



BACKGROUND

Disaggregated demographic data collection in British Columbia: The grandmother perspective

Find the full report, *Disaggregated demographic data collection in British Columbia: The grandmother perspective*, online on Sept. 15, 2020 at: bchumanrights.ca/datacollection.

RESOURCES

Open letter calling for a national strategy for the collection of disaggregated health data

On June 5, 2020, Canada's federal, provincial and territorial human rights commissions issued a letter calling on the Government of Canada to develop and implement a nation-wide strategy for the collection of disaggregated health data focused on race and Indigeneity. [The open letter is available as a PDF in English](#) and [in French](#).

Letter from Premier John Horgan requesting advice from Commissioners on the collection of race and ethnicity-based data

On June 16, 2020, B.C. Premier John Horgan invited the Human Rights Commissioner and Information and Privacy Commissioner to provide recommendations on how to collect, store, use and disclose disaggregated data in a way that furthers the aim of substantive social equality without reinforcing marginalization. [The letter to the Commissioners is available as a PDF](#).

Response to Premier Horgan from B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner on the collection and use of disaggregated data

On June 23, 2020, B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner responded to Premier Horgan agreeing to provide advice about the human rights implications of disaggregated data collection and recommendations for action. [The response to the Premier is available as a PDF](#).

ABOUT BC'S OFFICE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER

BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (BCOHRC) exists to address the root causes of inequality, discrimination and injustice in our province by shifting laws, policies, practices and cultures. We do this work through education, research, advocacy, inquiry and monitoring.

BC's Human Rights Commissioner, Kasari Govender, started her five-year term on Sept. 3, 2019, 17 years after BC's last human rights commission was dismantled. Since then, our Office has been working swiftly to build a strong team, to listen deeply to the concerns of British Columbians, to issue policy guidance to protect vulnerable

communities and to lay a human rights-based foundation for our work. As an Independent Office of the Legislature we are uniquely positioned to ensure human rights in B.C. are protected, respected and advanced on a systemic level throughout our society.

ABOUT COMMISSIONER KASARI GOVENDER

Kasari Govender (she/her/hers) took office as B.C.'s first independent Human Rights Commissioner on Sept. 3, 2019. Her role is to lead the promotion and protection of human rights in British Columbia through the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner.

Govender has devoted her life to promoting human rights, with a focus on the rights of those most marginalized. She is passionate about using her skills as a lawyer and community builder to create a more equal and just province. She has worked closely with organizations and communities promoting gender equality, Indigenous rights, children's rights, the rights of people with disabilities and the rights of immigrant communities.

From 2008 until 2019, Govender held leadership positions at West Coast LEAF and was appointed Executive Director in 2011. She has co-authored key reports and articles and speaks widely on crucial social issues such as hate speech, access to justice, gender-based violence and systemic racism. Her earlier work includes a pivotal role in establishing the Rise Women's Legal Centre, a non-profit legal clinic in British Columbia.

Govender earned her law degree from the University of Victoria and her master's degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford, UK. She has served on the board of directors for the University of Victoria, Pivot Legal Society, the Coalition for Public Legal Services, and the Society for Children and Youth. Govender has taught as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of British Columbia and as an instructor at Simon Fraser University. Her work was recognized by the Women Lawyer's Forum which honoured her with their Award of Excellence.

In addition to her role as B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner, Govender is a mother, an aunt, a daughter and a sister.