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Manitoba Human Rights Commission – Board of Directors (MHRC)

Chairperson

Laurie Bonten, Winnipeg

Vice-Chairperson

John Burchill, Winnipeg

Members

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(Mr.) Darcy Strutinsky, Winnipeg

Jeannette Acheson, Winnipeg (bil.)

Mandate:

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission (“The Commission”) has been established to administer *The Human Rights Code*, (the Code) which has the objective of ensuring that Manitobans are treated in all matters solely on the basis of personal merit, free from discrimination based on stereotypes or generalizations about groups. The Code affirms the principles within the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

Authority:

[*The Human Rights Code*](#)

Responsibilities:

The Commission has been given the responsibility of enforcing the Code through its complaint procedures, conducting public education programs and carrying out activities that promote human rights.

The Commission reports to the Minister of Justice.

Membership:

The Board of Commissioners shall consist of ten (10) members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, of which one shall be designated as chairperson and another shall be designated as vice-chairperson.

Length of Terms:

Every member of the Commission except the chairperson shall normally hold office for three years from the date of being appointed and thereafter until re-appointed or replaced, but in order to assure that three of the appointments shall expire in each year the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall, if necessary, appoint any such members to terms of less than three years. The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall designate one member of the Commission as chairperson, and the chairperson shall hold office for 3

years from the date of being appointed and thereafter until re-appointed or replaced. No appointment of a member of the Commission shall be terminated except for cause.

Desirable Expertise:

- 1) Commissioners review and decide the disposition of human rights complaints filed under the Code. Accordingly, strong analytical skills, the ability to make impartial decisions, to understand complex legal issues, to interpret policies and legislation and apply to specific cases, and an awareness and understanding of human rights issues are essential areas of expertise. Good written and verbal communication skills are also required.
- 2) The Board of Commissioners should be representative of the broader community, with a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The board should be gender balanced, be representative of the regional diversity of Manitoba, and include persons with disabilities and others marginalized groups that are protected under the legislation.

Time Commitment:

Commissioners are required to attend 7 full day Board Meetings per year, and to spend at least one full day reading materials in preparation for the meetings. Commissioners are also assigned to 3 standing committees which hold bi-monthly meetings throughout the year, of approximately one half day in length.

It is essential that Board members be available during business hours to attend Board and Committee Meetings. If members are employed on a full time basis, they must be able to arrange to take time off to attend meetings, including 7 full day Board meetings which are scheduled one year in advance.

Meetings:

Frequency: Meetings are held monthly

Location: MHRC, 175 Hargrave.

Duration: Meetings begin at 9 a.m. and usually adjourn by 1 or 2 p.m.

Remuneration:

Chair: \$191 per meeting or \$336 per day, plus reasonable expenses incurred in performing their duties.

Member: \$109 per meeting or \$192 per day, plus reasonable expenses incurred in performing their duties.