



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF CROWN COUNSEL
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES JURISTES DE L'ÉTAT

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January 21, 2011

Premier Jean Charest
Édifice Honoré-Mercier,
3^e étage
835, boul. René-Lévesque Est
Québec (Québec) G1A 1B4

Dear Premier:

Mandate for Strike by Quebec Government Lawyers Declaration of Support

The Canadian Association of Crown Counsel represents every Federal and Provincial government lawyer association in Canada and through them each front-line crown counsel and prosecutor.

We have been witness to the plight of your government lawyers, both civil counsel and crown prosecutors for a number of years, and with growing alarm. In order to attempt to rebuild their part of the administration of justice it now appears that these workers, ably represented by the AJE and APPCP, are left to contemplate the only method of dispute resolution they have left namely, the right to strike.

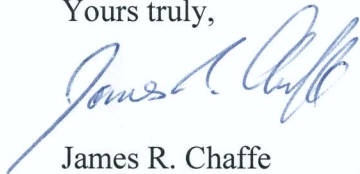
Over the course of the last 10 years, these extraordinarily dedicated and hardworking people have fallen, along with the critical constitutional role that they play in the administration of justice, off the radar of the Provincial Government. The role they play in Quebec society is foundational. For civil counsel it is the role of speaking truth to power and ensuring that the Government acts lawfully. For criminal prosecutors it is ensuring public safety and that the criminal justice system operates fairly and without preference or prejudice. Together these counsel are responsible for the existence and vitality of the rule of law in your democratic state. They work today in an environment that is hostile to their foundational role.

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While crown prosecutors and crown counsel across Canada are facing a wide range of challenges in their respective workplaces, the situation in Quebec is particularly dire and untenable. It is particularly deplorable that strike action must be considered by crown counsel. We spend our entire careers trying to ensure that our communities can have confidence in the administration of justice. However, given the current state of crisis in the justice system of Quebec, and your Government's failure to respond, we are of the view that strike action is both reasonable and necessary.

We, the Canadian Association of Crown Counsel, stand in full support of the APPCP and AJE, and their members, in their efforts to rebuild the administration of justice in Quebec and in their contemplation of strike action. We trust that by this matter being brought squarely to the attention of the Quebec government that you will make a genuine effort to sit down with the AJE and APPCP in order come to a fair resolution of this problem.

Yours truly,



James R. Chaffe
CACC/ACJE President

JRC/mr

CC: Christian Leblanc, President, APPCP

Marc Lajoie, President, AJE

The Honourable Jean-Marc Fournier, **Ministère de la Justice**, 1200, route de l'Église, 9^e étage, Québec (Québec) G1V 4M1, www.justice.gouv.qc.ca

The Honourable Michelle Courchesne, **Conseil du trésor**, 875, Grande Allée Est, 4^e étage, secteur 100, Québec (Québec), G1R 5R8, www.tresor.gouv.qc.ca