



New Brunswick Human Rights Commission

Alanna Palmer

Challenges and accomplishments

Our biggest challenge was moving forward on the issue of same-sex marriage. That was not an issue that I particularly chose—it was a fact of the times that we were behind the curve on getting same-sex marriage approved in New Brunswick. So that was the biggest challenge. Also, the issue of pay equity was a concern, and the Commission made a presentation to the Legislative Assembly on the issue of pay equity. We also had a decision about adoption of your same-sex partner's biological child. That was a victory for the Commission and for the parents, and for the child in particular, because more family members is better than less family members for a child. But it took another three or four years before the legislation actually changed. We also were successful in getting two new grounds of prohibited discrimination approved: social condition and political belief or activity. Those had been started long before the decision was made, of course, but I happened to be the Chair when the decision did become final.