

---SEND VIA EMAIL---

August 6, 2008

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated June 20, 2008 with respect to the Canadian Human Rights Commission. I appreciate learning of your thoughts on this important issue. Please accept my sincerest apologies for the delay in my response.

Our government is committed to the protection and promotion of human rights. The balancing of human rights and freedom of speech is a complex matter and these issues warrant a complete, in-depth study. Due to recent concerns raised surrounding the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC), on May 12, 2008, my colleague Mr. Rick Dykstra, Member of Parliament for St. Catharines, tabled a Motion at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

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 of the *Human Rights Code*. The Commission operates at arm's length from the government 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.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write. Please be assured that I have noted your comments and will keep them in mind during ongoing discussions with my cabinet and caucus colleagues. Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact my constituency office directly at 613-990-7720.

Sincerely,

John Baird

John Baird, P.C., M.P.
Ottawa West-Nepean

I share your strong
concerns and will
raise them directly
with my colleagues + the PM.