## Police Officers in Ontario Ask Superior Court to Clarify Constitutionality of COVID Measures

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"Police on Guard for Thee" Retain Rocco Galati as Legal
Counsel

by <u>the Constitutional Rights Centre</u> January 11, 2021

## PRESS RELEASE

Several active Police Officers in Ontario, many of whom are members of "Police on Guard for Thee", have retained the legal services of Rocco Galati, supported and backed by the Constitutional Rights Centre, to bring a Court application, in the Superior Court of Ontario, in order to clarify the constitutionality of the Covid Measures they are being asked/directed to enforce as well as clarification on the scope of their authority, duty, and discretion in their enforcement. They are concerned about the apparent *Charter* violations of this "enforcement". In their words, they are concerned because:

"Right now, people are scared. They come to police in the community that they know and trust asking what is happening. They see officers acting on the authority of these mandates and it makes them wonder if they have the right to go and see their loved ones, or will they be, arrested? Charged? Fined?

Police take pride and honour in standing between criminals and the good public we serve. We desire to continue to protect our communities and the reputation and integrity of the police services we work for, including our respective commanding officers and associations. We do not wish to contravene direct orders given by our command, but we do not wish to be forced to follow unconstitutional orders. This puts us in an untenable position.

The fundamental human rights that are found in the *Charter* are being violated. We swore an oath to uphold the *Charter*, keep the peace, prevent offences and ensure public safety. Some officers are doing what they're told without realizing that in doing so they are actually breaching the *Charter* which they swore to uphold in their oaths.

It is our job to not only protect the citizens, yet again, against these *Charter* violations, but also to remind all officers out on the road of what their oath actually states and means. Some of them have drifted away from the oath without realizing, due to pressure from supervisors and politicians. This has led to often extreme action by officers which has caused severe bodily harm, and even death, of otherwise good and law-abiding citizens they are supposed to protect.

That is why we are acting now. We cannot continue to go along with unethical, vague, overly-broad, arbitrary, draconian, and unconstitutional practises and directives in law-enforcement. Any violation of the oath that we took renders enforcement unlawful. Any violations of the *Charter* through enforcement is unacceptable. It has never been more important than right now for the police to stand on guard for thee. That is why we seek the clarification of our independent judiciary. "

Any questions should be directed to our legal counsel Rocco Galati at 416-530-9684.