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July 7, 2017

Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms
#253, 7620 Elbow Drive SW
Calgary, AB T2V 1K2

Attention: Jay Cameron

Dear Mr. Cameron:

RE: Cancellation of Nicholas Troller's personalized license plate "ASIMIL8"

This is further to our previous correspondence on the above-referenced matter.

MPI understands that Mr. Troller did not intend to cause offence by selecting the "ASIMIL8" licence plate. While the term "ASIMIL8" was intended to be a Star Trek reference, MPI believes that a significant segment of Manitoba's population would reasonably find it to be inappropriate and offensive.

The word "assimilate" has become closely associated with the harm occasioned by the Indian residential schools system. Prime Minister Harper spoke of assimilation in the following terms while issuing the Government of Canada's apology:

Two primary objectives of the residential school system were to remove and isolate children from the influence of their homes, families, traditions and cultures, and to assimilate them into the dominant culture.

Today, we recognize that this policy of assimilation was wrong, has caused great harm, and has no place in our country.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada also discussed assimilation at page 183 of its final report:

Canada has a long history of colonialism in relation to Aboriginal peoples. That history and its policies of cultural genocide and assimilation have left deep scars on the lives of many Aboriginal people, on Aboriginal communities, as well as on Canadian society, and have deeply damaged the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

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Based on this historical context, MPI has concluded that the "ASIMIL8" license plate is inappropriate and offensive. The previous decision to issue the plate was taken in error and once MPI recognized that error it had valid grounds to require Mr. Troller to surrender plate. Due to this original error MPI issued to Mr. Troller, free of charge, another Star Trek themed plate of his choice.

MPI is unable to reinstate Mr. Troller's personalized license plate as requested.

MPI apologizes to Mr. Troller for any inconvenience that this matter may have caused.

Yours truly,


for **Trevor M. Brown**
Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public

TMB/nr