

SUPPLEMENTARY OPINIONS OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

This January, the Federal Court made a landmark ruling, finding that Justin Trudeau's Liberal government illegally invoked the *Emergencies Act* and used it to violate Canadians' most essential constitutional rights to freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression.

Conservatives believe that the Liberals must answer for his government's reckless abandonment of the law and the most basic freedoms of all Canadians. That is why Conservatives wanted to call several Liberal ministers before our committee to account for their decisions as well as ordering them to turn over the legal opinion which the government claimed to rely upon for its illegal and unconstitutional decisions. Regrettably, efforts for accountability over one of the most serious decisions any government could ever take have been frequently resisted by our Liberal colleagues, backed by "independent" senators, so we still have not been able to get to the truth. We fear this could be a foreboding signal of what's to come in our committee's final report.

Of course, it was only possible for our committee even to be in a position to consider the implications of the Federal Court ruling because our committee's work was significantly delayed by the Liberal government's disrespect for Canada's official languages in not making evidence available bilingually. Clear communication during a time of crisis is an essential necessity. If this government struggles to communicate in both French and English—years after the fact—about a so-called emergency, what hope is there that Canadians would be able to count on getting critical, life-saving information during a true disaster?

The decision to invoke the *Emergencies Act* was unnecessary from the start. Mr. Trudeau caused this crisis by dividing people. He proceeded to violate Charter rights to illegally suppress Canadian citizens. Since then, the Trudeau government has desperately tried to defend its actions, lying to the public, saying that the police asked the government to invoke the Act—something the RCMP and the Ottawa Police have both denied.

A Pierre Poilievre government will ensure the *Emergencies Act* can never be used again to silence political opposition because common sense Conservatives will protect the Charter rights of Canadians and unite our country and our people for hope and freedom.