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October 29, 2009

16th Legislative Assembly
of the Northwest Territories

Standing Committee on
Government Operations

Report on the Review of the
Human Rights Commission
2007-2008 Annual Report

Chair: Mr. Kevin Menicoche
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Kevin Menicoche, MLA
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INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Government Operations reviewed the 2007-2008 Report of the Human Rights Commission. The Committee would like to thank Ms. Mary Pat Short, Chair of the Human Rights Commission, and Ms. Thérèse Boullard, Director of Human Rights, for their appearance before the Committee.

2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2007-2008 Annual Report was the fourth report of the Human Rights Commission since its establishment on July 1, 2004. There were no recommendations in the report.

The Committee was pleased with the level of activity that occurred in 2007-2008. The Human Rights Commission hosted a national human rights conference in Yellowknife in June, 2006 with 150 delegates attending. Experts presented on Aboriginal rights, duty to accommodate family obligations, drug and alcohol testing, and other topics. In addition, the Commission visited seven communities to give presentations, and sponsored audio conferences on human rights in four communities.

The Human Rights Commission received 317 inquiries and 33 new complaints in 2007-2008. The most common type of alleged discrimination was disability.

The Committee is very pleased with the Commission’s efforts to provide education and awareness workshops on Human Rights and the NWT Human Rights Act. We look forward to seeing continued outreach to communities and encourage you to pursue opportunities to reach people throughout the NWT.

CONCLUSION

The Committee commends the Commission’s work and achievements to date and looks forward to monitoring the continued advancement of human rights in the Northwest Territories.