

Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission Settlement Agreement

About Settlement Agreements

Many human rights complaints are settled (closed through an agreement between the parties). When cases settle, there is no decision on whether discrimination happened because only a Board of Inquiry (i.e., public hearing) can do that. Cases settle for many reasons (speed, control over the process, confidentiality, etc.), and each agreement is unique. Settlements do not create “precedent”, meaning they do not influence future Board of Inquiry decisions.

This is an example of a matter that was settled by the parties. The agreement is confidential and therefore any identifying information has been removed or altered.

Area: Access to Services or Facilities

Ground: Irrational fear of contracting an illness or disease

Allegation: A woman registered her son in an educational program. The son has Hepatitis B, which is not transmitted through normal contact. The son arrived on the first day and gave the director his medications. The director asked the boy what they were for, and he told the director he has Hepatitis B. She told the boy that he could not be around other children because he would make them sick. She called his mother and told her to pick up the child immediately before he made the whole group sick. The family contacted the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. With the support of the Commission, the parties reached an agreement to resolve the concerns. This agreement includes the following terms:

Individual Terms

- Letter of apology
- Reimbursement of registration fee

Public Interest Terms

- Change in registration process to reflect the *Human Rights Act*