

Ottawa Crown continues to lose cases against peaceful protestors



The Justice Centre continues to defend Canadians whose only “crimes” were protesting peacefully against lockdowns and vaccine mandates in Ottawa in 2022. One such protestor, Evan Blackman, was arrested and criminally charged with mischief and obstructing police in February 2022. At his October 2023 trial, video was shown of him encouraging fellow protestors to remain peaceful. Just prior to his arrest, he sang the national anthem on his knees, hat in hand. Not only was he arrested, but his bank accounts were also frozen—a measure our lawyers have challenged before the Federal Court in a separate case.

In Mr. Blackman’s trial in the Ontario Court of Justice, the judge dismissed all the charges against him, finding that the Crown had not proven its case. The Justice Centre continues to support the defense of Chris Barber and others in many ongoing Freedom Convoy trials. We also continue to defend Tamara Lich and other Canadians against a civil action commenced by bureaucrat Zexy Li and other Ottawa residents, who claim \$290,000,000 (nearly three hundred million dollars!) in damages over lost sleep from horn-honking.

Educating Canadians about freedom

The Justice Centre continues to educate Canadians through our curriculum on the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. We have also produced research papers on the dangers of digital ID, along with educational brochures and a petition calling on the federal government to respect the privacy and security of citizens.

Will you partner with us in defending rights and freedoms?

The Justice Centre relies on voluntary donations to carry out its mission of defending the free society. We do not receive any government funding. Please donate online at www.jccf.ca, by e-transfer to etransfer@jccf.ca, or by mail to the address below. Please consider remembering the Justice Centre in your will. Even small bequests can have a significant impact on our work. In most cases, a bequest does not require rewriting your entire will but can be done simply by adding a codicil.

Members of the Justice Centre team, with Dr. Jay Bhattacharya and Rav Arora, at the 2023 George Jonas Freedom Award dinner in Calgary.



Justice Centre

for Constitutional Freedoms

THE DOCKET

CHRISTMAS 2023

Alberta adopts Justice Centre proposal to amend *Public Health Act*



In *Ingram v. Alberta*, the Court struck down Alberta's lockdowns as illegal—a positive outcome for many court actions supported by the Justice Centre. The Court also ruled that Alberta's *Public Health Act* gave unfettered power to the Chief Medical Officer to violate *Charter* rights and freedoms without any accountability. The Justice Centre submitted a proposal for amending the *Act* to Alberta Premier Danielle Smith and all MLAs. These amendments would empower MLAs to hold the Chief Medical Officer accountable for any laws or health orders that violate the *Charter*.

On November 4, in a significant victory for *Charter* rights and freedoms, Minister of Justice Mickey Amery tabled a Bill that would put public health decision-making authority in the hands of elected officials. Amery stated, "Elected officials have a responsibility to act in the best interests of Albertans and swear an oath to duly and faithfully execute the powers and trust imparted. This legislation ensures that final decision-making authority and the accountability that must come with it rest with those entrusted by Albertans."

Justice Centre continues its strong defence of free speech for professionals



The Justice Centre continues to defend the right of nurses Amy Hamm and Leah McInnes to express their views without losing their nursing licenses.

Amy Hamm has been subjected to 20 days of disciplinary hearings by the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives over the past three years, because she states publicly that there are only two genders, and that women should enjoy female-only safe spaces, such as washrooms, changerooms, and rape crisis centres.

Nurse Leah McInnes faces disciplinary proceedings from the College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan after expressing opposition to mandatory vaccination policies. Leah is a champion of informed consent, freedom of choice, and the value of privacy.

Because of your donations to the Justice Centre, both Amy and Leah were defended by a team of lawyers and experts. Decisions in both cases are pending.

Protecting free speech on Canadian campuses



The Justice Centre continues to defend the right of academics to speak, and the right of listeners to hear, diverse opinions on campuses.

In July, Dr. Frances Widdowson, along with another professor and a student, sued the University of Lethbridge for cancelling her scheduled talk on academic freedom in response to opposition from some students and faculty.

Lawyer Glenn Blackett commented, "In a liberal democracy, it is essential that diverse voices and viewpoints be free to gather to share ideas, to seek truth, and to discuss policy. This is perhaps most essential on a post-secondary campus, which fails to serve its function without open inquiry and, as Dr. Widdowson says, rational disputation." This case will be heard on February 20, 2025.

The Free Speech Club is continuing with its court action against the University of British Columbia for cancelling a student-initiated event on campus, featuring Andy Ngo on the topic of "Understanding ANTIFA Violence."