



B.C. Human Rights Coalition

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Media Release

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Towards Bias-free Security: Balancing Public Safety with Equal Access and Respectful Treatment

(VANCOUVER, Canada) – The BC Human Rights Coalition, with funding from the Law Foundation of British Columbia, is implementing a three pronged approach to bias-free security. By involving members of the security industry, the public and legislators, the Coalition hopes to encourage more respectful relationships between the public and security guard personnel.

The project aims to develop training tools and materials for security personnel based on B.C.'s human rights legislation and to integrate this training into core curriculum offered through the Justice Institute of B.C. and its approved training schools. A training package will also be made available to security industry in-house trainers. The general public will benefit from a 'right's kit' which will explain their rights and responsibilities when interacting with security personnel and we will work with legislators and policy makers to ensure industry wide standards and accountability mechanisms are built into appropriate structures. In this way, public safety is balanced with equal access and respectful treatment.

To guide this project, on September 20th 2006, the Coalition brought together representatives from the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC, BC Civil Liberties Association, BC Coalition of People with Disabilities, Community Legal Assistance Society, Concord Security Corporation, Justice Institute of British Columbia, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Pivot Legal Society and United Native Nations Society for the first meeting of the project's advisory committee.

"We see this project as an opportunity for residents of the Downtown East Side and other people who live on the margins of our society and security personal to better understand the rights and obligations that govern their interactions," said John Richardson, Executive Director of Pivot Legal Society. "As a result, everyone can better enjoy the benefits of living in a healthy and inclusive community."

Frank Naso, representing Concord Security Corporation, sees the project as timely. "As the presence of security guards in our society increases, a project which will educate the public and security guards alike about their rights and responsibilities, about how to treat each other with dignity and respect, has an important contribution to make."

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For more information contact Terri Kennedy, Communications Coordination at 604.689.8474.

The B.C. Human Rights Coalition is a non-profit community-based organization. We strive to promote and strengthen the human rights of British Columbians through advocacy, education and law reform.