

March 24, 2016

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Wilson-Raybould:

I am writing further to the announcement by Justice Cromwell of the Supreme Court of Canada that he will be retiring as of September 2016. His great contributions from the bench will certainly be missed.

By convention, the seat currently occupied by Justice Cromwell is filled by an appointment from the Atlantic Provinces and I am writing to advocate that it is time for that seat to be filled by an appointment from Newfoundland and Labrador.

Since 1875, New Brunswick has had six appointments to the SCC and Nova Scotia has had five including Justice Cromwell. PEI has had one: Sir Louis Henry Davies, who was actually that province's Premier at one point in time. He later went on to become Chief Justice.

As it stands, of the last four Atlantic Canadian SCC appointees since 1949 (coincidentally the year Newfoundland and Labrador joined Canada), two were from New Brunswick and two were from Nova Scotia. This mirrors the circumstance facing the Prime Minister at the time of Sir Louis Davies' appointment from PEI in 1901. Perhaps at that time, Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier recognized the imbalance and rectified it with Davies' appointment.

It is worth noting that it took PEI just 28 years from their date of Confederation to have representation on the SCC bench. By comparison, it has now been 67 years since Newfoundland and Labrador's Confederation and we remain the only Atlantic Canadian Province to have never had representation on the SCC bench.

As we approach the April 1 anniversary of Newfoundland and Labrador becoming the country's tenth province, I can think of no better recognition of our considerable contributions to the federation than the appointment of a Supreme Court Justice from here. While there are undoubtedly strong candidates across Atlantic Canada worthy of consideration, I strongly feel, as do many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, our time has come.

Through the impact of its decisions, the SCC plays an increasingly important part in the

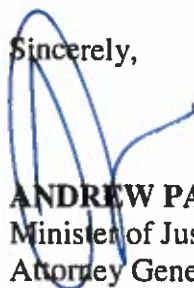
daily lives of all Canadians. This has always been true in Newfoundland and Labrador, where decisions by the Court on a number of fundamental issues has shaped the Province's economic future and its relationship with Canada as a whole.

I believe that our Province has a number of eminently qualified jurists and practitioners, any one of whom would be an asset to the SCC, and who would be a benefit to the country through both the application of their legal skills and their Atlantic Canadian perspective.

Through such an appointment you have the opportunity to make history and complete one of the outstanding actions of inclusiveness from Newfoundland and Labrador's joining Canada 67 years ago.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,



ANDREW PARSONS
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CC:

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