



ADVISORY: WEBCAST OF COURT PROCEEDING

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Members of the media and the public are advised that the following proceeding before the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal will be livestreamed on the Courts of Nova Scotia website on Wednesday, March 29, 2023:

CA-517639 – Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission v. The Attorney General of Nova Scotia, Halifax Regional Municipality, Deborah Carleton, J. Walter Thompson and Peter Nathanson (Respondents) et al

Det. Cst. Deborah Carleton is a member of Halifax Regional Police and one of three officers who lodged formal complaints with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission in 2018, alleging they were discriminated against by the police force based on their disability and that they did not receive the care they needed from the department or their union, the Halifax Regional Police Association.

The Human Rights Commission appointed a board of inquiry to examine the complaints. Relying on the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in [Northern Regional Health Authority v. Horrocks, 2021 SCC 42](#), the board of inquiry determined, because there was a collective agreement between the Halifax Regional Police Association and the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), the sole authority for resolving any disputes between police officers and HRM fell in the jurisdiction of an arbitrator under the collective agreement.

The Aug. 12, 2022, decision of the board of inquiry is available online [here](#).

The Human Rights Commission is appealing the decision, alleging the board of inquiry made errors in law in interpreting the *Human Rights Act* and the *Trade Unions Act* and that there is concurrent jurisdiction under the collective agreement and the *Human Rights Act*.

The following organizations were granted Intervenor status in this appeal:

- Canadian Association of Counsel to Employers (CACE)
- Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union
- Halifax Regional Police Association
- Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 508
- Canadian Union of Public Employees

- International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 927
- Halifax Professional Firefighters Association, International Association of Firefighters, Local 268
- Nova Scotia Federation of Labour

This appeal hearing is scheduled for a full day, starting at 10 a.m. AST on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. This matter will be heard by a three-member panel comprised of Chief Justice Michael Wood, Justice Cindy Bourgeois and Justice Elizabeth Van den Eynden.

The public can watch the livestream on the Courts of Nova Scotia website [here](#).

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