler and M.P.s
- ✦ Attendance at Seminar
- ✦ Lawyers speak at CBA Commission
- ✦ Get retired Judges to support
- ✦ Provincial attorney generals
- ✦ IBA take lead and NSHRC will support
- ✦ Add in national newspapers
- ✦ Our priority is to support Aboriginal peoples
- ✦ Coordination and timing
- ✦ One page – explain and educate on that issue

*“All of these are good ideas, except maybe not about the retired Judges. But we could try”.*

*“We will draft a letter for that all the organisations at this table and will adjust it to each one. And then, it could be like a network transmission to other organisations that we each have in our own network”.*

*“We think that the Court should reflect of all nationalities in Canada, but still... I’m just concerned about who’s going to coordinate that strategy and also about the timing on the letters that you will send to CBA.”*





*“We need to know that there is a lot of lobbying going on. We have to make sure that the CBA/Provincial branches are reached, they have probably monthly meetings. They are the one who could bring it to the CBA”*

*“This issue is broader than the CBA which is only one of many to be lobbied. We should also lobby MPs, the Justice Minister directly. The CBA doesn’t decide this.”*

**12h25pm LUNCH BREAK**

### **4. Environmental Scan**



-  **Mannie Dick from Canadian Ethnocultural Council (CEC).** The CEC is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition representing over 30 national ethnocultural organizations in Canada. Its mandate is to promote the understanding of the multicultural reality of Canada as defined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Multiculturalism Act. The aims of the CEC are: to provide a forum for communication among different ethnocultural communities of Canada; to promote the development of equality and justice in context of a multicultural Canada; to disseminate to the Canadian public, government, elected officials, media and other agencies, information on ethnocultural communities; to make representations on behalf of the Council, to various levels of government and of non-government bodies; to secure for ethnocultural communities in Canada equality of opportunity, right and dignity. The CEC conducts programs and activities to support the vision of an inclusive and multicultural Canada. Go see their website at [www.ethnocultural.ca](http://www.ethnocultural.ca) to celebrate Canada's cultural communities. There are a lot of organizations who are members of the CEC. Also, see the two bulletins "Forum" from the CNDMMV on labour Force development.
-  **Soni Dasmohapatra from the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA).** It is an umbrella organization with a current membership of sixty agencies/individuals serving the needs of the South Asian community in the city of Toronto and regions of Halton, Peel and York. It a political movement that the mission is to supports and advocates on-behalf of existing as well as emerging South Asian agencies, groups and communities to address their diverse and dynamic needs to empower the South Asian Community. CASSA is committed to the elimination of all form of discrimination from Canada society. Se the brochure and the pamphlet for their objectives, planning, advocacy, organization structure, partnerships and what they do. CASSA Youth Initiative:" Say no to Hate!". Also see the website: [www.cassa.on.ca](http://www.cassa.on.ca) .
-  **Ahmad Ktaech from the Canadian Arab Federation (CAF).** CAF has set the stage for Canadian Arabs since 1967. CAF is a national non-for-profit organization with a mandate to "identify" articulate, defend and otherwise pursue the interests of the Arab-Canadian community. They have sought to empower Arab-Canadian, help them integrate into Canadian society, and give them a voice in public affairs. This is achieved by maintaining relations with the media, the three levels of government, and various national bodies and NGO's. In addition, CAF plays a leading role in countering hate, racism and stereotyping through advocacy, research and education. CAF create a National Anti-Hate line at 1-866-886-4675. See documents, pamphlet and their website at [www.caf.ca](http://www.caf.ca) .
-  **Jinny Thibodeau from Quebec Native Women (QNW).** Founded in 1974, QNW represents women from the First Nations in Quebec and Aboriginal women living in urban area. We are a bilingual organisation and a member of the Native Women Association of Canada (NWAC). We sit at the table of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, on the Board of Directors of the Native Parajudicial Services of Quebec, at the table of the First Nations Human



Resources Development Commission of Quebec, and on several other Aboriginal and non-aboriginal commissions and committees. We support Aboriginal women in their efforts to better their lives and living conditions through the promotion of non-violence, justice, health and equality. We also empower women in their commitment to their communities. QNW is made of 42 local organisations grouped according to their nation, and of urban organisations. A director for each nation and a director representing the urban areas elected by their members and sit on our Board of Directors along with the Executive Committee formed by the President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. On the political scene, we continue to fight for the recognition of equal rights for Aboriginal women in this country as legislatively and constitutionally. Petition on Indian Act: Jinny has read the petition to the assembly and also explain that we still need to provide educational workshops to inform the impact of the Indian Act to Aboriginal women and their children. We also have to provide information about their rights regarding this law versus Band Councils.

- ✚ **Dianne Corbiere and Margaret Froh from Indigenous Bar Association (IBA).** “We thank everyone for there presence here today...”
- ✚ **Margaret Parsons from the African Canadian Legal Clinic (ACLC).** The ACLC was established in 1994 to address anti-Black racism and other forms of systemic institutional discrimination in Canadian society through a test case litigation strategy. The ACLC is a community based Ontario Legal Aid Clinic and is actively engaged in law reform, advocacy and public legal education. See the brochure for their Test Cases, Law Reform, Advocacy and Public Education and Outreach. Their website is [www.aclc.net](http://www.aclc.net) .
- ✚ **Anita Bromberg from the League of Human Rights, B’nai Brith Canada.** The Jewish community’s foremost human rights agency since 1875, B’nai Brith Canada’s team of dedicated volunteers and professional staff is engaged in combating anti-Semitism, bigotry and racism in Canada and abroad. B’nai Brith Canada’s wide-ranging educational and social programming, its human rights initiatives, reflect the organization’s commitment to the principle of “People helping people”. We also partners with the community to carry out and support activities which ensure the security and survival of the State of Israel and Jewish communities worldwide. B’nai Brith Canada is the country’s only independent, self-funded, national Jewish organization. Its popular-based grassroots support consists of thousands of Canadian families with diverse backgrounds and interests that empower the organization to speak to government, to media, and to the public at large, on issues of concern to the Jewish community. “There’s a Dangerous Virus Infecting Canadians: Its Name is Racism”. See their website at [www.bnaibrith.ca](http://www.bnaibrith.ca) .
- ✚ **Liz Panighel from the Students Commission of Canada (SCC).** The Students Commission, with its Tiny Giant Magazine and website (TG/SC), is a diverse, global-minded organization that is run by youth for youth in partnership with



youth-friendly adults across Canada. We strive to create opportunities for empowerment through innovative, educational processes and products. Our four pillars are: Respect, Listen, Understand and Communicate. Five “My Story” was read by members of the table. Those stories were based on true stories written by young students. See their website at [www.tgmag.ca](http://www.tgmag.ca) .

✚ **Michael Kerr from the National Anti-Racism Council of Canada (NARCC).** Their vision: a Canada that is fully equitable and inclusive, that truly respects human dignity and reflects ethno-racial equality, and that honours these foundational principles across all spheres of community and society. NARCC is committed to being a national, community-based, member-driven network that provides a strong, recognized, effective and influential national voice against racism, racialization and all other forms of related discrimination in Canada. We strive to effectively address racism, racialization and all other forms or related discrimination by sharing and developing information and resources; by building, supporting and helping to coordinate local, regional, national as well as international initiatives, strategies and relationships; and by responding to issues & events in a timely & effective manner. See documents NARCC and their website is [www.narcc.ca](http://www.narcc.ca) .

✚ **Sandra Carnegie Douglas from Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF).** The CRRF is committed to the fight against racism in Canadian society. The CRRF opened its doors in November 1997 and works at arm’s length from the federal government. CRRF activities include: research, Unite Against Racism campaign, clearinghouse of anti-racism information in Canada, Award of Excellence for best practices, and Initiatives Against Racism community sponsorships. You can access CRRF publications in 3 ways: The majority of publications can be downloaded from our website free of charges at [www.crr.ca](http://www.crr.ca) , download the Publications Order and mail your request or phone in or email your request. The CRRF would like to focus, by their participation on the NSHRC, on the race-based litigation. The CRRF wants to present a conference in March 2005.

✚ **Victor Wong from the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC).** Since 1984, the CCNC has been seeking redress on behalf of the surviving Head Tax payers and their families who have suffered from decades of discrimination as a result of these racist laws passed by the Federal Government. We continue to pursue the goals of equal treatment, respect and opportunity for all Canadians, with a particular obligation to those of Chinese origin. See their website at [www.ccnc.ca](http://www.ccnc.ca)

✚ **Charles C. Smith from Charles C. Smith Consulting.**

We have to list our priorities:



- Effective relationships
- Youth partnerships
- Education
- Racial profiling
- Hate crimes
- Speaker's bureau
- National Anti-Racism Campaign
- Core funding
- Race based litigation
- Redress / Reparations
- Race / Gender (intersectionality)

## **5. Posting information on the website and communications**

- ✚ Jinny Thibodeau presented the brochure that was made by Sonia Mitchell (QNW), she's the one who create the NSHRC logo. We ask people around the table to put their corrections on the back of it with a circled number to identify the paragraph to modify.

## **6. Setting up agenda items for future meeting(s)**

- ✚ Next meeting will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> . It will be a teleconference and everyone as to confirm to what number they can be reach.

### **5h07 pm CLOSING PRAYOR**

**Notes taking by Jinny Thibodeau, QNW,**  
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