



National Secretariat on Hate and Racism in Canada
(NSHRC)
Meeting of AUGUST 27, 2004

Present: Avvy Go, Anita Bromberg, Dianne Corbierre, Michael Kerr, Karen Mock, Soni Dasmohapatra, Liz Panighel, Victor Wong, Sandra Carnegie Douglas.

Regrets: Mannie Dick, Margaret Froh, Anand Tansing, Fo Niemi

1. Review Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following clarification:

- The CASSA project *Say No To Hate* is a documentary for which there is a training kit. Information on the project is on CASSA's website.

It was noted that representatives from the Quebec Native Women's Association and the Canadian Arab Federation have not attended the first two meetings.

Action Required: Charles will follow-up with the Canadian Arab Federation and Dianne will follow-up with the Quebec Native Women's Association.

2. Discussion of Draft Workplan

Now that the NSHRC Terms of Reference are approved, the development of the workplan was discussed.

Communications. In terms of Communications, it was agreed that information on events, activities, advocacy and other initiatives will be generated by the NSHRC members and communicated before each meeting. These items will be coordinated by the NSHRC for review at each meeting and will then be posted on the IBA website. Such items may also include court cases, human rights challenges and stories of individuals on their personal experiences regarding hate and racism. For the latter, the NSHRC will refer all interested to the organization that is working with the victim. No information will be posted on the IBA website without having express permission of the forwarding organization and approval of the NSHRC.

Action Required:

- 1. NSHRC members will advise Charles via e-mail of items they wish communicated on behalf of the NSHRC through the IBA via its website, through e-mail to members or interested persons and through media releases.**
- 2. Members will also advise Charles of the organizations that should be included on a NSHRC e-mail list so that information from the NSHRC can be sent on a regular basis.**
- 3. The list of organizations that attended the March conference will be used as a starting point. Charles will look into this with Germaine Langan**

Advocacy. It was agreed that the NSHRC should undertake advocacy work to address hate and racism in Canada. This should ensure organizations on the NSHRC e-mail list are informed of timely issues, strategies being developed to address them and lead organizations for these challenges.

Numerous issues were raised by members that could form the basis for NSHRC action. These included:

- Race-based litigation to address hate crimes, racial profiling, Aboriginal justice, post 9-11 immigration issues
- Hate crimes definitions, prosecutions, annual reports by law enforcement, community and law enforcement systems across Canada
- Redress and reparations in terms of the 'head tax', Africville and peoples of African descent, post-Durban responses to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Racism
- Parliamentary process for appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada
- The proposed national Anti-Racism Action Plan and campaign announced in the spring, 2004
- Solidarity with First Nations issues, eg., appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada
- Youth issues emerging through the Student Commission or the National Anti-Racism Youth Council

In discussing these actions, it was noted that the NSHRC will need to be very strategic about how it acts as well as how it supports leadership of organizations already engaged on any activity. For example, it was suggested that an effective use of resources by the NSHRC would require it to support an organization that is dealing with an issue, enabling the organization to reach a wider audience and facilitating action where the organization was unable to act. This would ensure no duplication between NSHRC and other organizations; it would also ensure leadership of specific organizations working on particular issues was recognized and solidarity generated to enhance its actions.

Action Required:

1. **Members will advise Charles of advocacy initiatives they wish the NSHRC to engage in. In doing this, they will identify the issue, who and which organizations are involved and the kind of action the NSHRC can take to address the issue.**
2. **Charles will compile a list of the above for the next meeting for a preliminary discussion. Further discussion and a strategy will be finalized at the October meeting in Calgary.**

3. Agenda for October Meeting

It was agreed that the following items will be the main focus of the agenda for the face-to-face for the October meeting in Calgary:

- **Finalizing the workplan.** This would involve identifying specific actions for the NSHRC and who would be responsible for them;
- **Confirming final list of members.** This would involve identifying gaps in membership, particularly in terms of youth involvement, and strategies to address these gaps;
- **The CBA resolution on Aboriginal appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada.** This would involve discussing/deciding on actions to take to support the CBA resolution scheduled for the CBA's mid-winter meeting in Charlottetown, P.E.I, February, 2004;
- **Environmental Scan.** This would involve information sharing by members, identification of issues and how the NSHRC can support member initiatives;
- **Posting information on the website and communicating issues, events, activities.** This would involve deciding on information to be posted by the IBA on behalf of the NSHRC and communicated to interested organizations;
- **Setting up agenda items for future meetings.**
- **Other business.** This would provide time for members to raise issues not on the agenda.

Action Required:

1. **The above items will be reviewed at the September meeting and confirmed/revised as required.**
2. **Charles will prepare the package of materials to support the agenda.**

4. CBA Resolution on Aboriginal Appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada

Members discussed the CBA resolution circulated with the agenda. Information on how this resolution was addressed at the CBA meeting was provided, eg., negative media attention, and members were informed that the matter has been tabled for the CBA's mid-winter meeting. It was suggested that this issue is a good one for the NSHRC to

address through advocacy. The IBA has had a background paper prepared to address this issue which will be shared with NSHRC members.

Action Required:

1. ***Dianne will share IBA background paper on appointments of Aboriginal peoples to the Supreme Court.***
2. ***Members will discuss strategy on how to support the adoption of this resolution. Such support can include a letter writing campaign, advising member organizations of this issue and encouraging them to support, posting such actions on websites, etc.***

5. **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Friday, September 24, 2004 from 1 – 2:30 Eastern Standard Time.

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