

The *Consultation Paper* prepared by the *CHRA* Review Panel to identify possible issues for review does not refer to the inclusion of social and economic rights, but does ask whether reference should be made to Canada's international human rights obligations.⁵⁰ Nevertheless, this issue is clearly central to the Review Panel's terms of reference, to examine "the purpose and grounds, including social condition, to ensure that the Act accords with modern human rights and equality principles" and to determine "the adequacy of the scope and jurisdiction of the Act."⁵¹ Moreover, the Canadian government has made an explicit undertaking to include this issue in the current *CHRA* review, and to consult "with other organizations and interested citizens."⁵² The inclusion of social and economic rights in the *CHRA* would create a legislative and institutional framework which would allow some of the most pressing and fundamental human rights claims in Canada to move from the margin to the centre of human rights discourse. We hope that the Human Rights Review Panel will support and encourage further efforts and discussions on this crucial issue, in order to ensure that the current *CHRA* review process results in a federal human rights regime which better meets the goal of promoting the dignity and substantive equality for all Canadians.

⁵⁰ *Canadian Human Rights Act Review Panel Consultation Paper* (Ottawa: *Canadian Human Rights Act* Review Panel, July, 1999), online at www.chrareview.org.

⁵¹ *Canadian Human Rights Act Review Panel: Terms of Reference*, online at www.chrareview.org.

⁵² *Responses to Supplementary Questions*, *supra* note 12.