

18 October 2022

The Honourable Paul Rouleau
Commissioner
Public Order Emergency Commission

c/o Shantona Chaudhury and Jeffrey Leon
Co-lead Counsel

By email: Shantona.Chaudhury@poec-cedu.gc.ca and Jeffrey.Leon@poec-cedu.gc.ca

Dear Commissioner Rouleau:

Re: Premier Douglas Ford and Minister Sylvia Jones

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Constitution Foundation, and the Ottawa Coalition of Residents and Businesses jointly propose that the Commission call Ontario Premier Douglas Ford and Minister Sylvia Jones as witnesses forthwith, in light of the testimony of Steve Kanellakos, Serge Arpin, and Mayor Jim Watson. Premier Ford held office during the Ottawa protests, Minister Jones was Solicitor General of Ontario at that time, and her responsibilities included the Ontario Provincial Police.

We make this request pursuant to Rule 36, which provides:

Parties may also propose witnesses or experts to be called to support, challenge, comment upon or supplement the Overview Reports in ways that are likely to significantly contribute to an understanding of the issues relevant to this Inquiry.

“Overview Report: Timeline of Certain Key Events” does not include many details regarding meetings involving senior federal, provincial and municipal officials regarding potential responses to the Ottawa protests. That information has been provided in testimony by Messrs. Kanellakos, Arpin, and Watson, and related documents.

That evidence describes numerous attempts to persuade Premier Ford and Minister Jones to join those intergovernmental processes, their apparent refusal to participate, and the frustration of federal and municipal officials at this refusal. Moreover, Mayor Watson testified that the

province should have participated in these discussions, and if it had, provincial policing resources may have been provided more quickly to the City of Ottawa.

That evidence also describe the apparent position of Prime Minister Trudeau that Mayor Watson should seek provincial resources before requesting further federal support.

If Premier Ford and Minister Jones were to testify, we expect to ask them questions about the above matters, including (but not limited to) the Premier's powers under Ontario's *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Champ, Ottawa Coalition of Residents and Businesses

Sujit Choudhry, Canadian Constitution Foundation

Cara Zwibel, Canadian Civil Liberties Association