



British Columbia
Human Rights
Tribunal



FORM 1.1 – INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINT

Use This Form to File Your Own Complaint

Case

Case Number: CS-018370

Date Received: 2026-03-19

Step 1 - Party Information

Who experienced discrimination (Complainant)?

Legal name – First name: Jessica

Legal name – Last name: Simpson

Preferred name – e.g. traditional name, nickname, alias:

Use my preferred name: When talking to me, When writing to me, In decision in addition to my legal name

Title: Ms.

Pronoun: She

Complainant's address for delivery

Mailing address: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Cell: N/A

Fax: N/A

Email: [REDACTED]

Respondent contact information

Name of the Respondent: Western Standard

Relationship to you (For example, your employer): Newspaper

Respondent Contact Email: N/A

Mailing Address:

Phone: N/A

Cell: N/A

Fax: N/A

Steps 2A - Areas of Discrimination & Step 2B -Grounds of Discrimination

Area: Publication

Ground

Sex: The Respondent's conduct also engages the protected ground of sex, as the mischaracterization of my gender identity is rooted in discriminatory assumptions about sex assigned at birth and the refusal to recognize my lived gender.

Gender Identity or Expression: I am a transgender woman. The Respondent engaged in discriminatory conduct by repeatedly referring to me using incorrect pronouns and framing my gender identity in a manner that is inaccurate, dismissive, and hostile. This includes deliberate or reckless misgendering, as well as the use of language that undermines the legitimacy of my gender identity.

Step 3 - Details of the Discrimination

Details of the Discrimination for each Respondent

Respondent Name: Western Standard

Describe the harm you experienced in a few words: Western Standard published content that misgendered me, used incorrect pronouns, and framed my identity in a derogatory and stigmatizing manner, causing reputational harm and emotional distress.

Explain how the harm relates to the grounds you have selected before: The Respondent, Western Standard, published an article that repeatedly misgenders me and frames my identity through a lens of hostility and delegitimization. Throughout the publication, I am referred to using male pronouns and descriptors inconsistent with my gender identity as a transgender woman. This includes phrasing such as referring to me as "he" and framing my identity as something merely

“self-identified,” rather than recognized and legally protected. This conduct is not neutral reporting. It constitutes a pattern of editorial choices that strip me of dignity and reinforce harmful stereotypes about transgender individuals. The article goes further by repeatedly invoking my former name and presenting my identity in a sensationalized and stigmatizing manner, thereby amplifying public hostility and exposing me to further harassment. The cumulative effect of this publication is severe. It has caused reputational damage, emotional distress, and has contributed to an environment in which I am subjected to increased harassment, including online abuse and threats. Misgendering in a public media platform is not merely offensive; it is a recognized form of discrimination that undermines the equal recognition of transgender individuals in society. By disseminating this content to a wide audience, the Respondent has perpetuated discriminatory narratives and failed in its obligation to report in a manner that respects protected characteristics under human rights law.

Describe what this Respondent did that harmed you.

Date: 2025-10-19

Conduct: the Respondent repeatedly used incorrect pronouns, referring to me as “he” throughout the article, despite my identity as a transgender woman. This was not an isolated instance but a consistent editorial choice applied across the publication, demonstrating a deliberate refusal to recognize my gender identity. the article constructs my identity as suspect or illegitimate by using language such as “self-identified transgender woman,” which serves to undermine and question my gender identity rather than report it neutrally. the Respondent amplified this content to a broad public audience, thereby increasing the likelihood of harassment, reputational harm, and further discriminatory treatment against me. Given the known social context in which transgender individuals face disproportionate harassment, this publication foreseeably contributed to additional harm.

Step 4 – Time Limit to Make Complaint

Respondent Name: Western Standard

What is the date of the most recent conduct that you listed as discrimination in the previous step?

2025-10-19

Did the most recent conduct happen in the last year? Yes

Did all of the conduct happen in the last year for all Respondents: Yes

Step 5 - Other Proceedings

Do you have another proceeding about the same events? No

Step 6 - Remedies

Select the kinds of remedies you want that are available under s. 37 of the Human Rights Code:

- Order to stop the discrimination
- Declaration that the conduct is discrimination
- Steps or programs to address the discrimination (examples: training, policy)
- Compensation for injury to dignity, feelings, and self-respect
- Compensation for lost wages or other expenses such as moving expenses, photocopying, costs of attending the hearing (keep receipts)

Step 7 - Mediation

Do you want to attend a mediation? Yes

Step 8 - Indigenous Peoples

I confirm I am First Nations, Métis or Inuit. I want an Indigenous Navigator to contact me about the process.