



For release September 27, 2010

The Yukon Human Rights Commission has made six recommendations to the Select Committee on the *Yukon Landlord and Tenant Act*.

Commission chair, Melissa Atkinson said, "Many Yukon landlords take their human rights responsibilities seriously, but the Commission have taken reports of alleged violations of human rights in some residential tenancy situations. In our submission we discuss some examples of these situations and provide recommendations for changes to the *Landlord and Tenant Act*."

The Commission recommends that the *Landlord and Tenant Act* should clearly state that the *Human Rights Act* applies to tenancy agreements and that the *Human Rights Act* has paramouncy or power over the *Landlord and Tenant Act*. The definition of "tenant" should also apply to those living in "long-stay" situations in motels and hotels.

Another recommendation is that when a landlord evicts a tenant, there must be cause for the eviction, which should be clearly identified. Evictions based on any of the personal characteristics protected under human rights law, such as source of income, family status, disability are discriminatory.

The Commission also recommends that the responsibilities of both the landlord and tenant be outlined clearly, recognizing that landlords have a responsibility to protect tenants from harassment by other tenants or employees and to also reasonably accommodate the needs of tenants protected under human rights law, such as people with disabilities. Tenants have the responsibility to make the landlord aware of harassment that may be occurring and of their accommodation needs if required.

Lastly, the Commission recommends that the *Landlord and Tenant Act* should be updated and written in plain language, and that education should be provided to both landlords and tenants about the *Act*.

The Yukon Human Rights Commission submission is available on their website at [www.yhrc.yk.ca](http://www.yhrc.yk.ca) under the link "What's New".

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