FACT SHEET

Transgender Human Rights Complaints

ISSUE

Nine Human Rights Complaints have been filed against the Province of BC on the grounds of sex. The complainants are seeking the removal of sex from all BC birth certificates

KEY FACTS

- Nine Human Rights Complaints have been filed at the BC Human Rights Tribunal challenging section 36(2) of the *Vital Statistics Act*, which states that among other things, a birth certificate must contain the sex of the person. The complainants' ultimate aim is to have sex removed from all BC birth certificates.

- The complainants allege that "since it is impossible to tell an individual's gender at birth, it is discriminatory to issue a birth certificate with that information on it." The complainants further argue that one's anatomical sex does not necessarily reflect one's gender identity, and having any sex marker on a birth certificate contributes significantly to the difficulties and distress experienced by transgender and other gender variant individuals.

- A Human Rights Settlement meeting is scheduled for August 2015. The Vital Statistics Agency is currently exploring the possible policy options with the Minister.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Cost implications are yet to be determined.

Approved by:
Jack Shewchuk, Vital Statistics Agency; May 4, 2015
Heather Davidson, Health Sector Planning and Innovation Division; May 5, 2015
Lindsay Kislock Health Sector IM/IT Division; May 5, 2015

P. 131 of Briefing Binder prepared for 2015 B.C. Ministry of Health Estimates debates

1. The information is from the Briefing Binder prepared for B.C. Minister of Health Terry Lake for the 4th Session, 40th Parliament Ministry of Health Estimates debates.

2. The B.C. Ministry of Health.

3. The information gave me what I needed to further pursue an important issue in terms of trans rights in B.C., and gave me the background I needed to ask the right questions. I wasn't able to find any news reports that included the information I obtained from the documents, so it was new.