

FEDERAL COURT OF APPEAL
COUR D'APPEL FÉDÉRALE



FEDERAL COURT
COUR FÉDÉRALE

COURT MARTIAL APPEAL COURT OF CANADA
COUR D'APPEL DE LA COUR MARTIALE DU CANADA

Ottawa, June 13, 2022

Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

Dear Chair / Members of the Committee:

We have been following with interest the progress of Bill C-13, An Act to amend the Official Languages Act, to enact the Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act and to make related amendments to other Acts.

As Canada's national, bijural and bilingual courts, we are fully committed to access to our courts' decisions in both official languages. We are in strong support of the proposed amendment to make available simultaneously, in both official languages, the final decisions of courts that have precedential value. We are concerned, however, that the government may be introducing new translation requirements without clearly identifying a source of funds to meet them.

As you may be aware, the Courts Administration Service (CAS) provides various services to our courts, including translation. Current translation resources are insufficient to meet existing requirements. Significant additional resources will be required if our courts are to fully meet current and new expectations.

We seek assurance that the Government of Canada will not impose these new obligations on the courts without providing for the resources required to meet them. If new measures are adopted without necessary financing, there is a very real possibility that our courts will be unable to comply. This would not reflect well on either the courts or the government.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We would encourage your officials to consult with our Chief Administrator, Ms. Darlene Carreau, to discuss the specifics of the

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H9

funding needs and the best approach to secure those funds as quickly as possible, and certainly before Royal Assent is given to Bill C-13.

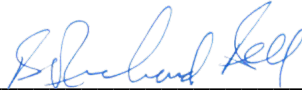
Yours Sincerely,



Marc Noël
Chief Justice,
Federal Court of Appeal



Paul S. Crampton
Chief Justice,
Federal Court



B. Richard Bell
Chief Justice,
Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada

- c.c. The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Official Languages
The Honourable Mona Fortier, President of the Treasury Board
Chair / Members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages