

Indigenous fathers unfairly banished from their homes and families



Terry Wayne Francois with his daughter

Terry Wayne Francois raised his five daughters on the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) reserve in northern Manitoba. In December 2024, a routine roadside stop changed his life. When Mr. Francois drove home after refusing to allow a police dog to enter his vehicle, NCN officers accused him of assault with a weapon. NCN banished him from the reserve for five years without proper notice or a fair hearing, separating him from his home and family. In October 2025, shortly before a court hearing, NCN rescinded the banishment. However, the underlying laws permitting banishment powers and mandatory checkstop searches remain in place. On April 28, 2026, Justice Centre lawyers filed a statement of claim in the Court of King’s Bench of Manitoba on behalf of Mr. Francois, challenging the constitutionality of these laws.



Doug Riffel with his daughters

In June 2025, Doug Riffel, former Chief and councillor of Wabauskang First Nation (WFN) in Ontario, was banished by Band Council Resolution on the stated basis of “public safety.” This followed criminal charges laid against Mr. Riffel that have since been withdrawn. Mr. Riffel has no criminal record or history of violence, and he was given no prior notice of the decision and no opportunity to respond before being expelled from his community. Justice Centre lawyers are challenging the banishment of Mr. Riffel from WFN territory, arguing that the decision is unconstitutional, unlawful, and procedurally unfair. Both cases raise serious questions about whether these banishment practices violate *Charter* rights to mobility, liberty, security of the person, and protection against unreasonable search and seizure.

Educating the next generation

We are excited to announce the release of two new online courses designed for learners aged 15 and up: “Exploring Freedom of Conscience and Religion” and “Exploring Freedom of Peaceful Assembly.” Available at www.jccf.ca/courses for \$49 (plus tax) each, these courses offer exceptional value for individuals seeking to better understand their *Charter* rights and freedoms.

Explore our latest reports on how human rights legislation empowers human rights commissions and tribunals to censor Canadians, and on the dangers of government-controlled artificial intelligence, at www.jccf.ca/reports.

Your donation defends freedom

We rely on voluntary donations to carry out our mission of defending the constitutional rights and freedoms of all Canadians through litigation and education. We do not accept any government funding. Our donors will receive a charitable giving tax receipt for all 2026 donations in February 2027.

Please donate online at www.jccf.ca, by e-transfer to etransfer@jccf.ca, or by mail to the address below. You can also donate cryptocurrency, stocks, bonds, and securities. If you would like information about including the Justice Centre in your will, please connect with us at giving@jccf.ca.



Justice Centre
for Constitutional Freedoms

— The Docket Summer 2026



“From Nova Scotia’s unconstitutional ban on walking in the woods to teachers fired for their religious beliefs, from the banishment of Indigenous fathers from their homes to women dragged before human rights tribunals for voicing concern about transgender ideology, governments are increasingly willing to trample *Charter* rights in pursuit of political and ideological goals. With the help of our generous donors, the Justice Centre remains committed to defending the fundamental rights and freedoms of all Canadians. Thank you for upholding Canada’s tradition of freedom.”

John Carpay, B.A., LL.B., President and Founder

Nova Scotia Supreme Court upholds Canadians’ mobility rights



Veteran Jeffrey Evelyn

On April 17, 2026, the 44th anniversary of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia vindicated the right of all Canadians to travel freely within Canada. The Court found that Nova Scotia’s 2025 ban on walking in the woods was unconstitutional. Our lawyers helped Canadian Armed Forces veteran Jeffrey Evelyn challenge this ban after he was fined an astonishing \$28,872.50 for walking in the woods. The pretext for this draconian ban was to prevent forest fires, yet the ban targeted all activities rather than higher-risk activities like smoking, campfires and cooking. The Court found that the province’s decision-making process was fundamentally flawed, stating: “There is no evidence in the record that when the Minister issued the proclamation there was any consideration given to mobility rights.” This court ruling is a significant victory for the free society and a warning to governments to think twice before violating the *Charter*.

Ontario teachers fired for not celebrating and affirming LGBTQ issues



Matt and Nicole Alexander

Matt and Nicole Alexander of Cobden, Ontario, had been teaching elementary and middle school children in their community for a combined 23 years. In 2023, the Renfrew County District School Board suddenly suspended and then fired them, not for misconduct but for quietly declining to “celebrate and affirm LGBTQ issues” that conflicted with their Christian beliefs. Then, the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario refused to properly defend their *Charter* freedoms of conscience, religion, and expression. “We’ve been financially devastated, but we won’t back down,” Matt said. “We sold our family home rather than lose it, and the pension we paid into for over 20 years has been decimated.” Our lawyers appeared before the Ontario Labour Relations Board on May 21, 2026, to demand that their union fulfil its duty to represent them in their case against the School Board.

Five Canadians face “misgendering” complaints by transgender activist



Transgender activist Jessica Simpson (Jonathan Yaniv)

Five prominent Canadians have been accused of discrimination and “misgendering” by transgender activist Jessica Simpson (formerly Jonathan Yaniv). BC MLA Dallas Brodie, *National Post* journalist Barbara Kay, Feminist Current founder Meghan Murphy, citizen activist Kari Simpson, Derek Fildebrandt and the *Western Standard* all now stand accused of discrimination before the BC Human Rights Tribunal simply for referring to Simpson with masculine pronouns, to Simpson’s birth name, or to Simpson as a “trans-identifying male.” Our lawyers are representing these five individuals. Simpson appears to desire that the law and the free society bend to accommodate Simpson’s demand for “inclusion,” even at the expense of freedom of expression and the right of females to enjoy their own spaces where biological males may not enter.

Challenging Bill C-22 in defence of Canadians’ privacy



Dr. John Robson delivers our petition to the Office of the Prime Minister in Ottawa

Bill C-22, the *Lawful Access Act*, passed second reading and was referred to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security on April 20, 2026, despite widespread opposition from privacy advocates, technology companies, and civil liberties groups. Under the guise of public safety, this bill would permit government and law enforcement to compel electronic service providers (such as Rogers, Bell, Google, WhatsApp, VPN providers, and AI platforms) to retain Canadians’ private data for one year. It would further require these providers to develop systems for preparing your data for law enforcement review. On May 22, Justice Centre board member and constitutional historian Dr. John Robson delivered 42,344 petition signatures to Ottawa, urging all Members of Parliament to reject Bill C-22. The Justice Centre also submitted a brief to the Standing Committee on May 12, warning that Bill C-22 violates Canadians’ privacy.

Defending female inmates from cruel and unusual punishment



Nova Institution for Women - one of five correctional facilities for women across Canada

The federal government allows biological males who identify as women, including those with intact male genitalia, to serve their sentences in federal women’s prisons. Our donors are helping Canadian Women’s Sex-Based Rights (CAWSBAR) challenge this policy, which violates female inmates’ rights to safety and protection from cruel and unusual punishment—rights protected by the *Charter*. Female prisoners have reported being stalked, assaulted, harassed, and sexually abused by trans-identifying male inmates. On May 14, 2026, the Federal Court denied the federal government’s motion to dismiss the constitutional challenge. In a separate ruling, the Court granted CAWSBAR public interest standing, acknowledging evidence that federally incarcerated women may be unable or unwilling to raise concerns about this policy due to fear of retaliation or negative impacts on parole decisions.

Alberta women face complaints over opposition to transgender ideology



Karen Richert

Ordinary Canadians are facing lengthy and costly human rights prosecutions simply for voicing dissenting views on controversial topics. Benita Pedersen faces a complaint for distributing flyers opposing a proposed rainbow crosswalk in Westlock, Alberta. Karen Richert, a Leduc business owner and former municipal candidate, also faces a discrimination complaint for questioning the appropriateness of a “family-friendly” drag show for children. Our lawyers will argue that Ms. Pedersen’s and Ms. Richert’s comments fall squarely within protected expression and should not be subject to investigation or penalty. Both cases reveal the urgent need to repeal Section 3 of the *Alberta Human Rights Act*, which is examined in the Justice Centre’s recent report, “Speech on Trial: Censorship by Human Rights Commissions.”