



For Immediate Release

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Barbershop Owner, Customer Achieve Mediated Agreement

The woman who filed a human rights complaint against a Regina barbershop for refusing to cut her hair, and the barbershop owner, agreed to a mutually amenable mediated settlement today.

Both parties acknowledged that, on August 28, 2014, Ms. Evie Ruddy was wrongfully denied service because she is a woman. Refusing service based on gender is contrary to Section 12 of *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*. This section of the *Code* states that no person may be denied “the accommodation, services or facilities to which the public is customarily admitted or that are offered to the public.”

Mr. Craig Zamonsky, the owner of Ragged Ass Barbers Inc., has clarified that his shop welcomes all customers who want the types of cuts his business can provide. “On behalf of Ragged Ass Barbers I would like to extend my apologies to Evie Ruddy. She should not have been turned away when she contacted the barbershop to inquire about getting a haircut. It is and will be our policy to provide services to anyone who wants a traditional men’s haircut. Ragged Ass Barbers will do its best to continue to meet the needs of all of its customers within the scope of services we provide,” said Mr. Craig Zamonsky.

“Craig Zamonsky’s apology is very much appreciated, and I believe it to be heartfelt and genuine. It was a difficult time for me and my friends and family to experience what it is like to face discrimination and to voice it. The Human Rights Commission was very helpful in that regard. Craig, as the owner of Ragged Ass Barbers, should be respected for this acknowledgment and for participating in an amicable resolution process. I look forward to feeling safer about being who I am,” said Ms. Evie Ruddy.

“This complaint initiated an important dialogue on the equality of all people seeking public services in Saskatchewan,” said David Arnot, Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. “While both parties were subject to considerable public criticism, I commend them for their perseverance despite personal difficulties, for participating collaboratively, and for demonstrating understanding and respect.”

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