

May 5, 2017

**Standing Committee on Communities, Land and Environment
Third Report of the Second Session Sixty-fifty General Assembly
Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission**

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

The Standing Committee on Communities, Land and Environment is charged with matters concerning municipal affairs and provincial planning, land and local governance, environment, water, forests, wildlife; and justice and public safety, intergovernmental affairs, Aboriginal affairs, Acadian and Francophone affairs, Status of Women, the PEI Human Rights Commission, charities and emergency measures.

Committee Membership

Kathleen Casey, Chair (District 14, Charlottetown-Lewis Point)

Peter Bevan-Baker (District 17, Kellys Cross-Cumberland)

Richard Brown (District 12, Charlottetown-Victoria Park) (*as of March 10, 2017*)

Hon. Heath MacDonald (Minister of Economic Development and Tourism; District 16, Cornwall-Meadowbank) (*as of March 10, 2017*)

Sidney MacEwen (District 7, Morell-Mermaid)

Hon. Pat Murphy (Minister of Rural and Regional Development; District 26, Alberton-Roseville)

Hal Perry (District 27, Tignish-Palmer Road)

Bradley Trivers (District 18, Rustico-Emerald)

Background

The terms of appointment for the following Commissioners are set to expire on May 2, 2017:

- Mr. John Rogers, Chairperson (May 2, 2017)
- Mr. Alcide Bernard, Commissioner (May 2, 2017)
- The Honourable Ellen Macdonald, Commissioner (May 2, 2017)
- Ms. Carmen de Pontbriand, Commissioner (May 2, 2017)

Members of your committee agreed to seek applications from interested individuals across Prince Edward Island. As such, advertisements were placed in the *Guardian* and the *Journal-Pioneer* on **March 18, 2017**, and in *La voix Acadienne*, the *Eastern Graphic* and the *Western Graphic* on **March 22, 2017**. The advertisements were posted on the Legislative Assembly's social media. The advertisements requested that Islanders interested in serving as a commissioner on the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission submit their resumes by **April 7, 2017**.

Your committee met on **February 9, 2017**, to receive a briefing from Mr. John Rogers, Chairperson of the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commissioner, and Ms. Brenda Picard, Executive Director. They highlighted the roles and responsibilities of Commissioners, as well as the policies and procedures of the Commission. It was a very informative meeting, and aided your committee in the selection process of Commissioners.

Your committee met next *in camera* on **May 3, 2017**, to discuss the appointment of Commissioners to the

Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission and to consider its report to the Legislative Assembly.

Recommendations:

As a result of its deliberations on this matter, your committee is pleased to recommend to the Legislative Assembly:

- 1) That Mr. John Rogers be reappointed to the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commissioner for a term of three years, to expire on May 5, 2020; and be designated the Chairperson.
- 2) That Ms. Carmen de Pontbriand be reappointed to the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commissioner for a term of two years, to expire on May 5, 2019.
- 3) That Ms. Joanne Ings be appointed to the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commissioner for a term of two years, to expire on May 5, 2019.
- 4) That Ms. Lori St. Onge be appointed to the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commissioner for a term of three years, to expire on May 5, 2020.

Following adoption of this report, the composition of the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission will be as follows:

Mr. John Rogers, Chairperson (term expiring May 5, 2020)
Ms. Carmen de Pontbriand, Commissioner (term expiring May 5, 2019)
Ms. Joanne Ings, Commissioner (term expiring May 5, 2019)
Mr. George Lyle, Commissioner (term expiring July 9, 2018)
Ms. Lori St. Onge, Commissioner (term expiring May 5, 2020)
Mr. Maurice Rio, Commissioner (term expiring July 9, 2018)

Conclusion

Your committee would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all individuals who expressed an interest as serving as a commissioner on the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission. We applaud their interest in serving their communities.

Your committee thanks the members of the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission for their continued role in upholding human rights in our province. Your committee also thanks outgoing Commissioners Mr. Alcide Bernard and the Honourable Ellen Macdonald for their service on the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Casey, MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Communities, Land and Environment