

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Human Rights Commission announces that a Board of Inquiry will commence on Monday, October 6th, 2003, to hear the complaint of Sean Ryan against the City of St. John's.

Mr. Ryan's complaint alleges that the City of St. John's discriminated against him on the basis of a mental disability when he was dismissed on December 1, 1998. Mr. Ryan has been diagnosed as having a bipolar disorder. Mr. Ryan also filed a grievance concerning his dismissal and an arbitration panel subsequently ruled that the City failed to accommodate his disability to the point of undue hardship. He was later reinstated and awarded damages for lost salary and overtime opportunities. The arbitration panel did not award damages to compensate Mr. Ryan for the violation of his human rights.

The issue before the Board of Inquiry will be whether Mr. Ryan is entitled to damages for the violation of his rights and if so, to what extent.

The hearing will commence at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, October 6th, 2003 at the Quality Hotel Harbour View, 2 Hill O'Chips, St. John's, Newfoundland. The Human Rights Commission is represented by Barry Fleming, Sean Ryan is represented by Bob Ryan and the City of St. John's is represented by Linda Bishop.

October 2, 2003

