

While not specifically dealing with the Human Rights Commissions, Tribunals and Codes, Andrew Coyne tackles the idea of hate speech laws and why they don't work in a functioning democracy. He makes a number of good points which our provinces should take to heart in evaluating their own human rights codes.

Andrew Coyne National Post July 9, 2012 - Hardly was there time to celebrate the demise of Section 13, the infamous provision of the Canadian Human Rights Act prohibiting "communication of hate messages," before we were reminded this was not the only unwarranted restriction on freedom of speech on the books.

Section 319.2 of the Criminal Code, for example, forbidding the "willful" promotion of hatred "against any identifiable group," is currently getting a workout in a Regina courtroom in the case of Terry Tremaine, a sometime math lecturer and avowed neo-Nazi. While Tremaine will have available to him the sorts of due process rights denied to those hauled before the human rights tribunals — the defence of truth among them — the end result is much the same: the suppression of speech society finds objectionable, for the sole reason that it is objectionable. [Keep Reading...](#)