



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
November 15, 2012

NSRAP Presents Petition to Include Protections for Transgender People in Human Rights Act

HALIFAX – Today the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) presented Minister Leonard Preyra with a petition to amend the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act to include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds for discrimination. Currently there are no explicit protections from discrimination for transgender, gender-variant, gender non-conforming or intersex people in the Act. The petition has over 1700 signatures gathered from concerned citizens across the province.

“Hundreds of Nova Scotians are calling on our government to extend basic human rights to transgender members of our communities,” said Kevin Kindred, Chair of NSRAP. “No one should face discrimination or harassment due to their gender identity or how they express it. It’s time to enshrine those basic protections into law.”

Amending the Human Rights Act will codify protection from discrimination and harassment in areas such as employment, housing, education, and more in communities across Nova Scotia province for those who are transgender, gender non-conforming or intersex. Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories already protect gender identity and gender expression in their Human Rights Act.

“Including gender identity and gender expression in the Act is an important step towards making sure that transgender people are valued, supported, accepted and protected here in Nova Scotia,” said Kindred. “NSRAP will continue to work towards affecting other changes that will improve the quality of life for transgender people right across Nova Scotia.”

The group hopes the timing of this petition will call attention to Transgender Day of Remembrance, an annual event reflecting on violence against transgender individuals, on November 20.

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FOR BROADCAST USE:

HALIFAX – Today the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (N-S-RAP) presented Minister Leonard Preyra with a petition to amend the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act to include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds for discrimination.

Equality for All



Currently there are no explicit protections from discrimination for transgendered, gender-variant, gender non-conforming or intersex people in the Act. Amending the Human Rights Act will codify protection from discrimination and harassment in areas such as employment, housing, education, and other services.

The petition has over 170 signatures gathered from citizens across Nova Scotia.

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Equality for All