



## New Brunswick Human Rights Commission

**Dr. Patrick Malcolmson**

**Recognizing political belief as a ground for discrimination**

One of the things that was changed as a result of the process we went through, was the inclusion of language that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of political belief, and I remain persuaded that that's a major issue. You want to ensure that the functioning of party government and politics in the province is such that the politicization of the people who work for the government doesn't run into, you know, changing civil servants and changing people's jobs and figuring out who gets promoted and who doesn't get promoted on the basis of different political belief. So the freedom of people who work in government to participate in politics, without some protection—I think that freedom can be endangered and you get a kind of patronage politics, or, you know, when one party's elected and all the red dump trucks get hired and then, you know, the other party gets elected, all the blue dump trucks get hired, or something like that. That's the kind of thing I think you want to avoid. And you want to make sure that people know, if they feel that they're being discriminated on the basis of their political beliefs because of who they vote for, what their political views are, they're open to filing a complaint with the Human Rights Commission.