



ALBERTA
JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Acadia

Laurie B.
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AR 10671

November 18, 2014

Mr. Kent Hehr, MLA
Calgary-Buffalo
Alberta Liberal Party
201 Legislature Annex
9718 – 107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E4



Dear Mr. Hehr:

Thank you for your follow-up letter dated October 21, 2014 regarding the use of both official languages during Court proceedings.

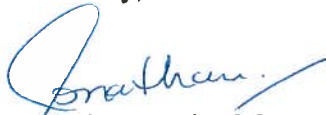
As mentioned in my previous letter, the *R. v. Caron* ruling by the Alberta Court of Appeal on February 21, 2014 stated there is no constitutional obligation to provide laws, and by extension, services, in French. This matter is currently under appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada and is tentatively scheduled for hearing on February 13, 2015. Please be assured that the position Alberta is taking in this case is well-supported in law, as evidenced by the decision from the Alberta Court of Appeal.

Two of the statutes mentioned in your letter, the *Languages Act* and the *Criminal Code of Canada* give a statutory right to either French or English upon application to the Court. The *Divorce Act* provides no statutory mechanism for documents to be filed on a specific language, or for proceedings to be in a specific language.

As you are aware, language rights are not identical across Canada, and in Alberta, language rights in courts are statutory and are given to the Courts to determine upon application.

Thank you again for following up on this issue.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister