



We find that quite often there is confusion about the services that we, the BC Human Rights **Coalition** provide and the services that the BC Human Rights **Tribunal** provides. This is understandable. Below we have tried to explain some of the differences and who does what.

The BC Human Rights Tribunal.	The BC Human Rights Coalition including the BC Human Rights Clinic
They are the “Court” which makes decisions on human rights complaints.	We provide Legal Assistance (think of us as legal aid for Human Rights cases). We also provide Education services about Human Rights.
Their Inquiry Officers can send you forms and tell you about the Tribunal process.	Our Information Coordinators can explain (in general terms) how the law works, assist in helping determine if you might have a complaint, suggest who might be the best organization to help resolve your complaint.
They provide the Forms that need to be completed to file a complaint, respond to a complaint, withdraw a complaint etc...	We provide a Short Service Clinic on Mondays at their location where we help draft complaints, answer questions and help with paperwork.
You file your complaint with them.	Once your complaint is accepted (4-6 weeks after filing) you can send your complaint to our “Intake Committee” to see if we can help you.
Their Case Managers screen complaints to make sure it is something the Tribunal has legal authority to deal with, and if so it is accepted for filing.	Our Intake Committee looks at complaints accepted by the Tribunal to see if we will/can represent the Complainant(s). If help is denied the Complainant has 14 days to appeal to the Appeals Committee.
Case Managers manage the complaint for the Tribunal, setting dates, sending letters - generally administering the paperwork of the file.	Our Administrative Assistants to the Advocates are generally the first people Complainants speak with once they have been accepted for representation. Assistants set up the files, set dates, send letters, and attend pre-hearing conference calls for Complainants.
The Tribunal does not provide lawyers for either side but Respondent(s) (defendants) can hire Respondent Counsel (Lawyer). The Tribunal cannot give legal advice.	Advocates are the ones responsible for providing legal assistance to Complainants. Most of the Advocates are Lawyers, but they are acting as advocates only.
A Tribunal Member – is like a “Judge” at the Tribunal who makes decisions on cases. A Member will also act as a Mediator at a Tribunal settlement meeting.	Advocates attend with Complainants at settlement meetings and argue (via submissions) the case of the Complainant in preliminary applications. Advocates do not represent clients at Final Hearings, but do prepare the case for the Clinic’s litigation partners at CLAS to argue (if they are available).
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