



New Brunswick Human Rights Commission

Alanna Palmer **Adoption complaint**

The case that we dealt with where the same-sex partner wanted to adopt the biological child of his or her partner was a key one, I believe. It clarified for New Brunswick that a mother and a father are not just “mother” or “father”; there are surrogate mothers, there are birth mothers, there are adopted mothers—a whole range of things. And so, to restrict a child to only two-sex—one mother and one father—was harmful for the child. So, it expanded the definition of “family,” which I think was in the spirit of what New Brunswickers wanted, but the legislation was behind. So, even though it took a few years later before the legislation did roll around, I think it increased the definition of “family” and led the way for same-sex marriages and all those other societal changes.