



August 9, 2018

Human Rights Policy,
International and Intergovernmental Affairs,
and Human Rights
Department of Canadian Heritage
25 eddy, 13-325
Gatineau, QC J8X 4B5

Via email

Dear David Fuss:

Re: Canada's response to recommendations made during the 3rd Universal Periodic Review

Thank you for involving the Manitoba Human Rights Commission ("MHRC") in the regional consultation related to Canada's response to the recommendations made during the 3rd Universal Periodic Review ("UPR") a few weeks ago.

MHRC is an independent agency of the Government of Manitoba with a mandate to promote human rights and enforce the rights and responsibilities set out in *The Human Rights Code*, C.C.S.M. H175. Our work is driven by the recognition of the individual worth and dignity of every person. We acknowledge that this responsibility involves identifying human rights issues that concern Manitobans and taking steps to promote the public's interest in addressing those concerns. We were pleased to assist you in convening your engagement session in Manitoba.

As a human rights institution in Canada we regularly engage with the public and with our colleagues from provincial and territorial commissions as well as the federal commission to ensure that we are meeting our statutory responsibilities as well as our international obligations to uphold human rights in Canada. We understand that to enable meaningful participation in this work, we must recognize the expertise and lived experience of those we consult with and find ways to ensure they have a full opportunity to participate in discussions that will ultimately impact them, such as the UPR regional consultations.

We strongly urge you to consider how we can better utilize mechanisms such as the Continuing Committee on Human Rights ("CCOHR") and other FPT committees to more effectively gather regional input in the future. Human rights institutions like MHRC can provide valuable assistance in convening community discussions, but in order to do so effectively, we must have the opportunity to contribute to organizing that process and identifying measurable outcomes before engaging in consultation.

Finally, we have reviewed the submission of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and support their very comprehensive review and analysis of the recommendations in the Canadian context.

We look forward to future opportunities to engage as a human rights institution in the UPR process. We would be pleased to provide further feedback on establishing and maintaining healthy and effective mechanisms to ensure the process meets its objectives and contributes to advancing rights of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Isha Khan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Isha Khan
Executive Director