



Ontario
Civil Liberties
Association

"The OCLA takes a vigorous and highly principled approach to defending free speech rights, which is an approach that is sorely needed in Canada today."

— John Carpay,
President,
Justice Centre for
Constitutional Freedoms

"I am very pleased to learn of the Ontario Civil Liberties Association, and wish it the greatest success in its work, which could not be more timely and urgent as elementary civil rights, including freedom of speech, are under attack in much of the world, not excluding the more free and democratic societies."

— Noam Chomsky,
Institute Professor, MIT

"Freedom of expression is our most fundamental and most precious freedom. It has been under attack in Canada for years. The Ontario Civil Liberties Association has taken a position on freedom of expression that is both courageous and principled. The OCLA now stands alone and its position should be supported by all Canadians who cherish democracy and freedom."

— Robert Martin,
Professor of Law,
Emeritus,
Western University

ocla.ca

March 11, 2013

By registered mail

Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada
Supreme Court of Canada
301 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0J1

Chief Justice:

Re: Gowlings' March 7, 2013 letter about OCLA's concerns

We find it profoundly sad and unfortunate that Mr. Dearden has been so carried away by his desire to advance the interests of his client that he ventured to make an *ad hominem* attack against a nascent organization which has been endorsed by prominent civil liberties leaders.

We wish to express our sincere hope that Mr. Dearden's partisan intervention will not create an unnecessary distraction from the investigation of our serious concerns about the conduct of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada towards self-represented litigants. These concerns are of a systemic nature and their scope are beyond any specific case or party.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Hickey
Executive Director
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Cc: Canadian Judicial Council
Cc: Richard Dearden, Gowlings