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Attacking freedom of speech

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Judging from their official Web sites, our trusty Canadian human rights tribunals have been hard at work since the late 1970s, "protecting individuals from discrimination". Why, just the other day (Jan. 24), the CBC reported that a self-proclaimed "white nationalist" had been arrested by Regina police, thanks to the background work of the tribunals.

But Canada's tribunals are not just going after the KKK. In fact, either there is something seriously wrong with the human rights acts that the tribunals are mandated to interpret and enforce, or some people on these tribunals are incompetent and abusing their power.

Recently, Ezra Levant, publisher of the now-defunct Western Standard, reported to the Alberta Human Rights Commission at the request of Calgary imam Syed Soharwardy. For Levant's perspective on this ordeal, go to www.ezralevant.com.

Meanwhile, Macleans's magazine is being investigated by the tribunals, at the request of the Canadian Islamic Congress, for publishing an excerpt from a book by Mark Steyn.

And it doesn't stop there. Over at Catholic Insight, Rev. Alphonse de Valk had to answer to these entrenched tribunals. Not too long ago, the StarPhoenix had to do the same.

The other day, I was feeling a little nervous for Elizabeth May. As the leader of the Green Party, she recently compared Canada's military presence in Afghanistan to the action of "Christian crusaders." Who knows? Maybe there is a sensitive Christian guy out there who felt -- and hurt feelings are all that is really required -- that such language equals hate speech towards millions of Canadian Christians.

May will be OK. Regardless of her intentions, taking cheap shots at Christians and Jews is pretty much standard behavior for many of

Canada's power people. After all, the Judeo-Christian human rights tradition -- that fuels the free world -- is largely what they seek to supplant. And, come to think of it, Canada's human rights tribunals are looking an awful lot like an extension of our long-term liberal establishment and biased mainstream media. Sadly, as the

National Post put it Dec. 18: "Canadian human rights tribunals, once tools for fighting racism and discrimination, have been transformed into politically correct shakedown rackets."

Thinking about writing a letter to the editor about something you feel strongly about? You might want to talk to Ron Gray, Chris Kempling or Steven Boissoin before you do. Barry Cooper, a professor of political science at the University of Calgary, was involved in the defence of Boissoin and had this to say: "The entire process is skewed, most obviously in that complainants get a free ride and defendants pay full legal freight."

Freedom of speech is being strategically hammered in the name of human rights.

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