

September 29, 2020

Via email

The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H8

Dear Minister Lametti,
Re: Judicial Vacancies in Newfoundland and Labrador

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Bar Association – Newfoundland and Labrador Branch (CBA-NL), regarding judicial vacancies in Newfoundland and Labrador.

As you are aware, there are currently four judicial vacancies at the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador.

We understand that contributing to the delay in judicial appointments is the formation of the federal Judicial Advisory Committee for Newfoundland and Labrador, which has been vacant since June 2019. It is our understanding that all stakeholders represented on the committee have submitted names for consideration to the committee, and we ask that the committee be appointed immediately so they may begin their important work.

These judicial vacancies, now combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, is contributing to justice system delays in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Maintaining a full judicial complement is a critical component of a properly functioning justice system. Unfilled vacancies will continue to create serious problems and we urge you to take the immediate necessary steps to fill all existing judicial vacancies in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sincerely,

(original letter signed by Gregory J. French)

Gregory J. French, President, Canadian Bar Association – Newfoundland and Labrador Branch

cc. François Giroux, Judicial Affairs Advisor