



Sheila Annette Lewis
1964 - 2023

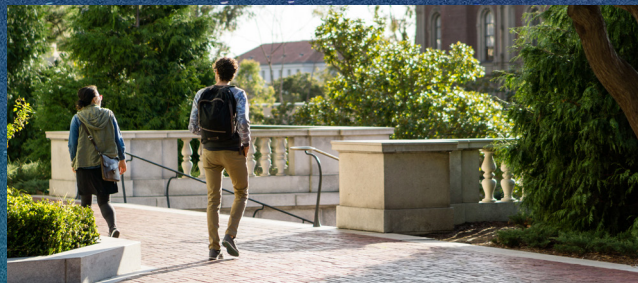
Freedom depends on citizens who cherish a free and virtuous society

Sheila Annette Lewis was on the waiting list for a life-saving organ transplant, but Alberta Health Services removed her when she refused to be injected with the Covid vaccine. Our lawyers argued that her right to bodily autonomy was protected by both the *Alberta Bill of Rights* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The Court decided that the *Charter* did not protect her right to bodily autonomy and ignored her rights under the *Alberta Bill of Rights*. Without an organ transplant, Ms. Lewis died in August 2023.

Some court rulings are truly terrible, and Canada needs more judges who truly appreciate and respect our *Charter* rights and freedoms. However, the free society is ultimately protected not by the words of the *Charter* or the *Alberta Bill of Rights*, but only by virtuous citizens and judges who understand freedom in their minds and cherish freedom in their hearts.

In November 2024, the Justice Centre stated that Premier Danielle Smith's amendments to the *Alberta Bill of Rights* were a small step in the right direction, but by no means a panacea or "silver bullet" to the cultural decay that is the biggest cause of our current problems.



Educating Canadians about freedom

The Justice Centre's curriculum on the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* is targeted towards high school students, but of interest to all Canadians of all ages. We have now produced modules on the freedoms of conscience and religion, expression, and peaceful assembly.

You can also learn more about your rights and freedoms by listening to our podcast, reading our columns, or learning more about our active cases at www.jccf.ca/cases

Will you partner with us in defending rights and freedoms?

The Justice Centre relies entirely on voluntary donations from Canadians to defend the free society. We do not receive any government funding.

Please donate online at www.jccf.ca, by e-transfer to etransfer@jccf.ca, or call in your credit card number to us at 403-475-3622. You will receive an official tax receipt in February 2025.

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Justice Centre
for Constitutional Freedoms

The Docket
— ▲ —
Christmas 2024



Zexi Li still pursuing \$290 million lawsuit against Freedom Convoy supporters and donors

Thousands of Canadians peacefully protested Covid vaccine mandates in the nation's capital in 2022. Some Ottawa residents, including Zexi Li, felt disrupted by the protest and launched a \$290-million class action lawsuit against Chris Barber, Tamara Lich, and hundreds of other protestors. The lawsuit even targets *donors* to the Freedom Convoy and *people who were not in Ottawa at the time*. The Justice Centre is providing lawyers to defend these donors, peaceful protesters, and all Canadians.

On October 28, our lawyers argued in court that Zexi Li's lawsuit is a lawsuit designed to intimidate or silence the protestors by, for example, burdening them with the costs of a legal defence. All protestors in Canada enjoy the right to participate in public debate about matters of public interest, such as a federal vaccine mandate preventing millions of Canadians from working, travelling, studying, and accessing medical care. If we are successful in court, the outcome will send a powerful message to anyone tempted to silence the expression of peaceful protestors.

John Carpay stated, "The fundamental *Charter* freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly must be vigorously protected and defended, whether they are attacked directly by government or indirectly through a misguided civil action."



Defending Constable Michael Brisco and his right to donate to political causes

No Canadian should be punished for expressing their political views. Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened to Constable Michael Brisco. A 15-year veteran of the Windsor Police Service, he anonymously donated \$50 to the Freedom Convoy protest via GiveSendGo.

Days later, the GiveSendGo donor list was illegally hacked, and his donor identity was disclosed to the Windsor Police Service. Constable Brisco was charged with "discreditable conduct" and forced to forfeit 80 hours of pay. (The hacker committed a crime but has never been charged.)

With help from the Justice Centre, Constable Brisco challenged his conviction. His lawyers have argued that the evidence against him is thin at best, resting entirely on an illegally hacked donor list, and on assertions made by politicians. Most importantly, his conviction violates his freedom of expression – protected by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. As a citizen, Constable Brisco enjoys the right to donate to political causes as much as any other Canadian, regardless of his chosen profession.

On December 11, the Ontario Divisional Court heard his case, which will impact the right of millions of Canadians to support causes they care about without fear of punishment.



Justice Centre challenges Waterloo, Quebec, over violating freedom of religion

Approximately 12 Canadians die by suicide every day. After his own son committed suicide, Claude Tremblay founded Le Groupe Jaspe in 1999. He set out to knock on every door in Quebec's 1,000 cities and towns to "break isolation and promote dialogue with suicidal and desperate people." Over the past 25 years, the volunteers of Le Groupe Jaspe have reached the people of 50 cities and 771 villages with a powerful religious message about the value of life.

Earlier this year, the City of Waterloo ticketed a member of Le Groupe Jaspe for violating a bylaw that prohibits soliciting without a permit, even though the law in Quebec recognizes the right of people to share their message door-to-door. The City prosecutor is invoking Quebec's secularism law, passed in 2019, which seeks to promote the separation of state and religion. This prosecutor seems to think that "state neutrality" means that religious expression should be outlawed in public.

With help from the Justice Centre, Le Groupe Jaspe has challenged the application of this bylaw to them on the grounds that it violates their freedoms of expression and religion. This case will set a precedent that impacts the freedoms of expression and religion in Quebec and across Canada.