

S.C.C. Court File No.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA
(ON APPEAL FROM THE COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO)

BETWEEN:

ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHEDRO CHURCH OF CANADA
also known as ST. MARY CATHEDRAL and MESALE ENEGADA
and ABUNE DIMETROS and HIWOT BEKELE

APPLICANTS
(Respondents)

AND:

TESHOME AGA, YOSEPH BEYENE, DEREJE GOSHU,
TSEDUKE GEZAW and BELAY HEBEST

RESPONDENTS
(Applicants)

AND:

THE EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA and CATHOLIC CIVIL RIGHTS
LEAGUE

INTERVENERS

**FACTUM OF THE EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA AND THE
CATHOLIC CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE
(INTERVENERS)**

VINCENT DAGENAIS GIBSON LLP/s.r.l.
260 Dalhousie Street, Suite 400
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7E4
Albertos Polizogopoulos / Isabelle Corbeil
Tel : 613-241-2701
Fax : 613-241-2599
albertos@vdg.ca / Isabelle.corbeil@vdg.ca
Counsel for the Interveners,
the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and
the Catholic Civil Rights League

<p>Philip H. Horgan Raphael T.R. Fernandes Tel.: 416-666-9994 Fax: 416-777-9921 phorgan@carltonlaw.ca Counsel for the Appellants, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedro Church of Canada also known as St. Mary Cathedral and Mesale Enegada and Abune Dimetros and Hiwot Bekele</p>	<p>Marie-France Major SUPREME ADVOCACY LLP 100 – 340 Gilmour Street Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0R3</p> <p>Tel: (613) 695-8855, Ext: 102 Fax: (613) 695-8580 mfmajor@supremeadvocacy.ca Agent for the Appellants, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedro Church of Canada also known as St. Mary Cathedral and Mesale Enegada and Abune Dimetros and Hiwot Bekele</p>
<p>LENTO PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 3200 Dufferin Street, Suite 504 Toronto, Ontario M6A 3B2</p> <p>Anthony Colangelo Tel.: 416-398-4044 Fax: 416-398-7396 acolangelo@lentolaw.com Counsel for the Respondents Teshome Aga, Yoseph Beyene, Dereje Goshu, Tseduke Gezaw and Belay Hebest</p>	
<p>Michael A. Feder MCCARTHY TÉTRAULT LLP 745 Thurlow Street, Suite 2400 Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 0C5</p> <p>Tel: (604) 643-5983 Fax: (604) 622-5614 mfeder@mccarthy.ca Counsel for the Intervener, Supreme Court Advocacy Institute</p>	<p>Nadia Effendi BORDEN LADNER GÉRAIS LLP 100 Queen Street, Suite 1300 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J9</p> <p>Tel: (613) 237-5160 Fax: (613) 230-8842 neffendi@blg.com Agent for the Respondent, Randy Wall</p>
<p>Barry Bussey / Deina Warren CANADIAN CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN CHARITIES 1-43 Howard Avenue Elmira, Ontario N3B 2C9</p> <p>Tel : (519) 669-5137 Fax : (519) 669-3291 barry.bussey@cccc.org /</p>	<p>Eugene Meehan SUPREME ADVOCACY LLP 100 – 340 Gilmour Street Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0R3</p> <p>Tel: (613) 695-8855, Ext: 101 Fax: (613) 695-8580 emeehan@supremeadvocacy.ca Agent for the Intervener,</p>

deina.warren@cccc.org Counsel for the Intervener, Canadian Centre for Christian Charities	Canadian Centre for Christian Charities
John Sikkema ASSOCIATION FOR REFORMED POLITICAL ACTION (ARPA) CANADA 130 Albert Street, Suite 1705 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4 Tel: (613) 297-5172 Fax: (613) 249-3238 john@arpacanada.ca Counsel for the Intervener, Association for Reformed Political Action (ARPA) Canada	Eugene Meehan SUPREME ADVOCACY LLP 100 – 340 Gilmour Street Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0R3 Tel: (613) 695-8855, Ext: 101 Fax: (613) 695-8580 emeehan@supremeadvocacy.ca Agent for the Intervener, Association for Reformed Political Action (ARPA) Canada
Derek B.M. Ross CHRISTIAN LEGAL FELLOWSHIP 285 King Street, Suite 202 London, ON N6B 3M6 Telephone: (519) 601-4099 Fax: (519) 601-4098 execdir@christianlegalfellowship.org Counsel for the Intervener, Christian Legal Fellowship	Eugene Meehan SUPREME ADVOCACY LLP 100 – 340 Gilmour Street Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0R3 Tel: (613) 695-8855, Ext: 101 Fax: (613) 695-8580 emeehan@supremeadvocacy.ca Agent for the Intervener, Christian Legal Fellowship
Kevin Boonstra KUHN LLP 100-32160 South Fraser Way Abbotsford, British Columbia V2T 1W5 Tel: (604) 864-8877 FAX: (604) 864-8867 Email: kboonstra@kuhnco.net Counsel for the Intervener, Seventh-day Adventist Church	Marie-France Major SUPREME ADVOCACY LLP 100 – 340 Gilmour Street Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0R3 Tel: (613) 695-8855, Ext: 102 Fax: (613) 695-8580 mfmajor@supremeadvocacy.ca Agent for the for the Intervener, Seventh-day Adventist Church
Shahzad F. Siddiqui ABRAHAMS LLP 385 Silver Star Blvd., Suite 215 Toronto, Ontario M1V 0E3 Tel.: (416) 291-6786 Fax: (416) 291-8784 shahzad@abrahamsllp.com Counsel for the Intervener, Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association	
David M. Gnam / Jayden MacEwan	Eugene Meehan, Q.C.

W. GLEN HOW & ASSOCIATES LLP 13893 Highway 7, P.O. Box 40 Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4T1 Tel: (905) 873-4545 Fax: (905) 873-4522 dgnam@wghow.ca / jmacewan@wghow.ca Counsel for the Intervener, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada	SUPREME ADVOCACY LLP 100 – 340 Gilmour Street Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0R3 Tel: (613) 695-8855 Fax: (613) 695-8580 emeehan@supremeadvocacy.ca Agent for the the Intervener, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada
Adam Goldenberg Connor Bildfell MCCARTHY TÉTRAULT LLP Suite 5300, Toronto Dominion Bank Tower Toronto, Ontario M5K 1E6 Telephone: (416) 601-8357 FAX: (416) 868-0673 Email: agoldenberg@mccarthy.ca Counsel for the Intervener, Egale Candad Human Rights Trust	Darius Bossé JURISTES POWER 130, rue Albert bureau 1103 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4 Telephone: (613) 702-5566 FAX: (613) 702-5566 Email: DBosse@juristespower.ca Agent for the Intervener, Egale Canada Human Rights Trust
Mannu Chowdhury BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower 22 Adelaide Street West Toronto, Ontario M5H 4E3 Telephone: (416) 367-6000 FAX: (416) 367-6749 Email: mchowdhury@blg.com Counsel for the Intervener Council of Canadian Muslims	Nadia Effendi BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP 100 Queen Street, Suite 1300 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J9 Tel: (613) 237-5160 Fax: (613) 230-8842 neffendi@blg.com Agent for the Intervener, Council of Canadian Muslims
Cara Faith Zwiebel CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION 90 Eglinton Ave. East Suite 900 Toronto, Ontario M4P 2Y3 Telephone: (416) 646-1409 Email: czwibel@ccla.org Counsel for the Intervener, Canadian Civil Liberties Association	Nadia Effendi BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP 100 Queen Street, Suite 1300 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J9 Tel: (613) 237-5160 Fax: (613) 230-8842 neffendi@blg.com Agent for the Intervener, Canadian Civil Liberties Association
Wesley J. McMillan ALLEN/McMILLAN LITIGATION COUNSEL 1550 - 1185 West Georgia Street Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 4E6	Jeffrey Beedell GOWLING WLG (CANADA) LLP 2600 – 160 Elgin Street Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1C8

Telephone: (604) 282-3980 FAX: (604) 628-3832 Email: wes@amlc.ca Counsel for the Intervener, British Columbia Humanist Association	Tel: 613-786-0171 Fax: 613-788-3587 jeff.beedell@gowlingwlg.com Agent for the Intervener, British Columbia Humanist Association
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PART I – OVERVIEW AND FACTS

1. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada¹ (“EFC”) and Catholic Civil Rights League² (“CCRL”) (collectively “These Interveners”) were granted leave to intervene in this appeal by the Order of the Honourable Abella J. on November 12, 2020 and take no position on the facts.

PART II: ISSUES

2. The EFC and CCRL will make submissions on the following issues:
 - a. Section 2(a) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*³ (the “Charter”) includes protection for the communal dimensions of religious freedom and includes freedom of religious association.
 - b. Ecclesiastical decisions of religious communities, including decisions related to membership cannot be interfered with by the State.

PART III: ARGUMENT

a) Section 2(a) includes protection for the communal dimensions of religious freedom

3. There is no meaningful difference between the religious freedom of the individuals that establish and join a religious community and the community itself.
4. Congregational or hierarchical communities are, by their very nature, religious. They are founded on religious, theological and/or doctrinal principles by religious individuals for expressly religious purposes.
5. Religion is by definition and in practice, a personal commitment manifest in and through community. In the Christian tradition, for example, this communal dimension of belief is manifest in the very concepts of being members of the body of Christ, being brothers and sisters, one with another, and the concept of church. Other world religions also manifest their beliefs in and through communal ways of life:

In the dynamics of history, and in the diversity of ethnic groups, societies and cultures, we see the seeds of a vocation to form a

¹ The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (“EFC”) is a national association of churches, church-related organizations and educational institutions. The EFC is an interdenominational association of Protestant denominations and represents a constituency of 40 denominations, approximately 125 other organizations and colleges in addition to individual churches. There are approximately 4 million Protestant Evangelicals in Canada of which approximately 1.72 million are members or adherents of EFC affiliated organizations.

² The Catholic Civil Rights League (“CCRL”) is a national lay Catholic organization committed to, *inter alia*, engaging the interests of Roman Catholics from across Canada with governmental bodies, and intervening in court challenges in support of law and policy compatible with a Catholic understanding of human nature and the common good.

³ *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, Part I of *The Constitution Act, 1982, Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (UK), 1982, c 11* [“Charter”].

community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another.⁴

6. This Court's jurisprudence is clear that freedom of religion has individual as well as collective aspects to it. In *R. v. Edwards Books and Art Limited*,⁵ Dickson C.J., stated:

In this context, I note that freedom of religion, perhaps unlike freedom of conscience, has both individual and collective aspects. Legislatures are justified in being conscious of the effects of legislation on religious groups as a whole, as well as on individuals.⁶

7. In *Edwards Books*, Wilson J. argued that an interpretation of s. 2a) that protects the religious freedoms of individuals but not the groups they belong to is precluded by s. 27:

Yet it seems to me that when the *Charter* protects group rights such as freedom of religion, it protects the rights of all members of the group. It does not make fish of some and fowl of the others. For, quite apart from considerations of equality, to do so is to introduce an invidious distinction into the group and sever the religious and cultural tie that binds them together. It is, in my opinion, an interpretation of the *Charter* expressly precluded by s. 27 which requires the *Charter* to be interpreted "in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians."⁷

8. In *Alberta v. Hutterian Brethren of Wilson Colony*,⁸ this Court further recognized that freedom of religion has collective aspects.⁹ In his dissenting reasons (though not on this point) Justice Lebel put it this way:

Religion is about religious beliefs, but also about religious relationships. The present appeal signals the importance of this aspect. It raises issues about belief, but also about the maintenance of communities of faith. We are discussing the fate not only of a group of farmers, but of a community that shares a common faith and a way of life that is viewed by its members as a way of living that faith and of passing it on to future generations. As Justice Abella points out, the regulatory measures have an impact not only on the respondents' belief system, but also on the life of the community.¹⁰

9. *Charter* rights do not exist in isolation or independent from each other. Some *Charter* rights are related to others and in some instances, are required in order for the *Charter* right in

⁴ Pope Francis I, "Fratelli Tutti [Encyclical Letter on Fraternity and Social Friendship]", October 3, 2020, at para. 64 online: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html.

⁵ *R. v. Edwards Books and Art Limited*, [1986] 2 S.C.R. 713, at 781 ["*Edwards Books*"].

⁶ *Edwards Books*, *supra*, at 781.

⁷ *Edwards Books*, *supra*, at 808 and 809.

⁸ *Alberta v. Hutterian Brethren of Wilson Colony*, [2009] 2 SCR 567 ["*Hutterian Brethren*"].

⁹ *Hutterian Brethren*, *supra*, at paras. 31, 32, 130, 131, 182.

¹⁰ *Hutterian Brethren*, *supra*, at para. 182.

question to actually be benefitted from. It is important that the *Charter* right being examined be properly considered to ensure a proper appreciation of its scope.¹¹

10. Indeed, this approach has been recognized by this Court:

Thus, the wording of the provision, its structure, the context in which it is found, the relationship there may be between it and the other provisions, as well as the historical context in which the *Charter* was adopted, are all factors that must be taken into consideration in seeking to identify the purpose of a protected right or freedom, in order to preserve the coherence of the entire constitutional text and maintain the integrity of the intention of Parliament. A proper and prudent interpretation of the *Charter* is especially necessary because it is a constitutional document of great import that cannot be altered by a mere statutory amendment if this Court were to misunderstand or err as to the scope of the rights and freedoms to which exceptional protection is afforded.¹²

11. One example of how *Charter* rights are related is found in the right to protest. In order for the right to protest to have any strength, it must include the section 2(b) right to freedom of expression and the section 2(c) right to freedom of assembly.

12. So is the case with freedom of religion.

13. For freedom of religion to have any value, it must also include:

- a) the section 2(a) right to freedom of conscience;
- b) the section 2(b) right to freedom of expression, belief, thought and opinion;
- c) the section 2(d) right to freedom of association; and,
- d) the section 15(1) right to equal treatment under the law on the basis of religion.

14. Interference with any aspect of the freedom of expression, freedom of association or right to equal treatment under the law of religious individuals or communities results in an interference with the freedom of religion of those individuals or communities.

15. Indeed, Bastarache J., recognized the need for communities (or in this case, religious congregations), to permit individuals to exercise their fundamental freedoms:

In interpreting *Charter* provisions, this Court has firmly endorsed a purposive approach. [...] there is no contradiction between protecting individual liberty and personal dignity and the wider objective of recognizing the rights of official language communities. The objective of protecting official language minorities, as set out in s. 2 of the *Official Languages Act*, is realized by the possibility for all members of the minority to exercise independent, individual rights which are justified by the existence of the community. Language rights are not negative rights, or passive rights; they can only be enjoyed if the means are provided. This is consistent with the notion favoured

¹¹ *Multani v. Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys*, [2006] 1 S.C.R. 256, para. 147.

¹² *B. (R.) v. Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto*, [1995] 1 S.C.R. 315, at para. 17.

in the area of international law that the freedom to choose is meaningless in the absence of a duty of the State to take positive steps to implement language guarantees;¹³

16. Freedom of religion is no different.
17. For a Christian, and indeed for many religious individuals, the congregational community and communal worship are necessary components of meaningfully practicing one's faith. The congregational community then, is the vehicle through which Christian individuals carry-out their faith and benefit from their section 2(a) *Charter* right to freedom of religion.
18. Religious belief, practice and worship are not merely personal or private engagements. Co-religionists associate and congregate together in order to *inter alia*, teach, study, learn, pray, serve, evangelize, live, volunteer and worship.. In Catholic and Orthodox communities, the celebration of the Eucharist is the primary example of such community observance. Similarly, in Evangelical churches, the Lord's Supper is considered to be a family meal for the family of believers. It is specifically a communal act.
19. Given the communal dimension of religion which is manifest in religious communities, organizations, congregations and orders, it is important for this Court to recognize how essential community is to freedom of religion. In the case at hand, the individual members of the Highwood Congregation manifest their religious faith and practice through the Highwood Congregation. Any threat to the Church and its religious integrity then, is a direct threat to the individual religious freedom of each of its members.
20. On an individual basis, the Church (or any church, congregation, order, religious community or association) is the necessary vehicle through which the individual members of the Church practice their faith.
21. Recently, in *Congregation des témoins de Jéhovah de St-Jérôme-Lafontaine v. Lafontaine*,¹⁴ Justice Lebel, in dissent (though not on this point), confirmed that the section 2(a) *Charter* right to freedom of religion must include the right to possess or maintain certain vehicles which are necessary to certain individuals' or communities' practice of religion and/or worship through teaching:¹⁵

Freedom of religion includes the right to have a place of worship. Generally speaking, the establishment of a place of worship is necessary to the practice of a religion. Such facilities allow individuals to declare their religious beliefs, to

¹³ *R. v. Beaulac*, [1999] 1 S.C.R. 768, at paras. 16, 20.

¹⁴ *Congrégation des témoins de Jéhovah de St-Jérôme-Lafontaine v. Lafontaine*, [2004] 2 SCR 650 ["Lafontaine"].

¹⁵ *Lafontaine*, *supra*, at para. 73.

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manifest them and, quite simply, to practise their religion by worship, as well as to teach or disseminate it. In short, the construction of a place of worship is an integral part of the freedom of religion protected by s. 2 (a) of the *Charter*.¹⁶

22. Similarly, the EFC and the CCRL submit that the existence of a congregational community (and the preservation of its religious integrity) is a necessary vehicle through which religious individuals carry-out their faith and worship God by worshipping in community.
23. Respect for group autonomy (and thus freedom of association), whether based in religion or another central factor, requires protection of membership decisions, which “necessarily requires the ability to exclude.” Those who disagree with the society’s majority are free to leave and form their own association.¹⁷
24. Freedom of association guarantees more than the bare right to associate. It protects associational activity and participation without interference from the state. The “fundamental purpose” of freedom of association is to “protect the individual from state-enforced isolation in the pursuit of his or her ends.” It protects the right to do collectively what an individual has the right to do alone.
25. In this case, the members of the Church associate around a theological, doctrinal and hierarchical framework which places the Bishop as the ecclesiastical authority over the members on all church matters. Any interference therefore with the Bishop’s decision constitutes a significant interference in the Church community’s (and each individual member’s) freedom of religion and freedom of association.
26. The decision below forces the current Church membership to choose between their freedom of religion and freedom of association. They must either recant their religious beliefs about the authority of the Bishop, or hold fast to them and have their associational rights assaulted by forced admission of the Respondents. The decision below forces the current members to choose between their s. 2(a) or s. 2(d) rights, with no justification.
27. This Court has held that the freedom *not* to associate is particularly an issue when forced association would amount to “ideological coercion.”¹⁸

¹⁶ *Lafontaine*, *supra*, at para. 73.

¹⁷ Norton, Jane Calderwood, *Freedom of Religious Organizations*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016) at 38.

¹⁸ [R v. Advance Cutting & Coring Ltd, 2001 SCC 70](#), paras. 2-4, 7, 28, 201, 231, 232.

28. It is already settled law that both s. 2(a) and s. 2(d) rights under the *Charter* are collective rights that "inhere in" and protect associations themselves. The unresolved question about whether s. 2(a) protects corporate conscience likely need not be answered in this appeal, although these Interveners submit the *Loyola* minority (which was not contradicted by the majority) should be adopted on this point if the matter must be decided.¹⁹

Congregational and religious communities have the right to determine and maintain their religious identity

29. A congregational or religious community's identity is central to preserving its associational integrity. Although the congregational community is made up of individuals, it is not the associating of those individuals that makes the community, but rather the fact that those individuals associate around a shared set of beliefs and a common purpose. Professor Víctor M. Muñiz-Fraticelli puts it this way:

[...] a community is more than an individual but it is not an organization. In the broadest sense, it is what John Searle calls a "social fact". Yet, once imbued with the joint intentions of its members, it goes beyond that broad category and becomes a "plural subject", what Margaret Gilbert has named a group of people in which all members "are jointly committed to doing something as a body — in the broad sense of 'do'". In this sense, a community is irreducible to its individual agents. Although it exists because of the beliefs and attitudes of these individuals, a mere aggregation of people does not produce community; rather, it is their communication to each other of being engaged in a joint enterprise.²⁰

30. The Ontario Human Rights Tribunal recently confirmed that freedom of religion permits religious communities to self-define and associate together:

The issue, however, is that while the parents may not object to their child learning about a view of marriage different from their own, those parents who choose to send their children to the school do so because they share a set of sincerely-held subjective beliefs rooted in their faith. To obligate the school to admit a child whose parents do not share those beliefs is to encroach on the rights of the parents served by the school to practice the creed and religion they sincerely believe in.²¹

¹⁹ *Loyola*, *supra*, at paras. 89—102.

²⁰ Iain T Benson and Barry W. Bussey, Foreword in *Religion, Liberty and the Jurisdictional Limits of Law*, (Lexis Nexis Canada, 2017), at p. 133.

²¹ *H.S. v. The Private Academy*, 2017 HRT0 791, at para. 78.

31. In the Catholic tradition, this self-definition is codified through Canon Law, the Catechism and other Magisterial teaching. For example, Catholic communities, including all Catholic parishes, are bound by canonical principles and must adhere to Canon Law.²²
32. In the Protestant tradition, communal self-definition is grounded in Scripture, shaped by widely adopted Creeds (e.g., Apostles' or Nicene Creed) or Confessions of faith (such as the Westminster, Heidelberg, Augsburg, or Belgic Confessions), and/or bound by communally adopted forms of polity and practices, liturgies, written and unwritten codes of conduct, doctrinal statements, and/or denominational policies.
33. This interpretation of religious freedom is consistent with this Court's jurisprudence which has consistently recognized the right of a religious or congregational community to determine their own religious, doctrinal and moral identities and to give these identities corporate expression. Indeed, in *Caldwell v. Stuart*,²³ this Court recognized that faith-based institutions (in that case a Catholic school), have the right to insist that their employees (in that case a teacher), adhere to the religious teachings and principles of the institution.
34. In *Trinity Western v. British Columbia College of Teachers*,²⁴ this Court recognized that religious communities and institutions have the right to set behavioural standards of for its members (in that case, students, staff and faculty of a university).²⁵
35. More recently, in *Loyola*,²⁶ this Court confirmed that any interference with the character of a religious community and institution is a profound violation of section 2(a).
- Ultimately, measures which undermine the character of lawful religious institutions and disrupt the vitality of religious communities represent a profound interference with religious freedom.²⁷
36. This case is no different than *Caldwell*, *Trinity Western* and *Loyola* in that at its core, it is about whether religious individuals can congregate in community with like-minded individuals for the purpose of exercising their religious freedom.

²² Father Francis Morrissey, "Implications of Canon Law for Catholic Leaders and Organizations", presentation at Villa Madonna Retreat House as part of the Catholic Leadership Program for Catholic health care professionals, Rothesay, New Brunswick, February 17, 2011, at page 10.

²³ *Caldwell v. Stuart*, [1984] 2 SCR 603.

²⁴ *Trinity Western University v. British Columbia College of Teachers*, [2001] 1 SCR 772, [*Trinity Western*].

²⁵ *Trinity Western*, *supra*, at paras. 33-35.

²⁶ *Loyola High School v. Attorney General of Quebec*, [2015] 1 SCR 613 [*"Loyola"*].

²⁷ *Loyola*, *supra*, at para. 67.

37. Included in a religious community's exercise of their religious freedom is the exercise of self-defining, prescribing moral behaviour and determining the parameters and means by which to admit or expel members. The act of disciplining and/or expelling a member from a religious community is a religious act that is protected from state interference.²⁸
38. This is not unique to religious communities. Indeed, all communities or associations self-define and do so in order to protect and preserve its identity and associational integrity. And the Ontario Court of Appeal is not the only one to skirt this Court's decision in *Wall*. Just this month, the British Columbia Court of Appeal ordered a private hospice with a 30-year history of rejecting Medical Assistance in Dying ("MAiD") as being part of its mandate or of Palliative Care to admit 310 pro-MAiD applicants for membership when their stated purpose in applying for membership was to infiltrate the organization and overwhelm the membership so as to change the organization's position on MAiD. The BC Court of Appeal concluded that it was improper for the hospice's Board of Directors to reject applicants for membership who they determined could not support the hospice's Constitution, bylaws and philosophy.²⁹ Permitting the Ontario Court of Appeal's decision to stand and maintaining this loophole in *Wall* will result in more such litigation where private associations' membership decisions are taken to Court. Any Court interference in those decisions, these Interveners say, will result in further *Charter* violations.
39. Freedom of association must include the freedom to choose with whom one does or does not wish to associate. As Justice Rothstein wrote in *Archibald v. Canada*, while citing then Chief Justice McLachlin, in some circumstances "forced association is arguably as dissonant with self-actualization through associational activity as is forced expression".³⁰ The loophole in *Wall* created by the Court of Appeal means more and more litigation involving membership decisions of private organizations will come through the Courts. These Interveners submit that those cases will be no more justiciable than this one for the reasons set out above.
40. In the political realm, we see this play out in a variety of ways. It is not uncommon for a member of one political party to "cross the aisle" and join a different party or to declare themselves as an independent. This may occur for a variety of reasons, but no matter what the

²⁸ *Hart v. Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Kingston, in Canada*, 2011 ONCA 728, at paras. 18, 20.

²⁹ *Farrish v. Delta Hospice Society*, 2020 BCCA 312

³⁰ *Archibald v. Canada*, 2000 CanLII 17140 (FCA), [2000] 4 FC 479, at para. 37.

reason, it occurs because the individual either no longer wishes to associate with the political party they were once a member of, or, they no longer meet the criteria and are unable to support that party's platform or policy proposals.

41. The only way for a political party to protect and preserve its identity and integrity is for it to be able to restrict its member to those who identify with and support its platform and policies. Anything else would result in chaos.
42. The same is true for religious or congregational communities.

b) Ecclesiastical decisions of religious communities, including decisions related to membership and discipline ought not be interfered with by the State

43. The decision to admit, expel or discipline a member in a religious or congregational community is an ecclesiastical decision based on theology and doctrine³¹ and is a decision that can only be made by the community or congregation itself.³²
44. The only role this or any Court ought to play in the adjudication of ecclesiastical disputes is to ensure respect for religious freedom:
- The courts have long refused to intervene in the manner proposed by the appellant. The courts' role in matters of religion is neutral. It is limited to ensuring that laws are constitutional and, in the case of a private dispute, to identifying the point at which rights converge so as to ensure respect for freedom of religion.³³
45. The issues of church membership and expulsion are all centered on the religious and congregational community's shared theological and doctrinal beliefs. These issues are ecclesiastical in nature and this Court has recognized that such issues are "left to religious authorities" and that "secular law has no effect in matters of religious law."³⁴
46. In order for this Court, or any court for that matter, to examine, review or adjudicate a religious or congregational community's decision to discipline or expel a member, the Court would not only have to examine the facts leading up to the discipline or expulsion, but also the theological or doctrinal underpinning of the decision. Such an examination would be highly inappropriate.³⁵
47. Indeed, this Court recognized the danger of doing such an inquiry:

³¹ *Hofer et al. v. Hofer et al.*, [1970] SCR 958, at pp. 970-971 [*Hofer*].

³² *Hofer*, *supra*, at p. 974.

³³ *Bruker v. Marcovitz*, 2007 SCC 54, at para. 126 [*Bruker*].

³⁴ *Bruker*, *supra*, at para. 132.

³⁵ *Syndicat Northcrest v. Amselem*, 2004 SCC 47, at para. 50.

In my view, state-sponsored inquiries into any person's religion should be avoided wherever reasonably possible, since they expose an individual's most personal and private beliefs to public airing and testing in a judicial or quasi-judicial setting.³⁶

48. Yet this is precisely what the expelled members seek to have the Courts do: to make a finding of fact on theological/doctrinal issues and allegations of heresy and then have those findings read out loud in the Church and have those findings enforced against certain Church members. The expelled members seek to have the courts determine heresy within the Church and enforce its findings on heresy within the Church.³⁷ This type of relief is precisely what this Court explicitly warned against in *Amselem*.³⁸ *The Court of Appeal* however, was not concerned with
49. In the context of a dispute arising over the discipline or expulsion of an unrepentant member in a religious or congregational community, the Courts would be required to consider whether the individual's conduct warranted the discipline or expulsion under review. On what basis would the Court determine if the conduct warranted the action under review?
50. Certainly in such a case, there would be a dispute over the interpretation of scripture, theology and/or doctrine. In such a context, would the Courts be expected to provide a judicial interpretation of scripture? Or of moral theology? Or doctrine?
51. Some religious or congregational communities exist as a result of theological or doctrinal disputes. For example, the Seventh Day Adventist Church believes that the Sabbath is on Saturday as opposed to many Christian denominations who celebrate the Sabbath on Sunday. Churches within the Baptist tradition belief in credo-baptism through full immersion, as opposed to some Christian denominations who subscribe to paedo-baptism through sprinkling of water. Recently, we have seen churches and denominations split over issues related to marriage. If the Courts are now tasked with examining theological and doctrinal issues, each of these religious associations that have developed specifically due to theological and doctrinal disputes, will be vulnerable to infiltration and challenge.³⁹
52. Such a result would fly in the face of what the *Charter* was meant to protect. This Court noted in *Big M*: "One of the major purposes of the *Charter* is to protect, within reason, from

³⁶ *Edwards Books*, *supra*, at para. 142.

³⁷ Appellants' Factum, at para. 64.

³⁸ *Amselem*, *supra*, at para. 50.

³⁹ *Farrish v. Delta Hospice Society*, 2020 BCCA 312

compulsion or restraint.”⁴⁰ In this case, the Court of Appeal effectively makes a decision related to heresy within the Church. Like the recent case out of British Columbia, the Court is forcing a private, voluntary association to admit or welcome hostile membership who do not “fit the mould” and who seek to change the core of the organization. The Common Law, which is formed by the Courts, is subject to the *Charter*. Any judicial decision then which results in a violation of *Charter* rights cannot be upheld. The judiciary, as learned as it may be, is simply not qualified or equipped to engage in such examinations.

53. The Courts are simply not qualified to do conduct such an inquiry and to do so would be a grave violation of (1) freedom of religion; (2) freedom of association; and, (3) the State’s obligation to remain religiously neutral. If the *Judge’s Act* were amended to require candidates for the judiciary to have theological training, it is highly doubtful that such a provision would survive a *Charter Challenge*. Certainly, such a requirement would be viewed as a violation of sections 2(a) and 15(1) of the *Charter* as well as a violation of the State’s obligation to be religiously neutral. Similarly, having non-qualified, non-theologically-trained and non-religious judges adjudicate ecclesiastical matters violates State religious neutrality.
54. In the same way that Canadian Courts do not adjudicate foreign disputes governed by foreign law, they are unqualified to adjudicate private ecclesiastical disputes governed by ecclesiastical law.
55. Indeed, the courts have recognized the importance ecclesiastical law plays to the existence of religious communities, so much so, that the courts have deferred to ecclesiastical law in the adjudication of civil disputes.⁴¹
56. In the Roman Catholic tradition, there is a long history of codified canon law. Indeed, ecclesiastical legal systems like those of Canon law and Talmudic law predate our common law⁴² and in fact heavily influenced our common law.⁴³
57. Interfering in private, ecclesiastical issues would unduly diminish the protection afforded by sections 2(a) and 2(d) of the *Charter*.

⁴⁰ *R. v. Big M Drug Mart Ltd.*, [1985] 1 SCR 295, at para. 95.

⁴¹ *Bentley v. Anglican Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster*, 2010 BCCA 506, at para. 23; *Synod of the Diocese of Huron v. Delicata et al.*, 2011 ONSC 4403, at para. 65.

⁴² *R. v. D.L.W.*, 2016 SCC 22, at para. 132.

⁴³ *R. v. Big M. Drug Mart Ltd.*, 1983 ABCA 268, at para. 112.

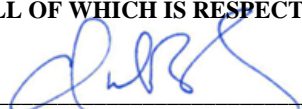
PART IV: COSTS

58. The EFC and CCRL do not seek costs, and asks that no costs be awarded against them.

PART V: ORDER SOUGHT

59. The EFC and CCRL take no position on the disposition of the within appeal.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, this 24th day of November, 2020.



ALBERTOS POLIZOGOPOULOS / ISABELLE CORBEIL
Counsel for The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and
The Catholic Civil Rights League

PART VI – TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Jurisprudence

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Other References

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Iain T Benson and Barry W. Bussey, Foreword in <i>Religion, Liberty and the Jurisdictional Limits of Law</i> , (Lexis Nexis Canada, 2017)	23
Father Francis Morrisey, “ <i>Implications of Canon Law for Catholic Leaders and Organizations</i> ,” presentation at Villa Madonna Retreat House as part of the Catholic Leadership Program for Catholic health care professionals, Rothesay, New Brunswick, February 17, 2011	25

Legislative Provisions

<i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Part I of The Constitution Act,</i>

Fundamental freedoms	Libertés fondamentales
<p>2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) freedom of conscience and religion;(b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;(c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and(d) freedom of association. <p>[...]</p> <p>15(1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.</p>	<p>2. Chacun a les libertés fondamentales suivantes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) liberté de conscience et de religion;b) liberté de pensée, de croyance, d'opinion et d'expression, y compris la liberté de la presse et des autres moyens de communication;c) liberté de réunion pacifique;d) liberté d'association. <p>[...]</p> <p>15(1) La loi ne fait acception de personne et s'applique également à tous, et tous ont droit à la même protection et au même bénéfice de la loi, indépendamment de toute discrimination, notamment des discriminations fondées sur la race, l'origine nationale ou ethnique, la couleur, la religion, le sexe, l'âge ou les déficiences mentales ou physiques.</p>

SCC Court File No:37273

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE HIGHWOOD CONGREGATION
WALL
OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES (VAUGHN LEE - CHAIRMAN AND
ELDERS JAMES SCOTT LANG AND JOE GURNEY) AND
HIGHWOOD CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**

and

RANDY

Appellants
Respondent

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF
CANADA
(ON APPEAL FROM THE
ALBERTA COURT OF APPEAL)**

**INTERVENER FACTUM OF THE
EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF
CANADA
AND THE CATHOLIC CIVIL RIGHTS
LEAGUE**

VINCENT DANGENAIS GIBSON

260 Dalhousie Street, Suite 400

LLP/s.r.l.

Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7E4

Albertos Polizogopoulos

Tel : 613-241-2701

Fax : 613-241-2599

albertos@vdg.ca

Counsel for the Interveners,
the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
and the Catholic Civil Rights League