



S 210209

This is the 1st affidavit
of John Koopman in this proceeding
and it was made on December 23, 2020

File No. _____
Vancouver Registry

In the Supreme Court of British Columbia

Between

ALAIN BEAUDOIN, BRENT SMITH, JOHN KOOPMAN, JOHN VAN MUYEN,
RIVERSIDE CALVARY CHAPEL, IMMANUEL COVENANT REFORMED CHURCH,
and FREE REFORMED CHURCH OF CHILLIWACK, B.C.

Petitioners

and

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
and DR. BONNIE HENRY IN HER CAPACITY AS PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER
FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Respondents

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN KOOPMAN

I, JOHN KOOPMAN, of Chilliwack, in the Province of British Columbia, MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS THAT:

1. I am one of the Petitioners herein and am the Pastor of the Free Reformed Church of Chilliwack, B.C. (the "Church"), and as such I have personal knowledge of the matters herein deposed to except where stated to be on information and belief and where so stated, I verily believe them to be true.
2. I was ordained as a minister of the gospel in 1999 and have served as a pastor in two churches of the Free Reformed Churches and presently serve in Chilliwack, B.C. I have served as chairman for the annual synod of the *Free Reformed Churches of North America* for several years. Academically I hold a *Master of Divinity (MDiv)* from the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary; a *Bachelor of History* from the University of Western Ontario; a *Diploma in Agriculture Production and Management* from Ridgetown College of Agriculture Technology. I am also presently in the final stages of certification as a *Biblical Counselor* with the Association of Biblical Counselors. My wife and I have fostered children both in Ontario and in BC, having fostered 10 children while ministering to the biological parents at the same time.

Free Reformed Church of Chilliwack, B.C.

3. The Free Reformed Church of Chilliwack, B.C. consists of about 300 members divided over all demographics but mostly of families with young children. The median age of our congregation is about 30 years old. Our facilities consist of a sanctuary with a seating capacity of about 400 people, a gym, a kitchen, multiple classrooms, as well as ample washrooms.
4. Our Church is involved in many local and international ministries to assist in caring for the needy of our society and world.
5. Locally, we as Church members participate as much as possible in helping those in need. This involves donating our time and money to organizations such as Ruth & Naomi's Mission (a local Chilliwack ministry that helps those who experience poverty, homelessness and addiction), Teen Challenge BC (an addiction treatment organization), Pearl Society (empowers girls and woman who are sexually exploited), Cyrus Centre (provides support for vulnerable youth) and the Salvation Army. Once a month some of our members also gather together at our church to make sandwiches for the homeless in Vancouver and deliver them the next day. Additionally, our Church directly supports those in our community who have specific needs such as housing, clothing, food and overcoming addictions and abuse.
6. As we are able, we sponsor families seeking refuge in Canada from their own countries. In the last five years we have sponsored four families from Syria, Iran, Eritrea and Sudan. Through mentorship and training they have since become active contributing members to our society. Many of them still attend our worship services and need the congregation for their spiritual, mental, emotion, and practical support.
7. Globally we are involved in many different charitable organizations that provide relief year-round, and also in times of disaster and war. These include Hungry for Life, Word & Deed, Come Over and Help, Samaritan's Purse and many others providing humanitarian aid. We are active in sending a team of ladies to Kenya every fall to minister to orphans and widows.

Religious beliefs about in-person gathering

8. It is our religious conviction as a Church, as well as my personal religious conviction, that God calls us to gather together (congregate) in the worship of his name (Heb. 10:23-25). This is the official meeting with our God where he comes down and meets with us through his Word and Spirit.
9. From the Scriptures, we are called together to hear the preaching of the Word, partake of the sacraments of baptism and communion, sing his praises together, pray together, confess his name together, exercise church discipline, and fellowship with other Christians (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:2; Matthew 18:15-18; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 3:16; 2 Thessalonians 3:1).
10. Coming together as a congregation is an essential component of the exercise of our faith. In fact, we speak of our members as the 'congregation' because congregating together before our God is of the essence of our faith. We call our assemblies a 'worship service' because we gather there to give our worship and praise to God together as a congregation. In fact, unless we come together as a congregation it is not a worship service.
11. To forbid 'in-person worship services' is to undermine the very essence of our service to our God.
12. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of his church ruling by his Word (Bible) and his Spirit through the office bearers (Pastors, Elders, Deacons) of the church. Consequently, we believe that the Church is not subject to the government in how, when, or where she worships but is subject only to Jesus Christ. We cannot and will not abrogate this authority to the government.

Church response to COVID-19

13. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020 cause significant changes in the manner in which our Church conducted its services.
14. Because we believe that the congregating together is an essential part of the worship of our God we have continued to gather together to worship. We did not cancel any of our worship services but continued to meet together with reduced numbers and various health protocols recommended by the BC government.

15. Very early we commissioned a study of our facility to determine how many people could meet in our sanctuary while maintaining appropriate social distancing between family groups.
16. Each Sunday specific people are called to certain services to ensure that we never have too many people present. We have a 'doorman' who ensures that only those called for that service attend. We do very careful contact tracing of all those who come. In fact, we can identify exactly who was present for each of our services since March. We keep an online google spreadsheet that is updated at each service for each and every individual who is in attendance. We can, for the most part, even tell you where they were sitting in our sanctuary.
17. Previously our facility had been cleaned by volunteers of the congregation but at the very beginning we hired a professional cleaner to ensure that a complete and thorough cleaning happened as needed. Our church literally smells like bleach as surfaces are cleaned regularly.
18. We also immediately increased our ventilation of our facility by leaving doors open during our services. This also means that no one touches the doors, except for the one person who is designated to open them at the beginning of each Sunday. Before March we would pass a collection plate through the pews to collect free will offerings but have not done so since. Members now have the opportunity to eTransfer these gifts, or else place them in the collection plate as they leave the service.
19. Additionally, we cancelled "coffee time" after our morning services. This is when we would gather after the service, have coffee together and socialize. Recognizing that social distancing would be nearly impossible in this situation, this was cancelled and has not resumed since. Members are encouraged to immediately go to their vehicles and home after the services, and many socialize via phone, text or zoom in lieu of this time.
20. Most of our Church classes were initially either cancelled or moved to zoom. When safe to do so, and with various protocols we resumed our instructional classes and Bible studies.
21. Consistently we have provided hand sanitizer and masks - and encourage their use by those attending.

22. Of course, we regularly remind the congregation that if they are feeling unwell with even one symptom of COVID-19, they are requested to not come to church for any reason and to stay home until they have recovered. We also have developed procedures whereby the congregation would be notified within hours if someone tested positive for COVID from within our congregation.
23. We often remind our congregation through letter and verbal reminders of the various protocols that we have in place for their protection. We are very proud of our congregation in that there is virtually 100% compliance with all our requests of them.
24. Our Church takes the physical, spiritual, emotional, mental, and social well beings of our members and community very seriously.
25. I say with some confidence that we do a much better job limiting any potential transmission of COVID-19 than other Chilliwack establishments which the BC government has not ordered shut down such as Walmart (which has a posted permitted occupancy of 911 people) and Best Buy (which has a posted permitted occupancy of 131 people). See pictures of the Chilliwack Walmart and Best Buy occupancy signs attached as **Exhibit "A"** to this affidavit. Neither of these busy establishments maintain the level of sanitization, physical distancing, contact tracing and general health guideline compliance that our Church does. Further, these businesses are open long hours every day of the week, while our Church sanctuary only holds services for a few hours on Sunday. These and other businesses are open to the general public, while our Church is attended almost exclusively by the same members each week.

Negative effects of isolation

26. Based on my direct interaction with members of my congregation, there have been many detrimental effects in many people's lives as a result of the restrictions on worship services, let alone the canceling of them. While one's physical health must be a consideration in our care of people, their spiritual and emotional health is also essential. There has been loneliness, depression, anxiety, and fear during this time which is directly addressed in the preaching at our public worship services. My

conviction is that worship services are the occasion when we meet with our God, who can help us through these troubling experiences.

27. In addition, if I am not able to connect with people at our worship services, it would be difficult to monitor the vulnerable members of my congregation. There are some of my congregants who live in marriages where there has been abuse, and their vulnerability increases considerably when there is isolation which would be the result of canceling worship services.
28. We believe that loving our neighbour includes caring not only their physical health but their spiritual and emotional health as well.
29. One of the many benefits of worship gatherings is the intentional identification of needs within vulnerable populations of our churches and communities. Churches are instrumental in providing critical spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional care as they are made aware of needs.
30. In-person gatherings foster and facilitate the great comfort and help that our society needs, especially in times of trouble. My personal observations from my congregation are supported by recent polling in the United States, which showed that the only segment of the population that reported improved mental health from 2019 was those who attend a religious service weekly. See December 7, 2020 Gallup article attached as **Exhibit "B"** to this Affidavit.
31. The mental health of British Columbians continues to seriously decline, as I have personally observed and as is reported in surveys, such as the recently released survey by the Canadian Mental Health Association and the University of British Columbia. See news release and Summary of Findings attached as **Exhibit "C"** to this Affidavit.
32. I believe that closing our Church to in-person gatherings could cause serious mental and even physical harm to members of my congregation.
33. No one would close hospitals as sickness increases, and yet as the fear and stress rages, the faith community is being asked to limit services. This makes no more sense than closing all our hospitals.

Government attempts to shut down our in-person services

34. On November 19, 2020, Dr. Bonnie Henry issued an oral Provincial Health Order (the "PHO") prohibiting all in-person worship services.
35. The first Sunday (November 22, 2020) after the PHO, an RCMP officer was in our parking lot before anyone else arrived at church. He was there at about 9:00 AM and our first service started at 9:30 AM. After a number of vehicles entered the parking lot, he approached me and asked who was 'in charge' to which I responded that I was the pastor. We had a very pleasant conversation during which we were joined by another elder of my congregation. The officer informed us that he was simply present for the purpose of education and informed us of the PHO that had been issued on November 19. He left and we began our worship service at 9:30 and had two further services that day, starting at 11:00 AM and 2:30 PM respectively, without any further engagement from the RCMP.
36. The next Sunday (November 29, 2020), we had no contact with the RCMP. We held all three of our worship services as usual.
37. In the week that followed, we had some communication with the RCMP, including with Officer Schmidt, Staff Sergeant Jeff Scott and Inspector David Lee. We were again urged by the RCMP to reconsider our decision to hold worship services.
38. On Sunday, December 6, 2020 at the 9:30 AM service there was a young couple who tried to gain entry to our Church who were subsequently identified as RCMP officers. They were denied entry, since we only permit entry to those who are on the attendance list for the particular service. They quietly left but proceeded to a neighboring parking lot and maintained surveillance through the fence. Attached as **Exhibit "D"** to this Affidavit is a picture of the officers in their vehicle observing our Church.
39. On Saturday, December 12, 2020, it was reported in the media that the Chilliwack RCMP had recommended charges, and that the B.C. Prosecution Services was assessing charges, against three churches. See e.g. CBC News December 12, 2020 article, attached as **Exhibit "E"** to this Affidavit. Our Church was prominently named in these stories.
40. Despite the fact that our Church is prohibited by the PHO from gathering in-person, I am informed and do believe that a small church located south of Chilliwack held and

in-person service despite the PHO. See December 14, 2020 article in the Chilliwack Progress, attached as **Exhibit “F”** to this Affidavit. It is reported that the RCMP informed a complainant that since the large gathering in the church turned out to be a movie shoot and not an actual religious gathering, it was permitted as an “essential service.”

41. On December 17, 2020, two officers of the Chilliwack RCMP came to my residence and issued me personally two tickets, each for \$2,300, for allegedly violating the PHO. Attached as **Exhibit “G”** to this Affidavit are copies of the tickets. One of the officers, Corporal Ryan Dauphinee, stated that he had watched our Church’s online stream of its services and since I was preaching, he claimed I was the organizer/host of the service. He further advised that Rev. Jack Schoeman, who our Church had invited to preach on December 13, 2020, would also be receiving a ticket. Attached as **Exhibit “H”** to this Affidavit is a copy of the ticket issued to Jack Schoeman. Corporal Dauphinee warned that these tickets would continue to be issued if our Church services continue.
42. On December 18, 2020, I received an email from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, enclosing a letter, both of which are attached as **Exhibit “I”** to this Affidavit.
43. On December 22, 2020, I responded to the Office of the Provincial Health Officer by email enclosing a letter to Dr. Bonnie Henry, both of which are attached as **Exhibit “J”** to this Affidavit.
44. I enclosed with my letter to Dr. Henry the open letter of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in which they strongly encouraged Dr. Henry to reconsider her PHO and to allow in-person worship to take place in accordance with appropriate safeguards.” Attached as **Exhibit “K”** to this Affidavit is a copy of the December 17, 2020 letter of the BCCLA and the CCLA.
45. I also enclosed with my letter a December 7, 2020 request from Christ Covenant Church in Langley, in which they requested pursuant to section 43 of the Public Health Act that Dr. Henry allow them to worship on Sunday mornings in keeping with their religious beliefs. I am informed by the pastor of Christ Covenant Church, Rev. Garry Vanderveen, that Christ Covenant Church has received not response to their request.

Attached as **Exhibit "L"** to this Affidavit is a copy request December 7, 2020 request of Christ Covenant Church.

46. I swear this Affidavit *bona fide* in support of the Petition for Judicial Review, and for no improper purpose.

SWORN BEFORE ME at the
City of Chilliwack
in the Province of British Columbia,
on this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
P.O. Box 372
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4

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JOHN KOOPMAN

This is Exhibit "A" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
sworn before me, at Chilliwack, BC,
this 22 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
P.O. Box 372
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4

Walmart

Holiday Store Hours

Sun Dec 12 to Wed Dec 23 - 7am to Midnight
Thursday, December 24 - 7am to 8pm
Friday, December 25 - CLOSED
Saturday, December 26 - 6am to 11pm
Thursday, December 31 - 7am to 9pm
Friday, January 1, 2021 - 9am to 9pm

In order to further support
physical distancing, we are
limiting our store
capacity.

Capacity at
this store:

911

Walmart



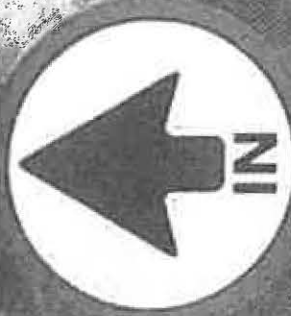
Mask Required
Please wear a mask
beyond this point.

Help prevent the
spread of COVID-19.

**AUTOMATIC
CAUTION
DOOR**

Store limit:

131



Always Open **BestBuy.ca**

This is Exhibit "B" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
sworn before me, at Chilliwack, BC,
this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
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Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4

DECEMBER 7, 2020

Americans' Mental Health Ratings Sink to New Low

BY MEGAN BRENNAN



STORY HIGHLIGHTS

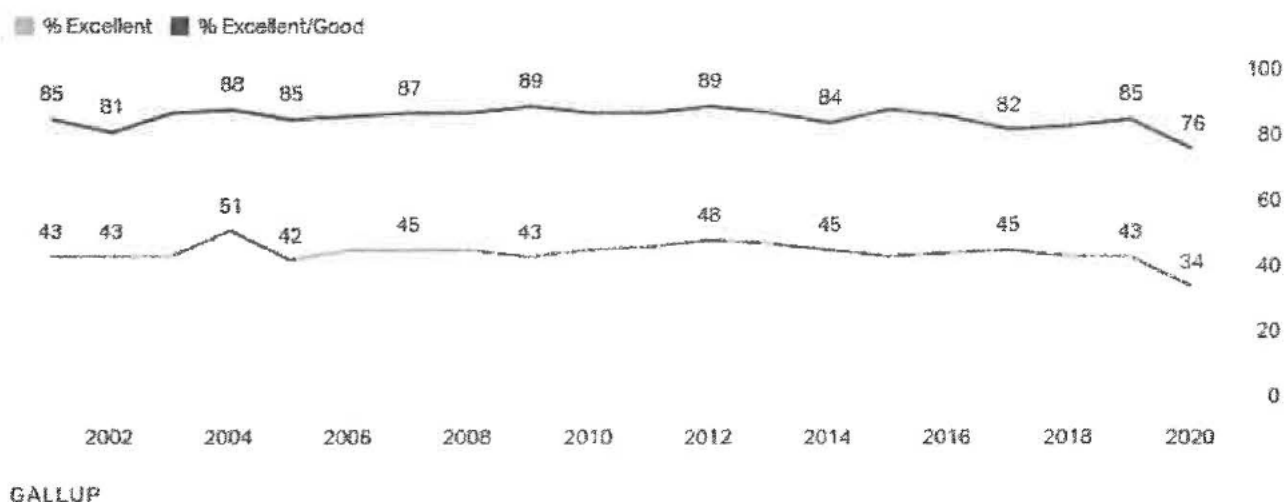
- 34% say their mental health is excellent, down from 43% in 2019
- Democrats, frequent churchgoers show least mental health change

- Reports of physical health stable, slightly more positive than mental health

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Americans' latest assessment of their mental health is worse than it has been at any point in the last two decades. Seventy-six percent of U.S. adults rate their mental health positively, representing a nine-point decline from 2019.

Americans' Assessment of Their Mental Health, 2001-2020

How would you describe your own mental health or emotional wellbeing at this time? Would you say it is — excellent, good, only fair, or poor?



Each year since 2001, Gallup has asked Americans as part of its November Health and Healthcare survey to say whether their own mental or emotional wellbeing is excellent, good, only fair or poor. The reading for those rating their mental health as excellent or good ranged from 81% to 89% until this year's 76%.

Although the majority of U.S. adults continue to rate their mental health as excellent (34%) or good (42%), and far fewer say it is only fair (18%) or poor (5%), the latest excellent ratings are eight points lower than Gallup has measured in any prior year.

- The latest weakening in positive ratings, from a Nov. 5-19 poll, are undoubtedly influenced by the coronavirus pandemic, which continues to profoundly disrupt people's lives, but may also reflect views of the election and the state of race relations, both of which were on Americans' minds this year.

Previous research from Gallup's ongoing COVID-19 tracking survey in April found that although majorities of Americans said they could continue following social distancing guidelines as long as necessary before their physical health and financial situation suffered, less than half said the same of their mental health. Additionally, in April, U.S. adults' life evaluations fell to a low point last seen during the Great Recession.

The drop in Americans' positive appraisal of their mental and emotional wellbeing varies across demographic subgroups. The following groups' ratings of their mental health as excellent fell by double digits since 2019 -- women, Republicans, independents, those who attend religious services less than weekly, White adults, those who are unmarried, older adults, and lower-income Americans. Democrats and frequent church attendees show the least change in their mental health ratings.

The subgroups showing the greatest declines in excellent mental health are not necessarily the groups with the lowest positive ratings. That is, more Republicans and independents than Democrats say their mental health is excellent while women rate theirs less positively than men.

In addition to women and Democrats, lower-income Americans, young adults, the unmarried, and those who seldom or never attend religious services have the lowest excellent ratings. These demographic patterns have been mostly consistent over the past 20 years.

Americans' Rating of Their Mental Health as Excellent, by Demographic Groups. 2019 vs. 2020

	2019	2020	Change
	%	%	pct. pts.

Gender

GALLUP

	2019	2020	Change
	%	%	pct. pts.
Male	49	41	-8
Female	37	27	-10
Party identification			
Republican	56	41	-15
Independent	44	32	-11
Democrat	30	29	-1
Religious service attendance			
Weekly	42	46	+4
Nearly weekly/Monthly	47	35	-12
Seldom/Never	42	29	-13
Race			
White	45	35	-10
Non-White	40	32	-8
Marital status			
Married	49	41	-8
Not married	37	27	-10
Age group			
18-29	37	28	-9
30-49	40	32	-8
50-64	51	42	-9
65+	44	34	-10
Household income group			
Under \$40,000	33	27	-6
\$40,000-\$99,999	43	31	-12
\$100,000 or more	57	45	-12

GALLUP

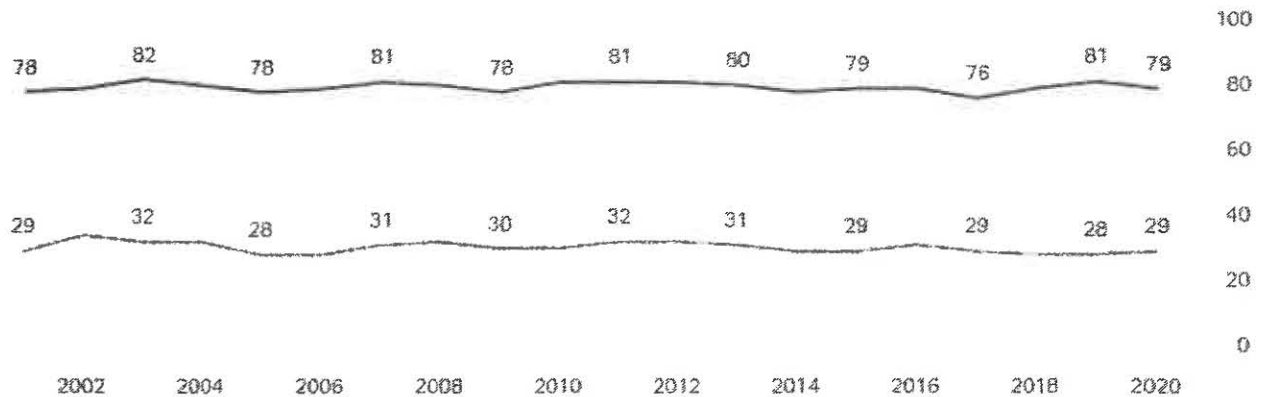
Americans' Physical Health Holding Up Better Than Their Mental Health

While Americans' mental health has suffered this year, their self-reported physical health has not changed substantially. In fact, the latest 29% excellent reading and the combined 79% excellent/good rating are similar to a year ago and close to the averages for the 20-year trend.

Americans' Assessment of Their Physical Health, 2001-2020

How would you describe your own physical health at this time? Would you say your physical health is -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

■ % Excellent ■ % Excellent/Good



GALLUP

As has been the case in prior years, Americans' age is a strong predictor of how they rate their physical health -- with older Americans less positive than younger Americans. Similarly, there are recurring and significant differences based on income and education levels. Those with more education and higher incomes, who likely have better access to quality healthcare, have more positive assessments of their physical health than their counterparts.

Americans' Rating of Their Physical Health by Demographic Subgroups

	Excellent %	Good %	Excellent/Good %
Age group			
18-29	37	47	84
30-49	32	49	81
50-64	27	50	77
65+	18	55	73
Annual household income			
Less than \$40,000	23	42	65
\$40,000-Less than \$100,000	27	59	86

GALLUP, NOV. 5-19, 2020

	Excellent	Good	Excellent/Good
	%	%	%
\$100,000 or more	40	46	86
Education			
No college degree	25	51	76
College graduate	37	49	86

GALLUP, NOV. 5-19, 2020

Bottom Line

More than eight months into the coronavirus pandemic in the U.S., Americans' reports of mental health are much worse than a year ago. While they remain more likely to say their mental health is excellent than their physical health, the gap between the two has narrowed this year.

[View complete question responses and trends \(PDF download\).](#)

[Learn more about how the Gallup Poll Social Series works.](#)

SURVEY METHODS



RELEASE DATE: December 7, 2020

SOURCE: Gallup <https://news.gallup.com/poll/327311/americans-mental-health-ratings-sink-new-low.aspx>

CONTACT: Gallup World Headquarters, 901 F Street, Washington, D.C., 20001, U.S.A

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* Business Journal, GBJ, Gallup Consulting, Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, Gallup Management Journal, GMJ, Gallup Panel, Gallup Press, Gallup Tuesday Briefing, Gallup University, Gallup World News, HumanSigma, HumanSigma Accelerator, ICE11, I10, L3, ME25, NurseInsight, NurseStrengths, Patient Quality System, Performance Optimization, Power of 2, PrincipallInsight, Q12, Q12 Accelerator, Q12 Advantage, Selection Research, Inc., SE25, SF34, SRI, Soul of the City, Strengths Spotlight, Strengths-Based Selling, StatShot, StrengthsCoach, StrengthsExplorer, StrengthsFinder, StrengthsInsight, StrengthsQuest, SupportInsight, TX(R+E+R)=P3, TeacherInsight, The Gallup Path, The Gallup Poll, The Gallup School, VantagePoint, Varsity Management, Wellbeing Finder, Achiever, Activator, Adaptability, Analytical, Arranger, Belief, Command, Communication, Competition, Connectedness, Consistency, Context, Deliberative, Developer, Discipline, Empathy, Fairness, Focus, Futuristic, Harmony, Ideation, Includer, Individualization, Input, Intellection, Learner, Maximizer, Positivity, Relator, Responsibility, Restorative, Self-Assurance, Significance, Strategic, and Woo. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. These materials are provided for noncommercial, personal use only. Reproduction prohibited without the express permission of Gallup, Inc.

This is Exhibit "C" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
sworn before me, at Chilliwack, BC,
this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

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Canadian Mental
Health Association
Mental health for all

British Columbia Division

ABOUT US

CONTACT US



MENTAL HEALTH

SERVICES

IMPACT

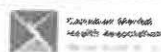
EVENTS

GET INVOLVED

♥ DONATE

Despair and suicidal feelings deepen as pandemic wears on

Mental health impacts of COVID-19: Wave 2



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



many initiatives

New nationwide survey finds British Columbians' mental health eroding

Vancouver – The second wave of the pandemic has intensified feelings of stress and anxiety, increased levels of despair, suicidal thoughts and hopelessness among British Columbians. This, according to the newest wave of data collected through a nationwide monitoring survey on the mental health impacts of COVID-19, released today by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in partnership with UBC researchers.

Among people in British Columbia who completed the survey, (69%) indicate they're worried about the second wave of the virus, with 55% worried about a loved one or family member dying, and only 22% feeling hopeful. As winter approaches, 42% of British Columbians say their mental health has deteriorated since March. More than a third of British Columbians (35%) are worried about finances



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
Mental health for all

British Columbia Division

ABOUT US CONTACT US



MENTAL HEALTH

SERVICES

IMPACT

EVENTS

GET INVOLVED

♥ DONATE

"We are seeing a direct relationship between social stressors and declining mental health," says lead researcher Emily Jenkins, a professor of nursing at UBC who studies mental health and substance use. "As the pandemic wears on and cases and related restrictions rise, a good proportion of our population is suffering. Particularly concerning are the levels of suicidal thinking and self-harm, which have increased exponentially since before the pandemic and are further magnified in certain sub-groups of the population who were already experiencing stigma, exclusion, racism and discrimination."

Thirteen per cent of people surveyed in British Columbia have indicated that they have increased their use of substances as a way to cope. Sixteen per cent of people in British Columbia have reported increased alcohol use, while many have also increased their use of other substances, including cannabis (6%) and prescription medication (3%).

The pandemic keeps underlining that mental health is not only an individual responsibility, and that policy-level interventions are required. Even before the pandemic, the mental health care system in Canada was not meeting people's needs due to long waitlists, access issues, inequity and underfunding.

"Given this new data, the ongoing devastating losses due to the overdose crisis, and the trend of worsening mental health across the population, the Province should absolutely ensure mental health and substance use care are a top mandate priority in the coming months and beyond," says Jonny Morris, CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division (CMHABC).

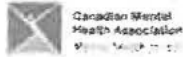
The survey was dispatched by Maru/Matchbox from September 14-21, 2020 to a representative sample of 3,027 people ages 18 and up living in Canada. The British Columbia sample was 445.

It is the second of three strategic waves of national surveying that is also aligned with work being conducted by the Mental Health Foundation in the U.K.

To access a complete summary of the findings, please click [here](#).

For media inquiries:

Mental health impacts of COVID-19: Wave 2



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Summary of Findings Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19: Wave 2

Self-reported change to mental health

	Total	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
BASE:	3027	445	397	213	1137	491	343
Mental health has deteriorated since onset of the pandemic	40%	42%	40%	40%	44%	32%	36%

Deteriorating mental health among population subgroups

- 61% of those with a pre-existing mental health issue (up slightly from 59% in Wave 1)
- 50% of those with a disability (up slightly from 47% in Wave 1)
- 60% of those aged 18-24, compared to 21% of those aged 75+
- 54% of Indigenous peoples (up from 41% in Wave 1)
- 54% of LGBTQ2+ people (up from 50% in Wave 1)
- 61% of those who are unemployed
- 45% of women, compared to 34% of men

Emotional responses to COVID-19

	Total	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
BASE:	3027	445	397	213	1137	491	343
Anxiety/worry	48%	48%	42%	50%	53%	42%	43%
Stress	38%	38%	35%	41%	43%	30%	33%
Sadness	25%	28%	21%	23%	29%	20%	17%
Depression	24%	24%	23%	21%	28%	19%	18%
Calm	20%	22%	18%	19%	18%	22%	19%

Hopeful	17%	22%	17%	16%	20%	8%	26%
Empathetic	15%	20%	11%	15%	18%	11%	14%
Content	9%	10%	8%	11%	12%	5%	8%

Emotional responses among population subgroups

- 67% of those with a pre-existing mental health condition reporting high levels of anxiety/worry (up from 63% in Wave 1) as well as:
 - stress (57%), loneliness (39%), sadness (35%) and depression (48%)

Experiences of stress or worry

	Total	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
BASE:	3027	445	397	213	1137	491	343
Worried about: second wave of the virus	71%	69%	66%	64%	75%	69%	69%
A loved one or family member dying	58%	55%	54%	59%	62%	58%	55%
Contracting the virus	55%	55%	49%	56%	56%	56%	48%
Being separated from family and friends	54%	51%	55%	53%	56%	54%	49%
Vaccine safety and effectiveness	51%	53%	53%	46%	54%	44%	50%
Finances	39%	36%	48%	41%	40%	32%	43%
Vaccine availability	30%	31%	28%	27%	32%	27%	30%
Job loss	26%	22%	31%	22%	28%	27%	24%
Having enough food to meet family's needs	20%	12%	20%	20%	19%	25%	21%
Being safe from domestic violence	10%	5%	10%	5%	12%	11%	11%

Experiences of stress or worry among population subgroups

- 48% of parents of children under 18 worried about finances
- 51% of those with a household income less than \$25,000 worried about finances
- 36% of parents of children under 18 worried about job loss
- 27% of parents of children under 18 worried about having enough food to meet their family's needs

Suicidality and self-harm

	Total	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
BASE:	3027	445	397	213	1137	491	343
Suicidal thoughts or feelings	10%	8%	11%	8%	13%	7%	8%
Deliberate self-harm	4%	1%	4%	2%	4%	5%	4%

Suicidality and self-harm among population subgroups

Suicidal thoughts or feelings:

- 28% of LGBTQ2+ (up from 14% in Wave 1)
- 27% of those with a pre-existing mental health condition (up from 18% in Wave 1)
- 24% of those with a disability (up from 15% in Wave 1)
- 21% of those aged 25-34 and 19% of those aged 18-24
- 20% of Indigenous peoples (up from 16% in Wave 1)
- 13% of parents of children under 18 (up from 9%)

Deliberate self-harm:

- 14% of LGBTQ2+
- 10% of those with a pre-existing mental health condition (up from 18% in Wave 1)

Healthy and unhealthy coping strategies

	Total	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
BASE:	3027	445	397	213	1137	491	343
Increased substance use as a way to cope	17%	13%	17%	18%	20%	13%	17%
Increased alcohol use	20%	16%	18%	18%	22%	21%	16%
Increased cannabis use	9%	6%	8%	15%	12%	6%	11%
Increased prescription medication use	7%	3%	7%	6%	8%	7%	6%
Exercising outdoors	54%	57%	55%	62%	57%	49%	45%
Connecting virtually with family and friends	36%	39%	36%	26%	40%	33%	33%
Maintaining a healthy lifestyle	40%	43%	42%	41%	41%	36%	36%
Connecting in person with those in their "bubble"	33%	43%	38%	32%	40%	13%	42%
Having a supportive employer	15%	13%	17%	14%	16%	11%	19%
Using virtual mental health resources	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%	2%	2%
Government benefits and supports	9%	10%	9%	9%	9%	8%	12%

Coping among population subgroups

Increased alcohol use:

- 28% in parents of children under 18
- 29% in Indigenous peoples
- 30% in those with a pre-existing mental health condition

Increased cannabis use:

- 24% in Indigenous peoples
- 23% in LGBTQ2+ people
- 20% in those with a pre-existing mental health condition
- 17% in those with a disability
- 15% in parents with children under 18

Increased prescription medication use:

- 18% in those with a pre-existing mental health condition

Among those who reported experiencing a mental health concern during the pandemic, the reasons for not accessing virtual mental health services/supports included:

- 48% felt they weren't in need of help
- 22% said they didn't know that the resources exist
- 21% said they didn't believe they would be helpful
- 17% preferred in-person health care supports
- 11% cited privacy concerns

Methodology

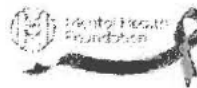
This is the second of three waves of a cross-sectional monitoring survey on the impacts of COVID-19 on mental health in Canada led by academic researchers from the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in partnership with Maru/Matchbox. The survey questions were informed by a UK longitudinal survey commissioned by the Mental Health Foundation in March 2020 and guided by research evidence on mental health impacts of past pandemics through input from people with lived experience of mental health conditions. Questions were refined for the Canadian context. Wave 1 data were collected between May 14-29, 2020. Wave 2 data were collected Sept. 14-21, 2020 from a total of 3,027 respondents and weighted to ensure a representative sample of the adult Canadian population by age, gender, region, and household income. The maximum margin of error for proportions derived from our sample of 3027 participants is +/- 1.79% at a 95% level of confidence.



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Association canadienne
de santé mentale



Mental Health
Foundation



maru matchbox

For media inquiries:

Katherine Janson

National Director of Communications

Canadian Mental Health Association

Phone: (647) 717-8674

kjanson@cmha.ca

Lou Bosshart

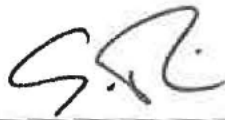
Media Relations Specialist

UBC Media Relations

Phone: (604) 822-2048

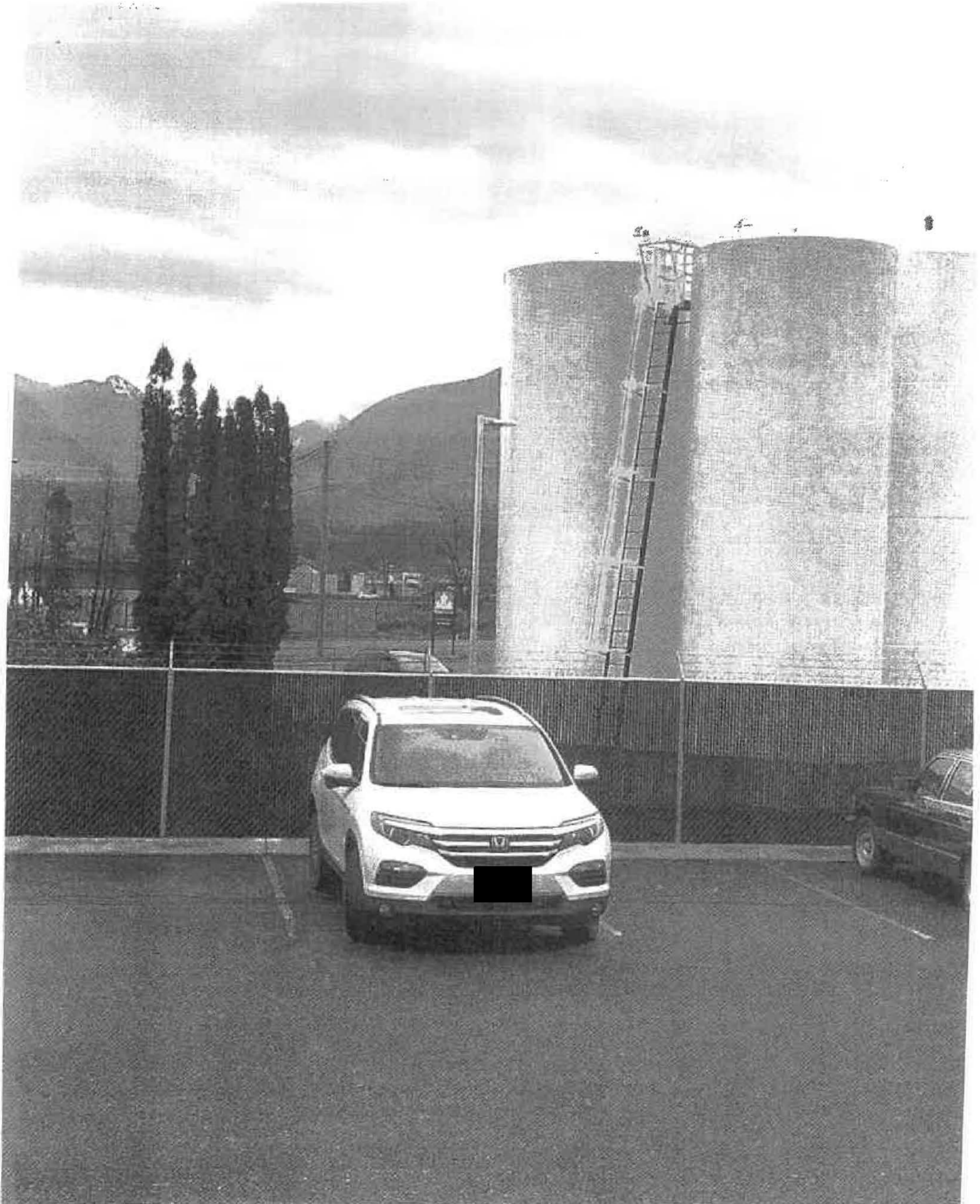
lou.bosshart@ubc.ca

This is Exhibit "D" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
sworn before me, at Chilliwack, BC,
this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
P.O. Box 372
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4



This is Exhibit "E" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
sworn before me, at Chilliwack, BC,
this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
P.O. Box 372
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4

British Columbia

Chilliwack RCMP recommend charges against churches continuing to hold in-person worship

B.C. Prosecution Service assessing charges involving 3 churches

Chad Pawson · CBC News · Posted: Dec 12, 2020 6:01 PM PT | Last Updated: December 13



The Chilliwack Free Reformed Church and the Free Grace Baptist Church have both held in-person worship despite provincial health orders prohibiting them. (Jon Hernandez/CBC)

comments



- Police in Chilliwack say they have recommended charges against three churches that have held in-person worship, contravening provincial health orders.

In a release, Chilliwack RCMP say an investigation began last Sunday, Dec. 6, after the detachment received reports that three separate churches were holding in-person congregation services.

"Each of these incidents was actively investigated by the Chilliwack RCMP and the evidence gathered has resulted in the Chilliwack RCMP forwarding a report to the B.C. Prosecution Service for charge assessment of these violations," said the release.

RCMP have not said what charges they are recommending against the churches, and have not named the churches.

- **B.C. churches continue to congregate despite public health orders banning gatherings**

In November, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry suspended all in-person faith-related gatherings as part of a wider effort to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Worshippers were told not to attend services at their gurdwara, synagogue, church, mosque or temple. Dr. Henry said transmissions have happened at places of worship.

- **Archbishop of Vancouver 'baffled' by decision to suspend in-person worship**

Three churches in the Fraser Valley, just east of Vancouver, continued to hold in-person services despite a provincial health order that prohibits in-person gatherings in order to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The Free Grace Baptist Church and Free Reformed Church in Chilliwack continued to hold services, along with the Riverside Calvary Chapel in Langley, which was fined \$2,300 the first week of December.

- **B.C. church fined \$2.3K for violating COVID-19 ban on worship services**

One church in Kelowna also held a morning gathering Dec. 6, which resulted in a visit from the RCMP.

No one from any of the three churches have responded to requests for comment from CBC News about potential charges.

Marty Moore, a barrister and solicitor with the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms in Calgary, said he has been reviewing the public health orders in B.C.

He said in an email to CBC News that "prosecution and law enforcement should be hesitant to attempt to enforce Dr. Henry's constitutionally-questionable order prohibiting in-person religious gatherings."

'Difficult burden to prove'

Moore argues that freedom of conscience and religion is the first fundamental freedom guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which should allow churches to organize in-person worship.

"Should prosecution and law enforcement proceed to issue further tickets, they will have a difficult burden to prove that that Dr. Henry's order is necessary and minimally impairing of British Columbians' Charter freedoms," he said.

In late November, the U.S. Supreme ruled against limits on religious services in areas of New York City that were particularly hard hit by the virus.

The houses of worship said in that case that the limits, 10 to 25 people depending on the area, violated religious freedoms protected by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, and that their facilities were singled out with more stringent restrictions than essential businesses, such as food stores.

- **U.S. Supreme Court rules against limits on religious services in NYC virus hot spots**

'Direct contravention'

In its release, RCMP said most people in Chilliwack are complying with the public health order.

"Despite efforts by the Chilliwack RCMP on the first two Sundays to educate and gain voluntary compliance, a very small number continue to hold in-person services in direct contravention of the public health order," it said.

The force says it will investigate all reports of in-person congregation services.

Under the health order, police can issue violation tickets or recommend charges.

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Cathy Kearney

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ANALYSIS

Why the 'sucker's payoff' is one of B.C.'s biggest obstacles this Christmas

Justin McElroy

News - Canada - British Columbia

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Visitez Radio-Canada.ca

This is Exhibit "F" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
sworn before me, at Chilliwack, BC,
this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
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Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J1



RCMP responded to a report of a large gathering at Cultus Lake Memorial Church Saturday, only to find a crew shooting a movie. (Google Maps photo)

Large gathering at Cultus Lake church turns out to be movie shoot

RCMP officers were dispatched to investigate, but the film crew was allowed to be there

ERIC WELSH / Dec. 14, 2020 11:00 a.m. / LOCAL NEWS / NEWS

With a small number of Chilliwack churches in the spotlight for defying provincial health orders, all churches have eyeballs on their parking lots.

But even during a pandemic, sometimes a parking lot can be full of vehicles for a legitimate reason.

That was the case Saturday night at the Cultus Lake Memorial Church.

Police received a report of a large gathering at the building, and RCMP spokesperson Mike Rail said officers were dispatched to investigate.

When they arrived, they found a movie shoot in progress.

“We did have a complaint, and officers did check it out, but it turned out to be a movie set and they had all the required permits,” Rail noted.

The complainant said she was told by an officer that the film industry in B.C. is considered an ‘essential service.’

It isn’t according to this government website, but movie and television sets are allowed to function with COVID protocols in place.

According to creativebc.com, “All productions are required to develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan to begin work in B.C.

“WorkSafeBC has published protocols for returning to operation for the motion picture industry. The safety plan does not need to be reviewed or approved before production can begin, but WorkSafeBC will review the safety plan as part of their inspection.”

RELATED: Chilliwack churches continue to defy public health orders with in-person gatherings

RELATED: B.C. film industry given go-ahead to restart productions halted due to COVID-19

Do you have something to add to this story, or something else we should report on? Email: eric.welsh@theprogress.com

@ProgressSports

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CULTUS LAKE MOVIES & TV



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This is Exhibit "G" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
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this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
P.O. Box 372
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4



BRITISH COLUMBIA
Offence Act

VIOLATION
TICKET

AJ06525763

ISSUED TO:

SURNAME OR CORPORATE NAME

GIVEN NAMES OR CORPORATE NAME CONTINUED

YOUNG PERSON

PROV / STATE

CITY

PROV / STATE

THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAYS THAT HE OR SHE HAS REASONABLE AND PROBABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE, AND DOES BELIEVE THAT

THE ABOVE NAMED, AS:

☐ DRIVER ☐ CYCLIST ☐ OWNER (Per Section 89(2) of the Motor Vehicle Act)

☐ PEDESTRIAN ☐ PASSENGER ☒ OTHER (Specify)

ON OR ABOUT

AT THE TIME OF

ON

AT OR NEAR

IN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DID COMMIT THE OFFENCE(S) INDICATED, UNDER THE FOLLOWING ACT OR ITS REGULATIONS:

☐ (MVA) MOTOR VEHICLE ACT ☐ (WLA) WILDLIFE ACT ☐ (LCA) LIQUOR CONTROL & LICENCING ACT

☐ (MCA) MOTOR CARRIER ACT ☐ (FAA) FIREARM ACT ☐ (TCR) TRANSIT CONDUCT & SAFETY REGS.

☐ (CTA) COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT ACT ☒ OTHER (SPECIFY)

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE(S)

ACT / REGS

SECTION

TICKETED AMOUNT

COUNT (1)

COUNT (2)

COUNT (3)

* THIS TICKETED AMOUNT CONSISTS OF THE FINE FOR THE ALLEGED OFFENCE AND A 15% VICTIM SURCHARGE LEVY.

INFORMING THE VEHICLE BEARING LICENCE PLATE

REGISTERED OWNER NAME

VEHICLE MAKE

TYPE

COLOR

YEAR

ACCIDENT Y / N

IF YOU WISH TO DISPUTE ANY ALLEGATION OR FINE AMOUNT ON THIS VIOLATION TICKET, YOU MAY DELIVER A NOTICE OF DISPUTE TO:

OR MAIL OR DELIVER A NOTICE OF DISPUTE AS DESCRIBED ON THE REVERSE.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

PREFERRED COURT HEARING LOCATION

DATE OF SERVICE

ORGANIZATION / DETENTION / LOCATION

SHADED AREAS OF THIS TICKET ARE NOT PART OF THE OFFENCE CHARGED

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

IF THE ALLEGATIONS OR FINES ARE NOT DISPUTED (SEE REVERSE) WITHIN 30 DAYS, THIS TICKET WILL BE TREATED AS NOT DISPUTED, YOU WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE PLEADED GUILTY TO THE ALLEGED OFFENCE(S) AND TO OWE THE CROWN THE TICKETED AMOUNTS. YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS TICKET AND IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF GUILT.

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THIS VIOLATION TICKET

ALLEGED OFFENDER'S SIGNATURE

ALLEGED OFFENDER'S COPY



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**
Offence Act

VIOLATION TICKET PAYMENT & DISPUTE INSTRUCTIONS

HOW TO PAY THIS TICKET

WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO PAY?

You may pay by mail by sending this ticket to the address below. Do not send cash. The mail is insured and **will NOT** be sent back to you.

Revenue Administration
BAG #3803
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, V8W 3K8

NOTE: Your payment must be accompanied by a copy of the other side of this ticket or a note including:

- the Ticket Number from the top right corner on the face of this ticket;
- your full name, address, driver's licence number and date of birth;
- the Violation Date, and Act and Section of the offence(s).

If you do not provide these details, your payment might not be recorded, and you may be deemed to have pleaded guilty to the offence. By paying any portion of the amount indicated, you are deemed to have pleaded guilty to the described offence(s), and the offence(s) will be added to your record and convictions.

IS THE FINE REDUCED IF I PAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIVING THE TICKET?

Yes. If you pay within the time indicated on the ticket, the prescribed fine will be reduced by 25%. Should you pay 25% less than the amount shown on the front of the ticket.

CAN I PAY FOR THIS TICKET IN PERSON?

You may pay in person at any Driver Services Centre, Motor Licence Office or Government Agent's Office. In the Province of British Columbia, this is the **British Columbia Registry of Motor Vehicles**, along with your payment.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT PAY?

If you do not pay or dispute this ticket within thirty (30) days of the Date of Service, the prescribed amount shown on the ticket will be payable to the Crown. The prescribed offence(s) will be added to your record as conviction(s). In addition, you will be liable for conviction costs.

NON-PAYMENT MAY AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO OBTAIN OR RENEW LICENCES AND PERMITS ISSUED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO THE OFFENCE

HOW TO DISPUTE THIS TICKET

CAN I DISPUTE THIS TICKET?

Yes. If you dispute the allegations or the fine portion of the ticket, you must pay the amount you do not want to pay. You will have to go to the Provincial Court for a hearing at the location indicated on the face of this ticket.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE TO DISPUTE?

If you wish to dispute, you have up to 30 days from the Date of Service to send the face of this ticket to deliver or mail your dispute notice.

HOW CAN A DISPUTE NOTICE BE MAILED?

If you wish to send your dispute notice by mail, write to the following address:

TICKET DISPUTE PROCESSING
BAG #3510
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, V8W 3P7

NOTE: Your dispute notice must be accompanied by a copy of the other side of this ticket or a note including:

- the Ticket Number from the top right corner on the face of the ticket;
- your full name, address, driver's licence number and date of birth;
- the Violation Date, and Act and Section of the offence(s).

If you do not provide these details, the dispute might not be recorded, and you may be deemed to have pleaded guilty to the described offences.

CAN I DELIVER A DISPUTE IN PERSON?

Yes. You may deliver your dispute notice to the address indicated on the face of this ticket or to any Driver Services Centre, Motor Licence Office, Government Agent's Office or Provincial Court Registry. You will need to bring this copy of the ticket, and you may be required to fill out a Notice of Dispute form, as provided at that location.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY DISPUTE HAS BEEN RECEIVED?

You will receive notice in the mail from the Provincial Court Registry, telling you the time and location for your hearing. If you do not attend the Court on the indicated date, the ticket will be treated as undisputed, the prescribed fine will immediately become payable to the Crown, and convictions of the described offences will be added to your record. See above regarding NON-PAYMENT.



BRITISH
COLUMBIA
Offence Act

VIOLATION
TICKET

AJ13323225

ISSUED TO:

SURNAME (or CORPORATE NAME)
Kapman
GIVEN NAMES (or CORPORATE NAME CONTINUED)
John

YOUNG
PERIOD

PROV / STATE

BC

CITY
Chilliwack

PROV / STATE
BC

THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAYS THAT HE OR SHE HAS REASONABLE AND PROBABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE, AND BELIEVE, THAT

THE ABOVE NAMED, AS ☐ DRIVER ☐ CYCLIST ☐ PEDESTRIAN ☐ PASSENGER

☒ OTHER (Per Section 83(2) of the Motor Vehicle Act)
Other

ON OR ABOUT

DATE
2020 12 13

AT THE TIME OF

08:30 AM

ON

4547 Yale Rd Chilliwack
AT OR NEAR
PLACE / CITY / TOWN

IN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DID COMMIT THE OFFENCE(S) INDICATED, UNDER THE FOLLOWING ACT OR ITS REGULATIONS:

- ☐ (MVA) MOTOR VEHICLE ACT ☐ (MWA) WILDLIFE ACT ☐ (LCA) LIQUOR CONTROL & LICENSING ACT
☐ (MCA) MOTOR CARRIER ACT ☐ (FAA) FIREARM ACT ☐ (TCR) TRANSIT CONDUCT & SAFETY REGS
☐ (CTA) COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT ACT ☒ OTHER (SPECIFY) and is related to

COUNTY	DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE(S)	ACT / REGS	SECTION	TICKETED AMOUNT
(1)	A Contravention of the Building and Events Order	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACT <input type="checkbox"/> REGS	2(2)	\$2500
(2)		<input type="checkbox"/> ACT <input type="checkbox"/> REGS		\$
(3)		<input type="checkbox"/> ACT <input type="checkbox"/> REGS		\$

* THIS TICKETED AMOUNT CONSISTS OF THE FINE FOR THE ALLEGED OFFENCE AND A 15% VICTIM SURCHARGE LEVY

INVOLVING THE VEHICLE BEARING OFFENCE PLATE	PROV / STATE	PLATE NUMBER	NSC PUJ	NSC NUMBER
REGISTERED OWNER NAME				
VEHICLE MAKE	TYPE	COLOR	YEAR	ACCIDENT Y / N

IF YOU WISH TO DISPUTE ANY ALLEGATIONS OR THE AMOUNT ON THIS VIOLATION TICKET, YOU MAY DELIVER A NOTICE OF DISPUTE TO:

9 - 4547 Yale Rd Chilliwack

OR MAIL OR DELIVER A NOTICE OF DISPUTE AS DESCRIBED ON THE REVERSE

BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROVINCIAL COURT HEARINGS LOCATION

DATE OF SERVICE

2021 01 07

58126

DISPATCH / DETACHMENT / LOCATION

Chilliwack RCMP

SHADED AREAS OF THIS TICKET ARE NOT PART OF THE OFFENCE CHARGED
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

IF THE ALLEGATIONS OR FINES ARE NOT DISPUTED OR OTHERWISE WITHIN 30 DAYS, THIS TICKET WILL BE TREATED AS NOT DISPUTED. YOU WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE PLEADED GUILTY TO THE ALLEGED OFFENCE(S) AND TO OWE THE CROWN THE TICKETED AMOUNTS. YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS TICKET AND IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF GUILT.

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THIS VIOLATION TICKET

ALLEGED OFFENDER'S SIGNATURE

ALLEGED OFFENDER'S COPY



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**
Offence Act

VIOLATION TICKET PAYMENT & DISPUTE INSTRUCTIONS

HOW TO PAY THIS TICKET

WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO PAY?

You may pay by mail by sending your cheque or money order, payable to the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC), in Canadian funds to the address below. Do not send cash in the mail. A receipt will NOT be sent back to you.

Revenue Administration
BAG #3505
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, V8W 3N9

NOTE: Your payment must be accompanied by a copy of the other side of this ticket, or a note including:

- the Ticket Number (from the top right corner on the face of the ticket);
- your full name, address, driver's licence number and date of birth;
- the Violation Date, and Act and Section of the offence(s).

If you do not provide these details, your payment might not be credited to you, and the ticketed amount(s) may remain outstanding. Dishonoured cheques will be subject to additional administrative charges. By paying any portion of the ticketed amount, you will be deemed to have pleaded guilty to the described offence(s), and the offence(s) will be added to your record as convictions.

IS THE FINE REDUCED IF I PAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIVING THE TICKET?

Yes. If you are charged under the Motor Vehicle Act or Regulation and if the ticketed amount is over \$58.00 you pay \$25 less than the amount shown on the front of the ticket.

CAN I PAY FOR THIS TICKET IN PERSON?

Yes. You may make payments at any Driver Services Centre, Motor Licence Office or Government Agent's Office in the Province of British Columbia, during regular business hours. Present this copy of the ticket, along with your payment.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT PAY?

If you do not pay or dispute this ticket within thirty (30) days of the Date of Service, the ticketed amount shown on the front will be payable to the Crown. The described offence(s) will be added to your record as convictions; in addition, you will be subject to collection activity.

NON-PAYMENT MAY AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO OBTAIN OR RENEW LICENCES AND PERMITS ISSUED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO THE OFFENCE.

HOW TO DISPUTE THIS TICKET

CAN I DISPUTE THIS TICKET?

Yes. If you dispute the allegations or the fine portion of the ticketed amount you or your agent will have to go to the Provincial Court for a hearing at the location indicated on the face of this ticket.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE TO DISPUTE?

If you wish to dispute, you have up to 30 days from the Date of Service shown on the face of this ticket to deliver or mail your dispute notice.

HOW CAN A DISPUTE NOTICE BE MAILED?

If you wish to send your dispute notice by mail, write to the following address:

TICKET DISPUTE PROCESSING
BAG #3510
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, V8W 3P7

NOTE: Your dispute notice must be accompanied by a copy of the other side of this ticket or a note including:

- the Ticket Number (from the top right corner on the face of the ticket);
- your full name, address, driver's licence number and date of birth;
- the Violation Date, and Act and Section of the offence(s).

If you do not provide these details, the dispute might not be recorded, and you may be deemed to have pleaded guilty to the described offences.

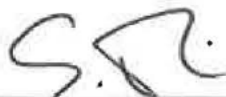
CAN I DELIVER A DISPUTE IN PERSON?

Yes. You may deliver your dispute notice to the address indicated on the face of this ticket or to any Driver Services Centre, Motor Licence Office, Government Agent's Office or Provincial Court Registry. You will need to bring this copy of the ticket, and you may be required to fill out a Notice of Dispute form, as provided at that location.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY DISPUTE HAS BEEN RECEIVED?

You will receive notice in the mail from the Provincial Court Registry, telling you the time and location for your hearing. If you do not attend the Court on the indicated date, the ticket will be treated as undisputed, the prescribed fine will immediately become payable to the Crown, and convictions of the described offences will be added to your record. See above regarding NON-PAYMENT.

This is Exhibit "H" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
sworn before me, at Chilliwack, BC,
this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
P.O. Box 372
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4

Office Act

AJ13323259

ISSUED TO:

SURNAME OR CORPORATE NAME

GIVEN NAMES (WITH CORPORATE NAME CONTINUED)

PROV / STATE

☐ YOUNG PERSON

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAYS THAT HE OR SHE HAS REASONABLE AND PROBABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE, THAT THE ABOVE NAMED, AS:

☐ DRIVER☐ CYCLIST☐ OWNER (Per Section 85(2) of the Motor Vehicle Act)☐ PEDESTRIAN☐ PASSENGER☒ OTHER

VIOLATION DATE

YYYY

MM

DD

OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

ON OR ABOUT

AT THE TIME OF

ON

HIGHWAY (IF APPLICABLE)

AT OR NEAR

PLACE (CITY/TOWN)

IN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DID COMMIT THE OFFENCE(S) INDICATED, UNDER THE FOLLOWING ACT OR ITS REGULATIONS:

☐ (MVA) MOTOR VEHICLE ACT☐ (WLA) WILDLIFE ACT☐ (LCA) LIQUOR CONTROL & LICENSING ACT☐ (MCA) MOTOR CARRIER ACT☐ (FAA) FIREARM ACT☐ (TCR) TRANSIT CONDUCT & SAFETY REGS.☐ (GTA) COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT ACT☒ OTHER (SPECIFY)

(and is related to)

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE(S)

ACT / REGS

SECTION

TICKETED AMOUNT

COUNT (1) COUNT (2) COUNT (3)	A Contravention of the (2)nd rule in EWDIS ORDER	(CMA) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACT <input type="checkbox"/> REGS	2(2)	\$230.00
		<input type="checkbox"/> ACT <input type="checkbox"/> REGS		\$
		<input type="checkbox"/> ACT <input type="checkbox"/> REGS		\$

* THIS TICKETED AMOUNT CONSISTS OF THE FINE FOR THE ALLEGED OFFENCE AND A 15% VICTIM SURCHARGE LEVY.

INVOLVING THE VEHICLE BEARING LICENSE PLATE	PROV / STATE	PLATE NUMBER	NSC NO	NSC NUMBER
REGISTERED OWNER NAME				
VEHICLE MAKE	TYPE	COLOUR	YEAR	ACCIDENT Y / N

IF YOU WISH TO DISPUTE ANY ALLEGATIONS OR FINE AMOUNT ON THIS VIOLATION TICKET, YOU MAY DELIVER A NOTICE OF DISPUTE TO:

1 45457 Yale Rd. Chilliwack

BRITISH COLUMBIA

OR MAIL OR DELIVER A NOTICE OF DISPUTE AS DESCRIBED ON THE REVERSE.

PROVINCIAL COURT HEARING LOCATION

DATE OF SERVICE

ENF. OFFICER'S #

Chilliwack

ORGANIZATION / DETACHMENT / LOCATION

Chilliwack RCMP

SHADED AREAS OF THIS TICKET ARE NOT PART OF THE OFFENCE CHARGED

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

IF THE ALLEGATIONS OR FINES ARE NOT DISPUTED (SEE REVERSE) WITHIN 30 DAYS, THIS TICKET WILL BE TREATED AS NOT DISPUTED, YOU WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE PLEADED GUILTY TO THE ALLEGED OFFENCE(S) AND TO OWE THE CROWN THE TICKETED AMOUNTS. YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS TICKET AND IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF GUILT.

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THIS VIOLATION TICKET

ALLEGED OFFENDER'S SIGNATURE

ALLEGED OFFENDER'S COPY



HOW TO PAY THIS TICKET

WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO PAY?

You may pay by mail by sending your cheque or money order, payable to the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC), in Canadian funds to the address below. Do not send cash in the mail. A receipt will NOT be sent back to you.

Revenue Administration
BAG #3505
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, V8W 3N9

NOTE: Your payment must be accompanied by a copy of the other side of this ticket, or a note including:

- the Ticket Number (from the top right corner on the face of the ticket);
- your full name, address, driver's licence number and date of birth;
- the Violation Date, and Act and Section of the offence(s).

If you do not provide these details, your payment might not be credited to you, and the ticketed amount(s) may remain outstanding. Dishonoured cheques will be subject to additional administrative charges. By paying any portion of the ticketed amount, you will be deemed to have pleaded guilty to the described offence(s), and the offence(s) will be added to your record as convictions.

IS THE FINE REDUCED IF I PAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIVING THE TICKET?

Yes. If you are charged under the Motor Vehicle Act or Regulation and if the ticketed amount is over \$66.00 you pay \$25 less than the amount shown on the front of the ticket.

CAN I PAY FOR THIS TICKET IN PERSON?

Yes. You may make payments at any Driver Services Centre, Motor Licence Office or Government Agent's Office in the Province of British Columbia, during regular business hours. Present this copy of the ticket, along with your payment.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT PAY?

If you do not pay or dispute this ticket within thirty (30) days of the Date of Service, the ticketed amount shown on the front will be payable to the Crown. The described offence(s) will be added to your record as convictions, in addition, you will be subject to collection activity.

NON-PAYMENT MAY AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO OBTAIN OR RENEW LICENCES AND PERMITS ISSUED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO THE OFFENCE.

HOW TO DISPUTE THIS TICKET

CAN I DISPUTE THIS TICKET?

Yes. If you dispute the allegations or the fine portion of the ticketed amount you or your agent will have to go to the Provincial Court for a hearing at the location indicated on the face of this ticket.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE TO DISPUTE?

If you wish to dispute, you have up to 30 days from the Date of Service shown on the face of this ticket to deliver or mail your dispute notice.

HOW CAN A DISPUTE NOTICE BE MAILED?

If you wish to send your dispute notice by mail, write to the following address:

TICKET DISPUTE PROCESSING
BAG #3510
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, V8W 3P7

NOTE: Your dispute notice must be accompanied by a copy of the other side of this ticket or a note including:

- the Ticket Number (from the top right corner on the face of the ticket);
- your full name, address, driver's licence number and date of birth;
- the Violation Date, and Act and Section of the offence(s).

If you do not provide these details, the dispute might not be recorded, and you may be deemed to have pleaded guilty to the described offences.

CAN I DELIVER A DISPUTE IN PERSON?

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This is Exhibit "I" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
sworn before me, at Chilliwack, BC,
this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
P.O. Box 372
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4

From: Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX <[REDACTED]>
Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 at 5:04 PM
To: John Koopman <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Letter to John Koopman Chilliwack Free Reformed Church

Dear John Koopman,

Please see the attached letter and let me know at your earliest opportunity that you have received this letter.

Sincerely,

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT Victoria, BC V8W 9P4 [REDACTED]

Phone: 250 952-1330

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.



1184539

December 18, 2020

Chilliwack Free Reformed Church
[REDACTED]

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Pastor John Koopman and the Chilliwack Free Reformed Church:

I am writing to request your cooperation in ensuring compliance with my recent orders prohibiting in-person gatherings and events, including worship services. It is necessary for me to make these orders since the gather of people in person, is resulting in significant community transmission of COVID-19 in BC.

The enclosed written order confirms my oral order of November 19, 2020 which generally prohibits attendance at services at a church, synagogue, mosque, gurdwara, temple, or other places of worship due to the high risk of transmission of COVID-19 in these settings. This and related orders are also published at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>.

In recent weeks the number of COVID-19 cases in the province has escalated precipitously. The epidemiological data in BC demonstrates that a number of cases of transmission of the virus have occurred from religious gatherings including temples, churches and other religious settings.

I recognize the importance of religious freedom, and in particular the need for individuals to access the support within faith-based communities during this difficult time. I have had many discussions with religious leaders across the province about the current situation we face in BC and I am appreciative of the support I have received from most religious leaders for helping to achieve compliance with public health measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

.../2

In making the most recent orders, I have weighed the needs of persons to attend in-person religious services with the need to protect the health of the public. The limitations on in-person attendance at worship services in the Orders is precautionary and is based on current and projected epidemiological evidence. It is my opinion that prohibiting in-person gatherings and worship services is necessary to protect people from transmission of the virus in these settings. You will see from the written order that religious services can continue by using remote or virtual attendance options (such as Zoom or Skype), outside drive-in services and that individuals may still visit a place of worship for individual contemplation or personal prayer.

I am aware that some people do not agree with my decision to prohibit in-person religious services, since other types of activities such as people visiting restaurants or other commercial establishments are permitted with restrictions. In my view, unlike attending a restaurant or other commercial or retail operation, (all of which are subject to WorkSafe COVID-19 Safety Plans) experience has shown it is particularly difficult to achieve compliance with infection-control measures when members of a close community come together indoors at places of worship.

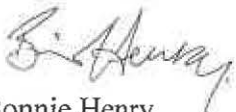
Unlike dining with one's household members in a restaurant, or visiting an establishment for short-term commercial purposes, it is extremely difficult to ensure that attendees keep appropriate physical distance from each other in the intimate setting of gatherings for religious purposes attended by persons outside of each attendee's own household. Additionally, singing, chanting and speaking loudly are proven to increase the risk of infection when indoors.

You will see that the Order includes an excerpt of section 43 of the *Public Health Act*, S.B.C. 2008 c. 28. which permits a person affected by an order under the Act, to request that I reconsider the order. I have considered and approved case-specific requests in the past and am open to a request from your church. If you believe that your church can conduct its activities in a manner that meets the objectives of the Orders you may submit a written proposal to me in accordance with section 43 (1) of the Act. Upon receipt of your request, I will evaluate your proposal and consider whether, in my view, your proposal satisfactorily minimizes the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Again, I would like to encourage your church and all faith-based organizations to accept the importance of compliance with this Order and the need to respect the difficult decisions of public health officials.

Please let me know at your earliest opportunity that you have received this letter.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer

Enclosure

This is Exhibit "J" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
sworn before me, at Chilliwack, BC,
this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
P.O. Box 372
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4

Re: Letter to John Koopman Chilliwack Free Reformed Church

From: John Koopman | [REDACTED]

Tuesday, Dec 22, 9:34 PM

To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX | [REDACTED]

Cc: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX | [REDACTED]

Bcc: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Henry,

Please find enclosed a letter sent on behalf of the Free Reformed Church of Chilliwack responding to your December 18, 2020 letter.

Sincerely,

Pastor John Koopman
[REDACTED]

December 22, 2020.

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

Dr. Bonnie Henry
Office of the Provincial Health Officer
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street
PO Box 9648 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9P4

Dear Dr. Henry:

I am in receipt of your letter, dated December 18, 2020, which has been reviewed by the Church Council.

With respect, your Order is a direct and substantial interference with the religious beliefs and practices of our Church. We are in legal jeopardy for practicing our faith because of your Order.

Our Church has taken every reasonable precaution to minimize any risk of COVID-19 at our services, and our members have carefully observed these measures. There has been no transmission of COVID-19 at any of our numerous worship services this year.

We are aware that many requests have been made for you to reconsider your Order prohibiting all in-person worship services. For example, on December 17, the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association wrote the enclosed open letter in which they "strongly encourage[d] you to reconsider the current order and allow in-person worship to take place in accordance with appropriate safeguards."

Further, I am aware that other churches have specifically requested that you reconsider your Order pursuant to section 43 of the *Public Health Act*. I have spoken with Pastor Garry Vanderveen of Christ Covenant Church in Langley, who submitted one such request to you on December 7, 2020 (see enclosed). To date, they have not received a response to their request.

Your offer to consider a request from our church to reconsider your Order sadly rings hollow. Any such decision by you would be discretionary and revokable at any time. Further, this offer fundamentally fails to address the central issue, which is the discriminatory and overbroad nature of your Order which directly prohibits an essential practice of our faith.

As many others have done, we urge you to allow in-person worship services.

Respectfully,

John Koopman

Enclosures

This is Exhibit "K" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
sworn before me, at Chilliwack, BC,
this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
P.O. Box 372
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4

[View this email in your browser](#)



JOINT RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPEN LETTER ON RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATIONS

December 17, 2020

Dr. Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Ministry of Health
PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
1515 Blanshard St.,
Victoria, BC V8W 9P4

Honourable Adrian Dix
Minister of Health
Room 337 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Delivered by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Henry and Minister Dix,

We are writing on behalf of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) with respect to the orders respecting religious services that are currently in place in British Columbia. Before addressing those concerns, we wish to note that, in general, we have appreciated the approach that B.C. has taken as compared to some other provincial jurisdictions that have chosen to take a punitive approach to the pandemic, stressing stringent enforcement and ticketing measures. By contrast, B.C. has consistently prioritized education and aimed for clear and consistent

that restrictions have on constitutionally protected rights and the disproportionate impact of enforcement measures on marginalized communities. As a result, we were concerned to see the most recent provincial order which, in our view, deviates from this approach by imposing a restriction on religious freedom that is both disproportionate and unnecessary.

As you know, the current Provincial Health Officer order imposes restrictions across the province on certain “social gatherings and events”. Religious in-person gatherings and worship services have been suspended under the order and only drive-in, virtual or remote religious services are permitted. This stands in contrast to the rules that are in place for a variety of other venues, including schools and workplaces, restaurants, pubs and bars, and retail establishments. While it appears that perhaps the orders attempt to distinguish between social activities and commercial activities (limiting the former more significantly than the latter), in our view a religious service does not fit easily into either of these categories. Moreover, an attempt to define which venues are “essential” necessarily involves highly subjective value judgments.

In any event, we are writing about an activity that is constitutionally protected. Individuals engage in in-person worship services for a variety of reasons, but to compare these services to a night at the movies or theatre does a disservice to this constitutional right. For many, worshipping as part of a community is essential to their mental and spiritual health and well-being. Although some may be able to achieve the same sense of community from a virtual service, this may not be feasible from some individuals, particularly the elderly, those who are low-income, recent immigrants and refugees, or those who may have limited access to the internet. Importantly, the provincial order recognizes that certain in-person gatherings may continue, including meetings of Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous. This presumably reflects the fact that these gatherings perform a vital function for those in attendance. We would argue this rationale applies equally to in-person worship, particularly during times of the year with heightened religious significance, and when other restrictions in place mean that many will not be able to rely on time with friends and family for support.

While restrictions across the country vary (and change regularly), many provinces continue to allow some in-person religious services to take place, including Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Moreover, freedom of religion is

justified. On its face, the current B.C. order does not appear to meet these criteria. We strongly encourage you to reconsider the current order and allow in-person worship to take place in accordance with appropriate safeguards. Alternatively, we would welcome a response from your offices explaining the rationale for the restrictions.

Sincerely,

Harsha Walia

Executive Director

BC Civil Liberties Association

Michael Bryant

Executive Director & General Counsel

Canadian Civil Liberties Association

###

About the Canadian Civil Liberties Association

The CCLA is an independent, non-profit organization with supporters from British Columbia and across the country. Founded in 1964, the CCLA is a national human rights organization committed to defending the rights, dignity, safety, and freedoms of all people in Canada.

About the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association

The BCCLA has been actively advancing human rights and civil liberties through litigation, law reform, community-based legal advocacy, and public engagement and education since 1962.

The BCCLA and CCLA are separate organizations

Contact the CCLA: media@ccla.org

Alex Nanoff, 613-709-6318

Contact the BCCLA: meghan@bccla.org

Meghan McDermott, Senior Staff Counsel and Interim Policy Director 778-679-8906

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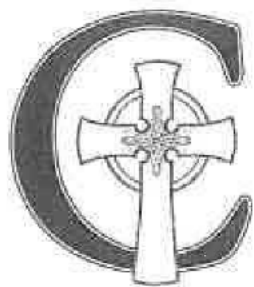
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This is Exhibit "L" referred to in the Affidavit of John Koopman
sworn before me, at Chilliwack, BC,
this 23 day of December, 2020.



A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
within the Province of British Columbia

J. SCOTT BIRCH
Barrister & Solicitor
9202 Young Road
P.O. Box 372
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6J4



CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

December 7, 2020

Dear Premier Horgan, Attorney General Eby, Health Minister Dix, Provincial Health Officer Henry, Fraser Health Officers, Langley Township Mayor and Councillors, MP Van Popta, MLA Dykeman, Langley RCMP Superintendent Power and others,

We would like to thank you for your diligent labours. You have an immense responsibility, and we want you to know that we uphold you in our daily prayers.

As you know, faith communities are a tremendous blessing in British Columbia and continue to be a vital part of the community fabric in our province. **Faith communities are at the centre of life for people of all ages, every demographic, and every racial and ethnic group in this province, and offer vital services to their own members and to their neighbours.** Whether it be spiritual nourishment, feeding the hungry, comforting the sick, walking beside those with mental health struggles, offering hospitality to new Canadians, or providing community and love – faith communities are essential to the health and well-being of this province.

While we understand the need to protect and promote the well-being of our neighbours, especially the most vulnerable among us, we are disappointed that the latest restrictions have effectively banned our congregation's Sunday morning worship service.

We submit our concerns to you with our commitment to seek the welfare, not merely of the church, but of our neighbours. We believe God has called us to diligently pray for and seek the peace and prosperity of this province, and this work cannot be separated from our worship. We are, therefore, committed to adopting and enforcing COVID-19 protocols (see our proposed written proposal) and believe that our worship services are among the safest public places in our community.

www.langleychurch.org

Mail: 21670 Maxwell Crescent | Langley, BC V2Y 2P9 | 604-309-3116 | grvdveen@gmail.com

Our Religious Beliefs

We believe that God requires us to gather in person at least once a week to celebrate the Eucharist, and our governing documents prevent us from celebrating the Eucharist virtually.

We believe that human beings are, above all, spiritual beings. For us, the celebration of the Eucharist at least weekly is essential for human flourishing. Without it, our health and well-being suffer.

We believe that the church exists to serve and care for our neighbours, including the vulnerable, struggling, sick and dying. While we are able to serve the broader community virtually in some ways (just as doctors can have phone consultations, we can Zoom for some spiritual support) there are important aspects of care that demand physical presence (just as doctors need to be present for surgery, we need to be present to comfort the dying). Additionally, virtual attendance discriminates against those who, for no fault of their own, lack the ability or means to use this technology.

The Effect of the Provincial Order

As you know, the Provincial Health Order affects religious bodies in different ways, depending upon their beliefs and governing documents. For Roman Catholics, as Archbishop Miller observed, the order does not forbid daily Mass *per se*, but restricts it to the priest and those who are assisting the production of the virtual service. For Presbyterian churches like ours, however, the order effectively bans our weekly Sunday morning service. Our governing documents do not recognize a virtual service as a valid mode of celebrating the Eucharist.

In short, we grieve that the Provincial Health Order has placed us in a difficult position. **If we obey the present order, we act contrary to our religious beliefs as regulated by our governing documents. On the other hand, if we obey our religious beliefs as regulated by our governing documents, we act contrary to the law of our province.**

Our Appeal

We humbly request that Premier Horgan, Health Minister Dix and Public Health Officer Henry publicly acknowledge that the latest Provincial Health Order affects faith communities differently, depending upon their religious beliefs and governing documents. As noted, given our religious beliefs and governing documents, this order limits our freedoms of religion and peaceful assembly.

We humbly request that Dr. Henry consult with more faith communities, such as ours, to promote greater understanding of how orders affect those communities differently, depending upon their specific religious beliefs and governing documents. Our hope is that public health orders will reflect the delicate balance between protecting life and respecting the fundamental freedoms of religion and peaceful assembly.

www.langleychurch.org

Mail: 21670 Maxwell Crescent | Langley, BC V2Y 2P9 | 604-309-3116 | grvdveen@gmail.com

We humbly request that, in keeping with the *BC Public Health Act* (38 and/or 43), Dr. Henry approve the following attached agreement (*PHA* (38)) and/or request for reconsideration (*PHA* (43)), effective immediately until a less restrictive Public Health Order is issued. Our proposal accomplishes the following:

1. Allows us to worship on Sunday mornings in keeping with our religious beliefs and governing documents.
2. Meets or exceeds the objective of the latest Provincial Health Order.
3. Achieves the delicate balance of protecting life and respecting the fundamental freedoms of religion and peaceful assembly.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Christ Covenant Church,



Rev. Garry Vanderveen

www.langleychurch.org

Mail: 21670 Maxwell Crescent | Langley, BC V2Y 2P9 | 604-309-3116 | grvdveen@gmail.com

CCC's COVID-19 Protocol

*The following are to be read, understood, and observed by all who worship at
Christ Covenant Church
Effective Immediately*

Definitions

- **household:** group of persons living under one roof sharing the same kitchen every day
- **mask:** proper cloth non-medical face covering that fits snugly and completely covers the nose and mouth.
 - (for mask guidelines, see: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/publications/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-safely-use-non-medical-mask-face-covering/covid-19-safely-use-non-medical-mask-face-covering-en.pdf>)

Basic Information

- The following are suspended:
 - childcare
 - Sunday School
 - refreshments
 - fellowship meals
 - use of kitchen and drinking fountains
- Persons in the following categories are not permitted to attend:
 - anyone who is sick or feels sick, even only slightly..
 - anyone told by Public Health to self-isolate or quarantine
- Persons in the following categories are advised not to attend, because they are at higher risk of complications from COVID-19:
 - anyone over the age of 65
 - anyone with underlying health conditions (e.g., high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and compromised immune system)

www.langleychurch.org

Mail: 21670 Maxwell Crescent | Langley, BC V2Y 2P9 | 604-309-3116 | grvdveen@gmail.com

Facilities

- Our two rooms — the Sanctuary (capacity 49) and the Fellowship Hall (or Parkside Room, capacity 49) — are separated by a transparent acrylic wall. These rooms have separate entrances and exits, separate washrooms, separate ushers, and separate sections of the parking lot and grounds. There is no movement between these rooms (and their extensions into the parking lots and grounds).
- Circulation fans will run continuously.
- Chairs are grouped into **household** boxes [see definition of **household** above] separated by more than two metres from one another.
- Washrooms may be used, but hands are to be sanitized beforehand, and afterwards washed with soap and water for 20.
- Drinking fountains and the kitchen are not used.
- We will not use communion trays or collection bags.

Signing Up For In-Person Services

- We hold two separate identical morning services on Sundays (9am and 11am). These services last 90 minutes.
- We also hold a different evening service on Sundays at 5pm. This service lasts 60 minutes.
- Up to 49 persons can sign up to attend a given service in the Sanctuary
- Up to 49 persons can sign up to attend a given service in the Fellowship Hall (Parkside Room).
- The 11am and 5pm services are livestreamed for the benefit of those who do not attend in person.
- Visitors wishing to attend must inquire with cccorganizers@gmail.com.

Arriving, Attending, Leaving

- **Masks** [see above definition] are required at all times everywhere on the church property, except within assigned boxes.
 - Face shields may also be worn, but **only if** the person is also wearing a mask
- The Eucharist will be celebrated at each morning service, but each household brings its own bread and wine.
- Use the sanitizer pump in your vehicle or at the entrance and exit door.
- Do not touch doors, handles, walls or anything in the building, except for your chair, kneeler, hymnal, and worship bulletin.

www.langleychurch.org

Mail: 21670 Maxwell Crescent | Langley, BC V2Y 2P9 | 604-309-3116 | grvdveen@gmail.com

- Households will enter together and proceed promptly to their seating box.
- A 2-metre / 6-foot distance is maintained at all times between persons of different households, as much as possible. (This of course means no contact of any kind.) This includes music and worship leaders and audio/visual technicians.
- Everyone is encouraged to use online banking for tithes and offerings. Otherwise, offerings may be dropped in the appropriate baskets at the exit.
 - Exit through the exit doors and proceed directly to your vehicle. Those nearest the exit depart first, and no one moves toward the exit doors until there is plenty of space.

www.langleychurch.org

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