

Opposing Bill C-34, the *Safe Social Media Act*



The Justice Centre is urging Parliament to reject Bill C-34, the *Safe Social Media Act*, which would force regulated social media companies to ban Canadians under age 16 from having accounts. In practice, this would require all Canadians to verify their age to access the social media platforms they use every day for news, business, entertainment, and democratic engagement. Depending on how the ban is implemented, Canadians could be required to submit government-issued identification, use digital ID platforms, or consent to facial age-estimation technologies before accessing social media.

The Bill would also establish a Digital Safety Commission with vast powers to regulate social media companies, AI chatbots, and websites. Further, the Bill would empower the Commission to ban vaguely defined “harmful” and “hateful” content from the internet. At the same time, the *Safe Social Media Act* entrusts dozens of critical decisions to Cabinet and a future Commission, leaving Canadians in the dark about how the *Act* will reshape the internet. While protecting children online is important, our new report explains how Bill C-34 threatens privacy, parental authority, and freedom of expression, and proposes targeted enforcement against actual crimes instead of population-wide surveillance and identity screening. Read our report at www.jccf.ca/reports.

Educating Canadians of all ages

Our education program equips young Canadians to understand and defend their *Charter* rights and freedoms. We encourage all Canadians aged 15 and up to take our online courses, including “Exploring Freedom of Conscience and Religion” and “Exploring Freedom of Peaceful Assembly,” at www.jccf.ca/courses.

Our latest report shows how the notwithstanding clause (section 33 of the *Charter*) protects democracy by allowing Parliament and provincial legislatures to shield legislation from being struck down by the courts. “Saving Canada from Juristocracy” explains how the *Charter* defends Canadians against unelected judges interfering with the decisions of their democratically elected representatives. Read this report and others at www.jccf.ca/reports.

Your donation defends freedom

We rely entirely on voluntary donations to defend the rights and freedoms of all Canadians. We do not accept government funding. Every case described in this Docket requires careful legal work, advocacy in the court of public opinion, and the incredible courage of Canadians who stand against government abuses of power.

Will you help us continue this work? Please donate 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. To learn more about including the Justice Centre in your will, please email giving@jccf.ca. You will receive a charitable tax receipt for 2026 donations in February 2027.

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Justice Centre
for Constitutional Freedoms

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“Across Canada, governments continue to censor speech, prioritize ideology over freedom, and violate Canadians’ privacy. But our donors are on the front lines: defending a teacher who was fired for challenging the media, defending a nurse who was suspended for advocating for women, and challenging legislation that would force all Canadians to surrender their private information. At the same time, we are celebrating significant victories that set strong precedents for freedom of expression. Thank you for standing with us in defence of Canadians’ civil liberties.”

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

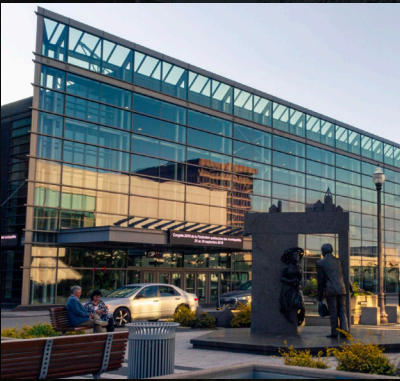
BC teacher fired for questioning claims about mass grave



Dr. Jim McMurtry

In May 2021, Dr. Jim McMurtry led a Grade 12 classroom discussion about news that a mass grave had been found at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. No teacher could have been better equipped to lead that discussion. Dr. McMurtry had a PhD in education with a specialization in indigenous history. He asked his students whether it was right to use terms like “mass grave” or “mass murder” before police had verified the presence of human remains. To this day, no bodies have been discovered, but that conversation would change the course of his life. School staff forcibly removed him from his classroom, and his school district fired him in February 2023, despite a spotless 30-year teaching record. His union dropped his case, calling it “unwinnable.” He went all the way to the BC Labour Relations Board, but they refused to help. Our lawyers are now asking the BC Supreme Court to rule that Dr. McMurtry’s case must proceed to arbitration and that his union cannot ignore his freedom of expression.

Quebec Court rebukes Tourism Minister for cancelling rental contract



Quebec City convention centre

In July, the Quebec Superior Court ruled that the government violated the freedom of expression of Harvest Ministries International (HMI) when it cancelled a rental contract between HMI and a convention centre. Just weeks before HMI’s conference, Quebec Minister of Tourism Caroline Proulx ordered the convention centre to cancel the contract due to HMI’s position on abortion. Minister Proulx even declared that Quebec would not permit “anti-abortion groups to put on big shows in public spaces,” even though HMI’s conference had nothing to do with abortion. The Court found that Minister Proulx had acted without legal authority, exercised power arbitrarily, and violated the *Charter*. The Court ordered Minister Proulx to pay HMI \$60,637 in general and punitive damages, sending a powerful warning to governments not to violate Canadians’ rights and freedoms.

Court strikes down Ontario’s ban on political billboards



George Katerberg’s billboard

In March 2024, George Katerberg rented a billboard along Highway 17 near Thessalon, Ontario. His billboard criticized public officials for their management of Covid and for vaccine mandates. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation objected to the sign, so George changed it, but then the Ministry rejected his application. Soon after, the Ministry adopted a policy effectively banning political messages along Ontario highways. Thanks to the support of our donors, however, the Ontario Divisional Court struck down the policy, ruling that it had no rational connection to the stated goal of protecting the integrity of highways and that it violated George’s freedom of expression. This judgment confirms that governments cannot favour commercial advertising while excluding political expression from the same public setting.

Alberta woman faces eight-day hearing for opposing rainbow crosswalks



Benita Pedersen

In June 2023, the Town of Westlock, Alberta, proposed a rainbow crosswalk featuring the colours of “Pride” and transgender inclusion. Benita Pedersen, a children’s entertainer and event organizer, opposed the project. So, she handed out flyers about the harmful and irreversible effects of gender transition surgeries on children, and she encouraged locals to share their concerns with the town council. Soon after, a woman named Laurie Hodge filed a discrimination complaint against her with the Alberta Human Rights Commission. As a result, Benita was forced to undergo an eight-day hearing before the Alberta Human Rights Tribunal in September. Our lawyers are helping Benita defend her freedom of expression and her right to participate in democracy. Canadians should be able to debate municipal policy and controversial social questions without enduring years of costly human rights proceedings simply because others find their views offensive.

BC nurse Amy Hamm defends her freedom of expression



Amy Hamm

In 2020, nurse Amy Hamm co-sponsored a billboard supporting the right of women to access female-only spaces, such as crisis centres, sporting events, and prisons. Soon after, anonymous complaints were filed against her with the BC College of Nurses and Midwives, which began investigating thousands of Amy’s articles, interviews, podcasts, and social-media posts. In March 2025, the College found her guilty of unprofessional conduct for stating, among other things, that men cannot become women. Despite a spotless record over 13 years, the College suspended her nursing licence for one month and ordered her to pay \$93,639 in costs. Thanks to our donors, Amy has appealed her case to the BC Supreme Court, arguing that her College made serious errors and violated her freedom of expression. The Court will review her arguments in November. The outcome could set a strong precedent for all regulated professionals.

Alberta couple challenges the 2026 long-form census



2026 long-form census

Bradley and Linda Osborne were among the Canadians selected to complete the 2026 long-form census. The census contained more than 70 questions, including questions about mental health, disability, religion, ancestry, commuting habits, housing, sexual orientation, sex assigned at birth, and gender identity. Those who refused to answer faced fines of up to \$500. While the Osbornes recognize the importance of censuses, they object to being forced to disclose intimate information about their personal lives. After all, can the government force Canadians to answer *any question* as part of a census? With help from our lawyers, they are asking the Federal Court to rule that the government abused its authority, and violated their privacy and right to liberty. This case will help determine how far government can go when demanding Canadians’ personal information through a mandatory census.