

Press Release
March 23, 2016

Racial Discrimination - Sobeys Continues to Embarrass and Cause Stress to Victim even after Losing Racial Discrimination Case!



In September 2015, a board of inquiry with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission (NSHRC) found that Sobeys' staff **falsely accused** Ms. David of Upper Hammond's Plains of shoplifting. This false accusation was found to be the result of racial profiling by Sobeys'.

Sobeys' own assistant manager on duty, who approached Ms. David and accused her of having shoplifted, admitted that the way she had handled the situation was wrong, and went as far as to say that she wanted Ms. David to know that she, as a Sobeys' employee, had handled the situation inappropriately.

Ignoring this reality and deepening the wound, Sobeys has appealed the Commission's decision because they have issues with perceived bias and the approach taken by the Commission's adjudicator. In other words, Sobeys' fight appears now to be with the 'process' the Commission used and not with Ms. David. Yet Sobeys is knowingly dragging an innocent woman, against whom they racially discriminated, back through the process to serve their own purpose.

For Ms. David, who has been self-represented, the prospect of a re-hearing for her goes well beyond inconvenient. And the irony of Sobeys crying "bias" in a case of racial profiling should not be lost on any members of the community.

Ms. David's community and supporters all across Nova Scotia want Sobeys to understand that they know what Ms. David has been through and what she is still facing. They demand that Sobeys' immediately stop using Ms. David as a pawn in what appears to be their fight against the NSHRC. This continuation of this process reflects Sobeys continuing disregard for Ms. David's wellbeing and rights.

The Rev. Dr. Lennett J. Anderson of Emmanuel Baptist Church, backed by the church's Board of Directors, condemns these injurious actions by Sobeys. The community intends to expose this injustice to the greater population of Nova Scotia through public demonstrations. They will be calling upon the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, as well as asking all other churches and like-minded persons from all walks of life, to stand with them against this injustice.



Rev. Dr. Lennett J. Anderson

Sobeys' actions are seen by Ms. David's supporters as oppressive and unreasonable. Pastor Lennett reminds us of the words of *United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*:

"We must remember that people of African descent are among those most affected by racism. Too often, they face denial of basic rights..."

For interview regarding this Press Release contact:

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A public demonstration is being planned:

Place: Sobeys Tantallon 3650 Hammonds Plains Rd.

Date: Monday, March 28th

Time: 12 noon