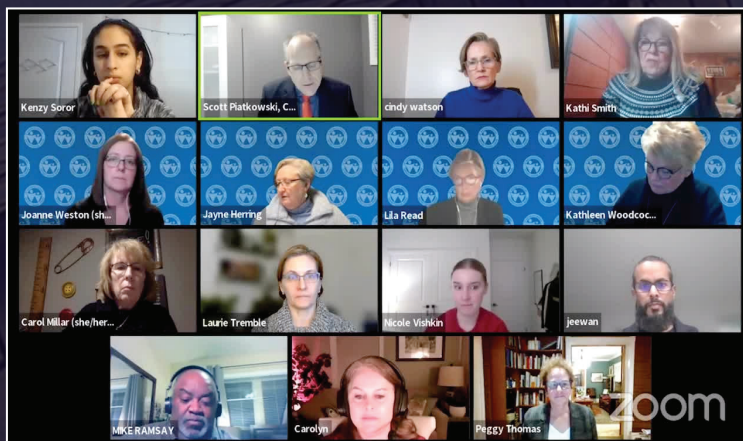


Can Public School Boards censor “politically incorrect” speech?



Some school boards seek to censor debate, particularly about sexuality, gender, and race. In June 2023, our lawyers will be in Court on two cases challenging the Waterloo Region District School Board over silencing and censoring teacher Carolyn Burjoski when she raised concerns about books for elementary students that promote medical gender transition to children. School Board trustee Mike Ramsay questioned

the censoring of Ms. Burjoski, for which he himself was then censured. These are not isolated incidents. Recently re-elected trustee, Linda Stone, was kicked off committees by the Durham District School Board for questioning the use of the phrase “white supremacy” in a school policy, and for daring to express concerns about keeping students’ gender transitions from parents. If Canadians, including elected school trustees, are not free to raise concerns at public school board meetings, our children will bear the consequences.

Federal Government’s treatment of fired Canadians headed to Court



Can you imagine the Government taking away unemployed people’s ability to buy food and shelter, in order to coerce them into taking a medical treatment? Thousands of Canadians have faced this, thanks to the Federal Government’s policy to deem an employee’s refusal to take a Covid vaccine as “misconduct,” barring them from receiving EI benefits. Timothy Conlon would have been homeless if his friends had not paid for his room rental, but we were successful before the federal tribunal

in getting his EI benefits reinstated. Many others are still waiting for justice. On March 22, 2023, our lawyers filed an application in the Federal Court of Appeal to seek to establish legal precedent on behalf of Dr. Robin Francis that the denial of EI benefits was unjustified and violated his *Charter* rights.

the Docket Spring 2023

- Defending the fundamental freedom to protest peacefully
- Federal Court Judge vindicates *Charter* rights of First Nation grandmother
- Saskatchewan is fighting peaceful protestors, and we’re fighting back
- Can a nurse publicly acknowledge the facts about men and women?
- Can Public School Boards censor “politically incorrect” speech?
- Federal Government’s cruel treatment of fired Canadians headed to Court



Justice Centre
for Constitutional Freedoms

Defending the fundamental freedom to protest peacefully



When the federal government imposed a Covid vaccine mandate on cross-border truckers, this sparked the Freedom Convoy to Ottawa. Anticipating the challenges ahead, we immediately sent in a team of lawyers. Although the protestors were entirely peaceful and cooperative with police, the Prime Minister invoked the *Emergencies Act*. We continue to provide defense counsel to those criminally charged and to defend the protestors and donors facing a \$300 million dollar class action lawsuit. Although Commissioner Rouleau

released a disappointing report, lawyers we sent for the Public Order Emergency Commission helped expose the lack of justification for the Government's actions. On April 3-5, 2023, our lawyers went back to Ottawa to argue a constitutional challenge against the Government's unwarranted use of the *Emergencies Act*. We represent four Canadians who participated in the Freedom Convoy: a volunteer firefighter, a minister, a retired police officer, and a decorated veteran. Two had their bank accounts frozen, and all were prohibited by force from protesting in our nation's capital. Our free society cannot survive if the Government can get away with crushing an entirely peaceful protest – we must hold the Government accountable in Court.

Federal Court Judge vindicates *Charter* rights of First Nation grandmother



Our lawyers secured a Federal Court victory affirming that First Nations' Canadians are not second-class citizens, and that Canadians have the right to run for elected office regardless of their marital status. We provided *pro bono* legal representation to Lorna Jackson-Littlewolfe, a Cree mother and grandmother, who was prohibited from running for Chief and Council at the Whitefish Lake First Nation (WLFN) on the basis of her marital status. In a decision released on February 15, 2023, Justice Favel found WLFN's discrimination unconstitutional. This Court decision opens the door for Ms. Jackson-Littlewolfe and other band members to run in elections without discrimination and serves as a precedent against any future First Nations' governments violating the *Charter* rights of their own members.

Saskatchewan is fighting peaceful protestors, and we're fighting back



Saskatchewan takes the award for maintaining the most ludicrous Covid rules on outdoor protests. The province imposed 10-person limits on outdoor protests, while allowing much larger groups to gather indoors for shopping, dining, and other settings. Saskatchewan continues to prosecute those who protested government restrictions during Covid but has never prosecuted those who protested for other causes like BLM. While our lawyers have succeeded in having several charges dropped, the Crown has run more than a dozen trials against peaceful

protestors. On March 3, 2023, our lawyers filed their brief in the Court of Appeal challenging the strict numerical limits on outdoor protests. We continue to represent many peaceful protestors before Saskatchewan's Provincial Courts and the Court of King's Bench.

Can a nurse publicly acknowledge the facts about men and women?



This question is central to the ongoing professional discipline hearing against nurse Amy Hamm by the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM). Amy drew public attention by endorsing a Vancouver billboard stating "I ♥ JK Rowling". Like JK Rowling, Amy believes that women and girls deserve private spaces where males may not enter. The BCCNM has launched disciplinary proceedings against Amy based on two complaints by strangers related to her public expression, not to her work as a

nurse. This will have broad implications for regulated professionals who dare to express views outside of approved ideological orthodoxy. Thanks to the Justice Centre, Amy has received legal representation in the protracted disciplinary hearings, which started in September 2022 and will continue October 2023.