

May 14, 2020

Mr. Michael Bryant, Executive Director & General Counsel
Ms. Cara Zwibel, Director of Fundamental Freedoms
Canadian Civil Liberties Association
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Dear Mr. Bryant and Ms. Zwibel:

Thank you for your correspondence of May 11, 2020, wherein you raised concerns with respect to recent measures of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, Special Measures Order (Amendment No. 11) made by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the amendments effected to the *Public Health Protection and Promotion Act* when Bill 38 was passed by the House of Assembly and given Royal Assent.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had, and continues to have, a devastating impact around the world. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, like governments across Canada and around the world, has been faced with the challenge of adopting appropriate measures, on the best available evidence, to respond to this pandemic.

The measures taken by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador have been for the purpose of saving lives and reducing the impacts of a serious threat to the health of the population.

The actions taken by the Province have, in every instance, been assessed to balance these pressing public health concerns with their impacts on the *Charter* rights of individuals, as well as to remain within the constitutional jurisdiction of the Province.

I thank you for raising these important issues.

Sincerely,



ANDREW PARSONS, QC
Minister of Justice and Public Safety
Attorney General