

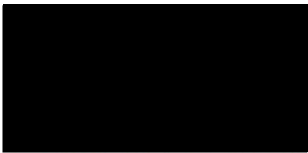


Hon. Helena Guergis, PC

M.P. for Simcoe—Grey  
Députée de Simcoe—Grey



AUG 04 2008



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter regarding the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC). I appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I apologize for the delay in responding.

This Government values the contributions of all members of Parliament. Dr. Keith Martin's motion you referred to in your letter is currently not on the order of precedence and will therefore not come up for debate in the House of Commons for quite some time. However, our government believes this to be an important issue and my colleague and fellow member of Parliament Rick Dykstra has tabled a similar motion at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

The balancing of human rights and freedom of speech is a complex matter and our government believes these issues warrant a complete, in-depth study. Mr. Dykstra's motion asks that the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights study issues such as the Commission's mandate, operations and its application and interpretation of section 13.

As mentioned above, our government has identified the current situation as problematic and we are in the process of seeking a constructive and viable solution. The Commission operates at arm's length and reports to Parliament, so it makes sense that a parliamentary committee undertake this study. Once a thorough review has been conducted, the committee will report its findings to Parliament.

I want to thank you for sharing your views on this important matter. I will keep your comments in mind in my ongoing discussions with my cabinet and caucus colleagues.

Sincerely,

Helena Guergis, P.C., M.P.  
Simcoe-Grey

HG/ry

*Again, sorry for delay I am receiving 2000 emails a week.  
Best. H.*

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