



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION DU
BARREAU CANADIEN

Office of the President
Cabinet du président

September 1, 2022

Via email: Renee.Theriault@SCC-CSC.CA

The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C.
Chief Justice of Canada
Supreme Court of Canada
301 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0J1

Dear Chief Justice Wagner:

The Canadian Bar Association cheered your historic first sitting outside Ottawa in 2019 when the Supreme Court of Canada journeyed to Winnipeg. At that time, we supported a principled approach to occasional SCC sittings outside Ottawa, taking several factors into consideration: the relationship to the region where the hearing would be held; the cost to the parties; opportunities for public engagement and education; and public perception of the stressors in the justice system generally.

Without a doubt, the Winnipeg events were a success, and we wholeheartedly support your plans to conduct two hearings in Quebec City later this month. We believe that bringing SCC proceedings to different parts of Canada can only strengthen the bond between the Court and the public at a time when connection is sorely needed.

The pandemic has heightened the need for societal connection and a better understanding of our democratic institutions. Though technological innovations have gone a long way to give the public access to our Courts, in-person attendance can bring additional dimensions of understanding and appreciation of the work of the SCC.

The SCC and the CBA also share a commitment to an impartial and independent judiciary, without which there is no rule of law. You may be interested to know that judicial independence is one of my key priorities as CBA President. I look forward to any assistance our Association may offer to advance this common goal.

The Canadian Bar Association appreciates the Supreme Court of Canada's commitment to enhancing public appreciation of Canada's law and democratic institutions.

Sincerely,

(original letter signed by Steeves Bujold)

Steeves Bujold, he/him-il/lui