

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: Accommodation

Characteristic: Physical disability

Allegation: The Complainant is blind. She wanted to move into a newly-built apartment building due to better facilities and security. She was denied an apartment because the units designated as “barrier-free” were taken. Barrier-free apartments are designed to better accommodate mobility aids (e.g., wheelchairs). The Complainant does not need (and had not applied for) a barrier-free apartment. The Complainant 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

- Notification as soon as an apartment (standard or barrier-free) is available
- Guaranteed placement in that apartment
- Reimbursement of moving costs