



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Marking the Hearing of Human Rights Complaints of Simon & Simon v Sallows o.b.a White Tornado Cleaning Services**

Jan. 20, 2017 – Whitehorse, YT – Yukon Human Rights Commission

A hearing into Bobbi-Jean Simon and Suzannah Simon's respective human rights complaints of discrimination based on ancestry and sex in the area of employment will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Jan. 27, 2017, in the Boardroom at the Canada Games Centre.

Section 7 of the Yukon *Human Rights Act* says: "It is discrimination to treat any individual or group unfavourably on any of the following grounds... (a) ancestry, including race and colour; (f) sex, including pregnancy and pregnancy related conditions." Section 9(b) says: "No person shall discriminate" . . . "in connection with any aspect of employment or application for employment." Ms. B. Simon and Ms. S. Simon allege that the Respondent employer Rhonda Sallows made discriminatory comments relating to their sex and their First Nations ancestry during their employment and while attempting to obtain their final pay after they had left their employment.

The hearing is before the Yukon's Human Rights Board of Adjudication, a separate body created under the Yukon *Human Rights Act*, which is the body that hears human rights complaints after they are investigated by the Human Rights Commission. The Commission can refer complaints to hearing by the Board, if the Commission decides there is a reasonable basis in the evidence to do so.

Penelope Gawn will Chair this Board of Adjudication meeting with 2 other members, Michael Riseborough and Jean-Sébastien Blais.

The Yukon Human Rights Commission is independent from the Yukon Government and from the Yukon Human Rights Board of Adjudication. The Yukon Human Rights Commission provides human rights training and educational resources, assists both the complainant and respondent in human rights complaints, and encourages and assists with settlement efforts. Established thirty years ago this year, in 1987, the Yukon Human Rights Commission promotes equality and diversity through research, education and enforcement of the Yukon *Human Rights Act*.

### **For more information, the media may contact:**

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