

If there is any possibility that the Government's decision on the Court Challenges Program might be reversed, may I respectfully add my voice to what I am sure is a chorus of disapproval of the cancellation of this very imaginative and worthwhile program.

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Bertha Wilson

The Honourable  
Minister of Justice and  
Attorney General of Canada  
Department of Justice  
Justice Building  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0H8

Dear Minister:

I am writing to express my dismay and distress over the recent cancellation of the Court Challenges Program.

I have on numerous occasions publicly expressed the view that it is totally illogical to confer rights on people who do not have the means to enforce them and I assumed that the expansion of the Court Challenges Program following the advent of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was an effort to address this problem.

I fully appreciate, of course, that all governments are confronted at various stages of their evolution with a policy that places the burden of that policy on those who can least afford to bear it.

I saw for myself when I was a member of the Supreme Court how the Charter program has been to minority groups and to the disadvantaged. It has clearly been well and efficiently administered and has resulted in an excellent input into many very significant cases. I am sure that my former colleagues on the Court, if asked, would concur that yes, indeed, I believe that I can say with complete confidence that the public has unquestionably received full value for its money on this particular program.