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**LAWSON LUNDELL  
LAWSON & M<sup>C</sup>INTOSH**

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

March 22, 1999

**BY FAX**

Territorial Ministry of Justice  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Department of Justice  
4th Floor, Court House  
4903 - 49th Street  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
X1A 2L9

Attention: Earl D. Johnson, Q.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Re: Friends of Democracy et al v. Commissioner of the Northwest Territories et al

I am writing further to our recent discussions regarding an application to Mr. Justice de Weerd to seek an amendment to the order found at paragraph 43 of his decision of March 5, 1999. In our discussions you advised that, as a practical matter, it would be impossible for the Legislative Assembly to meet Mr. Justice de Weerd's deadline of April 1, 1999, to amend the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* to conform to his decision. As I requested, you provided me with a letter from Mr. David Hamilton describing the practical limitations on bringing the necessary amendment before the Legislative Assembly for consideration and passage before April 1<sup>st</sup>. As a result, we were instructed to agree to a short extension.

I now understand that the amending bill (Bill 15) has, in fact, been substantially drafted and that by Notice of Motion last Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, it has been set for introduction in the Legislative Assembly today. I also understand that the Legislative Assembly will sit all this week and next Monday and can also sit next Tuesday and Wednesday, if required, to complete its legislative agenda before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

In view of this, it does not appear that the extension is required. Hansard for March 16<sup>th</sup> indicates that notice has been given for the introduction of 16 bills, including Bill 15. I note that 11 bills were given first and second reading on March 16<sup>th</sup>, and that the other five, including Bill 15 are scheduled for first reading today. It strikes me, given Mr.

1600 CATHEDRAL PLACE  
925 WEST GEORGIA STREET  
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CANADA V6C 3L2

TELEPHONE: (604) 685-3456  
FACSIMILE: (604) 669-1620

DIRECT LINE: (604) 631-8225  
INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS:  
bwallace@lawsonlundell.com

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Justice de Weerd's decision, that there is no legislation of greater urgency than that which will bring the Northwest Territories electoral boundaries into conformity with the requirements of the *Charter*.

Unless you can satisfy me that passage of Bill 15 before April 1<sup>st</sup> is a practical impossibility as we were previously advised, then I am instructed to withdraw our agreement to an extension of time for the suspension of Mr. Justice de Weerd's decision.

As I previously advised you, I am available any day this week except Wednesday to speak to the settlement of the order before Mr. Justice de Weerd.

Yours truly,



Brian J. Wallace, Q.C.

BJW/uw.

cc: Charles McGee