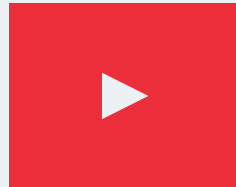




Office of the BC Human Rights Commissioner

Reflections on the past year

Provincial Advocates
Training Conference 2021



**CLICK HERE
TO WATCH THE WEBINAR**



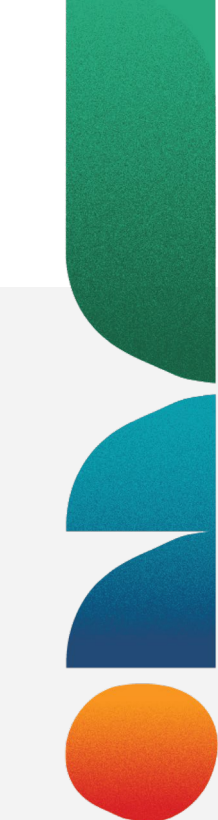


British Columbia's
Office of the Human Rights
Commissioner

Reflections from BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner

Sharon Thira & Sarah Khan

OCTOBER 28, 2021



To the Indigenous peoples of this place we now call British Columbia:
**Today we turn our minds to you and to your
ancestors. You have kept your unceded
homelands strong. We are grateful to live and
work here.**

Sarah

səlililw̓ətaʔt̓ , x̣ẉməθḳẉəỵəm & Sḳẉx̣ẉú7mesh
(Vancouver)


Sharon

Nexwlélexwm, Sḳẉx̣ẉú7mesh
(Bowen Island)

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Where human rights fit in
- BCOHRC: who we are
- BCOHRC: What we've been up to
- Where you fit in

bchumanrights.ca

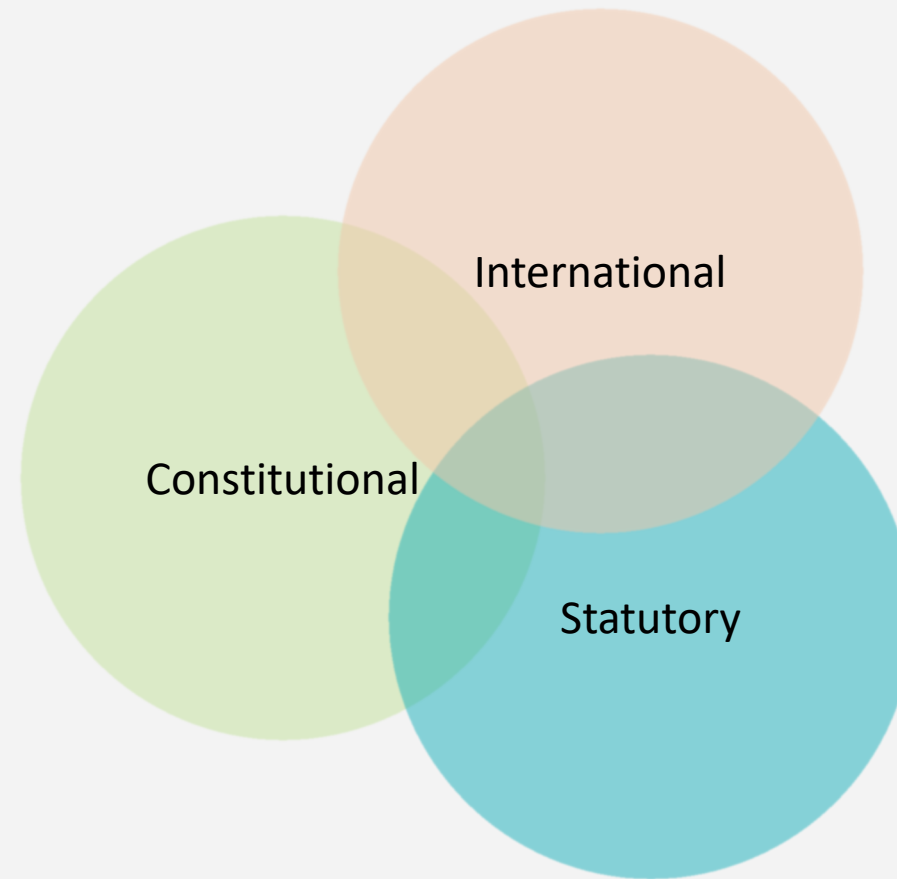
[About us](#)[Human rights](#)[Key issues](#)[Resources](#)[News & events](#)A close-up, black and white photograph of a person's face, focusing on the nose and cheek area. The person has freckles and a nose ring. A teal-colored semi-transparent rectangle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

**Guiding the way for a
more equitable province
– for everyone.**



Human Rights Law

**Canadian Charter of
Rights and Freedoms**



**UNDHR
ICCPR
ICESCR**

**BC Human Rights Code
Canadian Human
Rights Act**

Human Rights Code

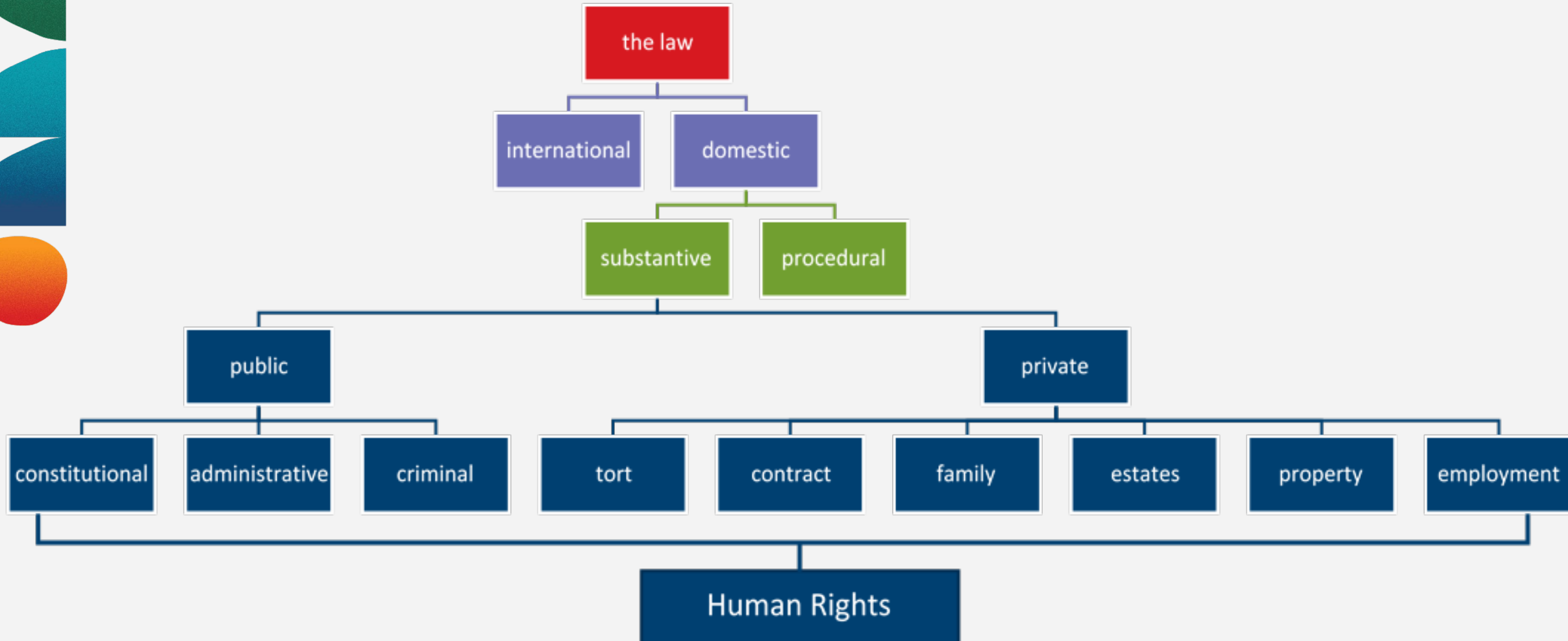
- Protects the most fundamental human right:

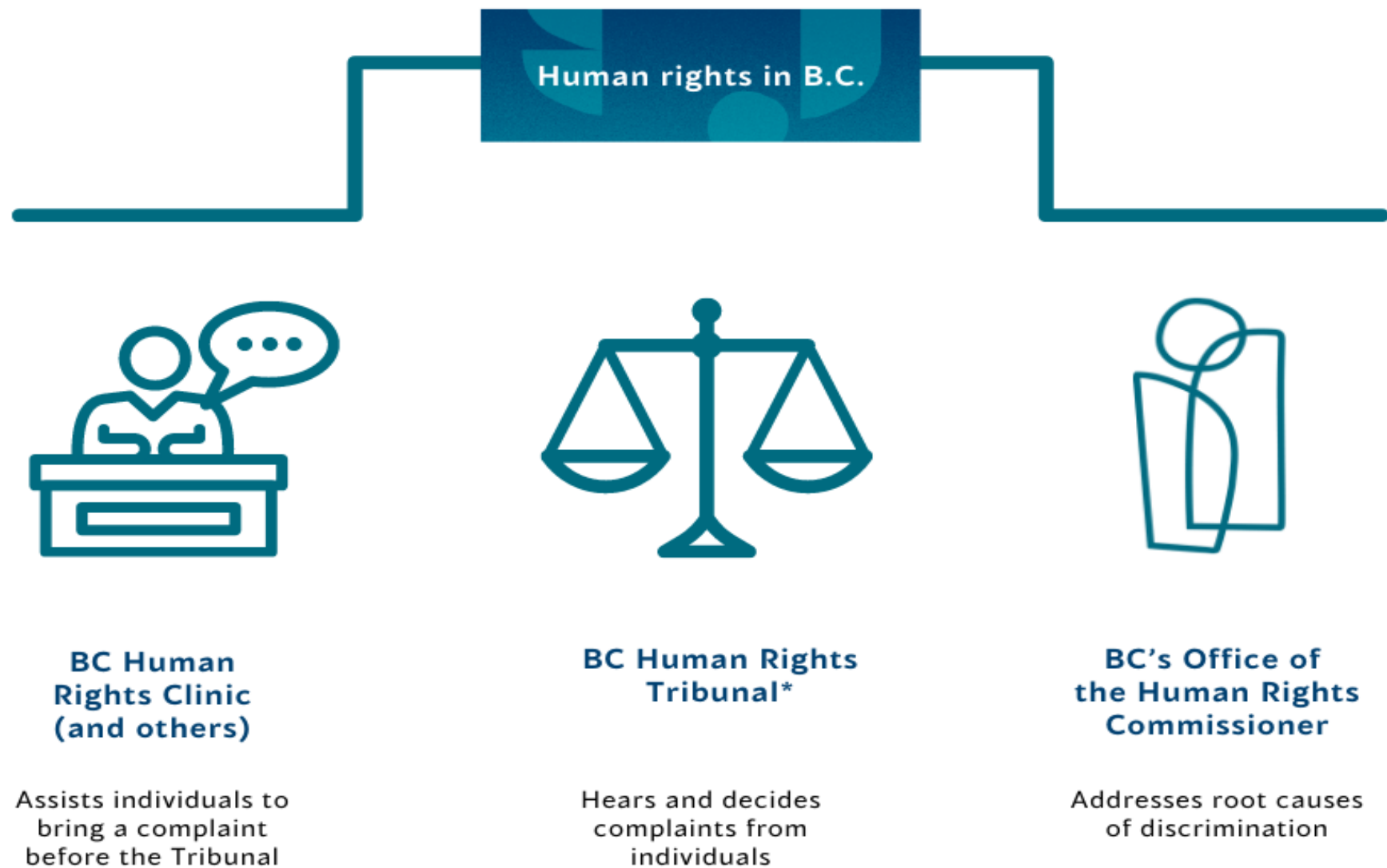
right to equality

or

freedom from discrimination

Human Rights





*If you belong to a union and have experienced discrimination at work, you may want to talk to your union. Unions can help employees file grievances about human rights issues.

BCOHRC

Who we are



Vision

A province free from inequality, discrimination and injustice where we uphold human rights for all and fulfil our responsibilities to one another.

Mandate

To address the root causes of inequality, discrimination and injustice in B.C. by shifting laws, policies, practices and cultures.



Strategic Priorities

Discrimination under B.C.'s Human Rights Code



Decolonization



Hate and the rise of white supremacy



Poverty as a cause and effect of inequality and injustice



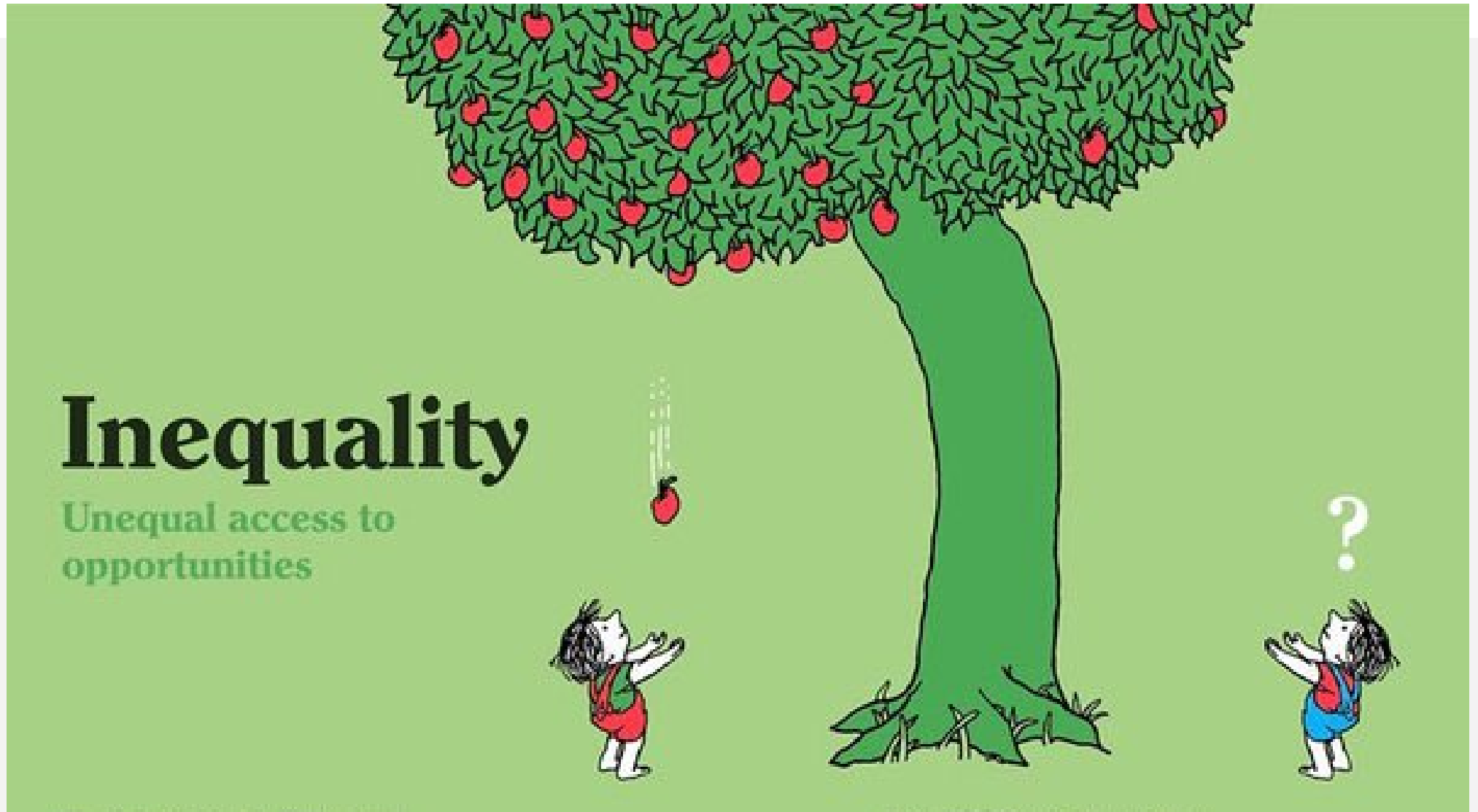
Human rights protections for those being detained by the state



The tools of our Office

- Education
- Research
- Law and policy reform
- Inquiry and intervention
- Monitoring

Systemic change

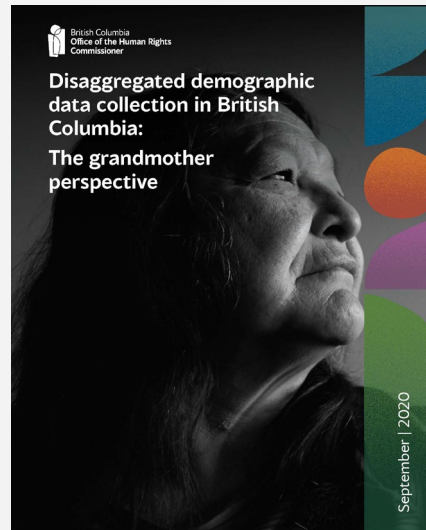


BCOHRC

What we are up to



Key projects



COVID-19



British Columbia's
Office of the Human Rights
Commissioner

A human rights approach to proof of vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic

Updated October 14, 2021

Storytelling



DISCRIMINATION
OCTOBER 29, 2021, 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM

“I love my human rights” series launch and watch party: Danny Ramadan’s story

On Friday, October 29, BC’s Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (BCOHRC) is hosting a virtual screening of our new “I love my human rights” video series with a story featuring Syrian-Canadian author and LGBTQ+ refugee advocate Danny Ramadan. Ramadan is the organizer of An Evening in Damascus, an annual cultural gathering and fundraiser to facilitate the safe arrival of...

[Now Live →](#)

Education

Decode the Code

Join us to learn about the B.C. Human Rights Code and how it relates to you.

Free Online Workshop Series
November-December 2020



Q&A's



Policing Submission

- Special Commission on Reforming the Police Act
- December 2020
- Legislative Assembly inviting submissions on systemic discrimination in policing in B.C.
- www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/committees/42ndparliament-1stsession-rpa

Interventions

- Family status discrimination

Harvey v. Gibraltar Mines Ltd

- Publications on the internet

Neufeld v. BC Teachers' Federation on behalf of Chilliwack Teachers' Association

Inquiry: Hate in the COVID-19 pandemic

- The Inquiry is focused on hate in all its forms, not only racism and racial hate.
- More information about the Inquiry including the **terms of reference** are available on the Inquiry website at:
<https://hateinquiry.bchumanrights.ca>.

Inquiry: Key elements

- Conduct research
- Seek production of documents, data and information
- Retain experts
- **Receive input from the public**
- Hear from affected groups, experts, **organizations**, Indigenous leaders and others
- Issue a report containing findings and recommendations.

Inquiry: Invitation to participate

- **Community organizations** submissions
 - Oral presentations - November, 2021
 - Written and video submissions - by March 31, 2022
- Survey question input workshop – Dec 1, 2021
- Public online survey - Jan-Feb 2022
- Community Liaisons

Inquiry: Invitation to participate

- Have you seen a rise in hate during the pandemic?
- What role do you think the pandemic has played in the rise of hate”
- How have you responded to the increase in hate?
- What services exist in your community to support people who have experienced hate?

BCOHRC's first inquiry



Inquiry into hate in the pandemic

hateinquiry.bchumanrights.ca

"In my view, hate often stems from a fear of losing power—a fear that is aggravated during times of great uncertainty—and is rooted in racism, misogyny and other discriminatory belief systems. While COVID-19 has inflamed the problems of hate and white supremacy in B.C., it did not create them."

Kasari Governor, BC Human Rights Commissioner





Opening Ceremony

Join us at the beginning of the journey
Inquiry Opening Ceremony

November 4, 2021, 4:00-5:15 pm

<https://hateinquiry.bchumanrights.ca/>

Q&A's





British Columbia's
**Office of the Human Rights
Commissioner**

Thank you

Visit **bchumanrights.ca** for more
resources or find us on social
media **[@humanrights4bc](https://twitter.com/humanrights4bc)**

