

LABOUR COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SPONSORED BY TORONTO AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL (CLC)



(?) ca. Autumn 1963



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
A. ALAN BOROVOY

CHAIRMAN: EAMON PARK

VICE-CHAIRMAN: HARRY SIMON

TREASURER: GORDON MILLING

11½ SPADINA ROAD
TORONTO 4, ONT.

MEMORANDUM to Halifax Advisory Committee on Human Relations (Reverend Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Maclean, Fred Brodie, George Davis, Gus Wedderburn, Lloyd Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Steel, Joe Skinner, Buddy Day)

from A. Alan Borovoy

You will recall on Wednesday evening, August 22nd, we established this little group as an informal advisory committee in the area of human relations. Thus far, the people enumerated above constitute the membership. It is an informal alliance; the members participate as individuals rather than as representatives of organizations. This allows for maximum flexibility. However, when delegations or programmes are planned and the need for further support arises, other organizations can be requested to join in. The organisational contacts of these people will be very helpful in increasing community support for our programme.

The following are reminders concerning the programme to which we have already agreed:

1. Africville--In this connection I have enclosed the draft brief for possible presentation to the City Council--please understand that this brief encompasses a very wide range of possible submissions; it may be that in any given situation only some of them are appropriate. I leave it to you to revise, subtract from, add to the brief in any way you thing advisable. The enclosed draft is simply a guide.

--The key point here is to maintain contact and consultation with the people of Africville, themselves.

--At some stage early in the game I would recommend that you send a letter to the City Council indicating your interest in Africville and requesting consultation from them before decisions are made.

--A real estate appraiser in the Halifax area has indicated his desire to help. He is J. H. Vaughan at 422-7449.

2. Government Education a) I have already drafted a brief for possible presentation to the Prime Minister and/or Minister of Labour requesting an educational programme to inform the people of Nova Scotia about their rights and duties under the Fair Employment and Fair Accommodation Practices Acts.

b) I would recommend that this brief be presented as soon as possible to the government. If necessary, the advisory committee could go alone to make the presentation. However, quick support might be enlisted from the NSAACP, the Labour Council, Voice of Women, Africville Association, First Baptist Church, and possibly the Welfare Council of Halifax. (As regards the Welfare Council, I have already seen Mr. Ian McKeegan, the president, who has indicated the great possibility of his organization's support.)

c) Gus Wedderburn has already indicated that the NSAAOP might be prepared to mimeograph the brief and handle its circulation.

d) After the presentation of the brief, I would suggest that the brief be given to newspapers, radio and television.

e) After the presentation, further letters might be sent throughout the community requesting other organizations to write the government and indicate their support.

3. Testing--FAP & Housing--In this regard you will recall that we have already set up test teams to investigate the practices in certain public accommodations presently covered by the FAP Act and in apartment buildings. Our target date for the completion of these tests is October 1st. I have enclosed questionnaires and procedures.
4. Organization--We tentatively agreed that the group would meet somewhere during the second week of September. Mrs. Maclean was to contact Mrs. Steed and the others to set it up. Thus far, Mrs. Maclean has undertaken a very great amount of the responsibility for this group. I would ask that all help be given to her to lighten the load.

In conclusion, I thank you for the terrific support and reception which you gave to me personally. It was a pleasure meeting you; I hope to return as soon as possible to continue this important work. I might say that I have already reported to Sid Blum and he has given me permission to return for about another week some time in October. Please write to me and let me know what is going on and tell me what I can do to help.

Thanks again, and let's hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



A. Alan Rowey,
Executive Secretary

*Please note my special plea for additional help to you
My special thanks for your help.*