



# CANLII TIPS & TRICKS

FINDING REPORTER DECISIONS

  
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# SCENARIO

How do I find human rights tribunal decisions about discrimination and racial profiling? I need to find decisions that were published by the Canadian Human Rights Reporter during the last five years of its existence.

# Use the Document Title Field

Document text ?

CHRR x?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?

[All CanLII](#) [Cases](#) [Legislation](#) [Commentary](#)

All jurisdictions ▾ By relevance ▾ ▮ ▯ ▯ 📡

Press Enter to search

COMMENTARY: You can search for specific reporters by entering the abbreviation of the reporter (e.g. SCR, FCR, CHRR) into the Document Title field. In our case we have entered CHRR because we want to find decisions reported by the Canadian Human Rights Reporter.

# Add Keywords into the Document Text Field

discrimination racial profiling x?

CHRR x?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?



Press Enter to search

COMMENTARY: After parsing the question it is clear that discrimination and racial profiling are the most relevant search terms to use.

# Add Quotation Marks

discrimination "racial profiling" x?

CHRR x?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?



[All CanLII](#) [Cases](#) [Legislation](#) [Commentary](#)  [My Documents](#)

All jurisdictions ▾

By relevance ▾  ▾  ▾ 

Press Enter to search

COMMENTARY: Adding quotation marks will help us find documents that have racial profiling as a complete phrase rather than as two separate words.

# Add a Proximity Operator

discrimination /s "racial profiling" x?

CHRR x?

Noteup/Discussion: cited case names, legislation titles, citations or dockets ?



[All CanLII](#) [Cases](#) [Legislation](#) [Commentary](#)  [My Documents](#)


All jurisdictions ▾




By relevance ▾  ▾  ▾ 






Press Enter to search

COMMENTARY: Using the proximity operator /s will allow us to search for documents that have discrimination and racial profiling in the same sentence. At this point we can press ENTER and search for documents.

# Filter by Document Type




All CanLII (28) **Cases (28)** Legislation (0) Commentary (0)  My Documents

All jurisdictions ▾ All courts and tribunals ▾ Any date ▾ By relevance ▾   

**lexbox**  Save this query  Set up alert feed  Email this query  Run a saved query ▾  Browse Lexbox ▾

1. [McCarthy v. Kenny Tan Pharmacy Inc.](#), 2015 HRTO 1303 (CanLII), 82 **CHRR** 30  
Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario — Ontario  
2015-10-01 | 38 pages | cited by [13 documents](#)  
*store — backpack — shoplifting — racial profiling — bag*

[...] [3] The purpose of this Decision is to decide whether the applicant was subjected to **racial profiling** and **discrimination** with respect to services. [...] The applicant did not identify herself as a Black woman or characterize the incident as **racial profiling** or **discrimination**. [...] Specifically, she alleged that an employee in the store subjected her to **racial profiling** and **discrimination** by aggressively and rudely demanding that she open her backpack, looking inside her backpack, and walking away without apologizing. [...]

COMMENTARY: We need to click on the Cases tab in order to find court decisions.

# Filter by Tribunal Type

The screenshot shows the Lexbox search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'All CanLII (28)', 'Cases (28)', 'Legislation (0)', 'Commentary (0)', and 'My Documents'. Below the tabs, there are filters for 'All jurisdictions', 'All courts and tribunals', and 'Any date'. The 'All courts and tribunals' filter is expanded, showing a list of options with their respective counts:

Tribunal Type	Count
✓ All courts and tribunals	28
All courts	10
Appeal courts	2
All tribunals	18
Labour	0
Privacy	0
Human rights	21
Discipline	0
Securities	0

At the bottom of the dropdown menu, there is a text input field labeled 'Select specific courts and tribunals'. The main search results area shows a list of results, with the first result partially visible: '1. McCa... Human... 2015-... store... [...] The a... an er... insid... subjected to **racial profiling** and **discrimination** with respect to services. [...] incident as **racial profiling** or **discrimination**. [...] Specifically, she alleged that **on** by aggressively and rudely demanding that she open her backpack, looking

COMMENTARY: Clicking on the All Courts and Tribunals tab will allow us to filter our search results by a specific court or tribunal. For our purposes we will click on Human Rights.



# Filter by Date

The screenshot shows the Lexbox search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'All CanLII (28)', 'Cases (21)', 'Legislation (0)', 'Commentary (0)', and 'My Documents'. Below these, there are filters for 'All jurisdictions', 'Human rights', and 'Any date'. A 'Clear filters' button and a 'By relevance' dropdown are also visible. The main search results area shows a list of results, with the first result being 'McCarthy v. Kenny Tan Pha' from the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, dated 2015-10-01. A dropdown menu is open under the 'Any date' filter, showing options: 'Any decision date' (21), 'Last week' (0), 'Last three months' (0), 'Last year' (0), 'Last three years' (1), and 'Last ten years' (14). Below this menu, there are two date selection forms. The first is 'Decision date is' with input fields for YYYY (2015), MM (01), and DD (01), and a calendar icon. The second is 'Decision date between' with input fields for YYYY (2020), MM (12), and DD (31), and a calendar icon. An 'OK' button is present for both forms. The Lexbox logo and a 'Save this query' button are also visible.

lexbox Save this query

All jurisdictions Human rights Any date Clear filters By relevance

1. McCarthy v. Kenny Tan Pha Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario 2015-10-01 | 38 pages | store — backpack — shoplif

and **discrimination** with respect to services. [...] **discrimination**. [...] Specifically, she alleged that demanding that she open her backpack, looking

Decision date is YYYY MM DD OK

Decision date between 2015 01 01 2020 12 31 OK

COMMENTARY: Clicking on Any Date will allow us to filter our search results by date. We have chosen to enter 2015 and 2020 as start and end dates respectively because we are only looking for decisions that were reported within the last five years of the CHRR's existence. Clicking on OK will allow us to apply this custom date filter to our search results.

# Filter by Relevance

The screenshot shows the Lexbox search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'All CanLII (28)', 'Cases (9)', 'Legislation (0)', 'Commentary (0)', and 'My Documents'. Below this, filters are set for 'All jurisdictions', 'Human rights', and '2015-01-01 to 2020-12-31'. A 'By relevance' dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Sort by document relevance' (checked), 'Sort by date: newest', 'Sort by date: oldest', 'Sort by most cited', 'Sort by court level', and 'Sort by most pages'. The search results list the case 'McCarthy v. Kenny Tan Pharmacy Inc., 2015 HRTO 1303 (CanLII), 82 CHRR 30'. The snippet of the decision text is: '[...] [3] The purpose of this Decision is to decide whether the applicant was subjected to **racial profiling** and **discrimination** with respect to services. [...] The applicant did not identify herself as a Black woman or characterize the incident as **racial profiling** or **discrimination**. [...] Specifically, she alleged that an employee in the store subjected her to **racial profiling** and **discrimination** by aggressively and rudely demanding that she open her backpack, looking inside her backpack, and walking away without apologizing. [...]

COMMENTARY: There are many sorting options. In this example we will choose Sort by Most Cited.

# Mission Accomplished!

All CanLII (28) **Cases (9)** Legislation (0) Commentary (0) My Documents

All jurisdictions ▾ Human rights ▾ 2015-01-01 to 2020-12-31 ▾ Clear filters Most cited first ▾ ☰ ▾ ☐ ▾ 📡

lexbox Save this query Set up alert feed Email this query Run a saved query ▾ Browse Lexbox ▾

1. [Briggs v. Durham Regional Police Services](#), 2015 HRTO 1712 (CanLII), 82 **CHRR** 345  
Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario — Ontario  
2015-12-18 | 84 pages | cited by [23 documents](#)  
*officers — licence plate — vehicle — cruiser — personal*

[...] See Maynard, above, at para. 154; the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Policy on Racism and Racial **Discrimination**, at section 3.2 "**Racial Profiling**"; and Johnson v. Halifax (Regional Municipality) Police Service, [2003] 48 C.H.R.R. C/307, [2003] N.S.H.R.B.I.D. No. 2. [...] [282] Objectively, I find that the **racial profiling** and **discrimination** that the application experienced, which included being **racially profiled** by having his licence plate checked because he was black, and "trying to catch him", is a serious violation of the Code. [...] [284] Of course, not all cases pertaining to **racial profiling**, or alleged **discrimination** on the basis of race that come before the Tribunal, are upheld. [...]

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COMMENTARY: If you are interested in learning more about how to search in CanLII effectively we recommend visiting <https://www.canlii.org/en/info/search.html> for more tips and tricks!