



New Brunswick Human Rights Commission

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International human rights picture leading up to 1967

We're talking about the mid-1960s and a number of circumstances were at play. First and foremost, we're still in the aftermath of the Second World War, where the whole world community saw the atrocities of the lack of respect for the dignity and worth of the human person. That is why the world came together and said, "We have to have some kind of universal standard of recognition in law of the rights of the human person, no matter where they find themselves." Across Canada and other countries—really, under the influence of the late international and domestic labour movement—at the International of the International Labour Office, which represents labour management and governments, they crafted a number of conventions: the Labour Conventions. One was a convention that combatted racism and all of its forms. The other was a way back now, in the in the late 50s early 60s: a convention on the equality of women. That was a long time ago, and it was at that level, and we owe a great deal of thanks to the labour movement—not only domestically, but internationally—for the focus being placed upon fair employment practices, because the discrimination that was being experienced was mainly in the workplace and in places of the denial of accommodation because of race, colour, national origin, gender, etcetera.