



National Secretariat Against Hate and Racism in Canada **(NSAHRC)**

Minutes of Meeting **January 28, 2005**

Present: Avvy Go, Anita Bromberg, Michael Kerr, Liz Panighel, Soni Dasmohapatra, Victor Wong

Regrets: Mark Stevenson, Margaret Parsons, Margaret Froh, Mannie Dick, Dianne Corbierre, Karen Mock, Sandra Carnegie-Douglas

1) Review Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes were amended to reference Soni Dasmohapatra as calling in her regrets.

2) Business Arising from the Minutes:

a. Aboriginal Appointments to the Courts:

The IBA has met with the Justice Minister on January 21, 2005 to discuss this issue. It was suggested that the NSAHRC should request to meet the Justice Minister on March 6, 2005. A letter has been sent to the Justice Minister outlining the NSAHRC's concerns.

The Students Commission has agreed in principal to the actions recommended at the past meeting as has NARCC and CCNC National. CASSA's board of directors will be discussing this at their next meeting

Actions Required: (1) Members will take the NSAHRC position on Aboriginal appointments to their organizations and report back at next meeting what actions will be taken (2) Members will bring to next meeting a list of MPs and senators for the NSAHRC to lobby on the above positions.

b. Position on Racial Profiling:

The action on this is the same as above.

Action Required: (1) Members will discuss actions to implement the position on racial profiling at the next meeting.

c. Race-Based Statistics in Education:

The draft position paper was reviewed and agreed to by members.

Action Required : (1) The position on race-based statistics and education (and other public services) will be posted on the website. (2) Members will discuss actions to promote this position at the next meeting.

3) Youth Issues and Representation:

The position on this issue was circulated. Members felt this was an important issue and decided to discuss it at the March 6, 2005 face-to-face meeting. Certain key issues will need to be decided, eg., the age definition of 'youth', and how to enable youth participation.

4) Grant Proposal To Funders:

Grant proposals are now being drafted to submit to funders to continue the work of the group based on the actions discussed and agreed upon in the previous meetings.

5) Posting Information on the Website:

NSAHRC minutes are now posted on the IBA website and all approved minutes will be posted. It was felt that transparency is critical to the credibility of the NSAHRC.

At the end of each meeting, members will discuss what will go on the website. Members are also encouraged to forward information from their own organizations to post on the website as well.

6) CASSA Project:

Soni introduced a CD Rom project that CASSA is working on for this year's Asian Heritage Month. The purpose of the project is to document the experiences of people of colour in Canadian history for distribution through the schools and to place on CASSA's website for broader access.

Action Required: Any organization wishing to contribute to this project should contact Soni for more information.

7) Other Business:

It was suggested that the NSAHRC should consider developing a response to the UN Special Rapporteur's Human Rights Report on Canada. It is possible to do this in collaboration with NARCC.

It was also suggested that the NSAHRC discuss taking a position on the same sex marriage legislation.

Action Required: These two items will be discussed at the March 6 meeting.

8) Agenda for March 6 Meeting:

The following items will be discussed at the March 6, 2005 meeting:

- 1) Actions on Positions Taken – Aboriginal Appointments to the Courts, Racial Profiling, Race-Based Statistics in Education and Public Services
- 2) Youth Representation
- 3) Grant Proposals
- 4) Same Sex Marriage Legislation
- 5) Response to the UN Special Rapporteur Human Rights Report
- 6) Environmental Scanning

9) Schedule of Meetings:

The next meeting will be on Sunday, March 6, 2005 in Ottawa.

Regular meetings will be the last Friday of the month from 1 – 2:30 p.m.

If members have items they wish to place on the agenda, they are to contact Charles via email (charlescmith@sympatico.ca) or phone (416-924-3827)