

Montreal, 27th March, 2014

CONFIDENTIAL
BY E-MAIL

Mr. Trebilcock, Professor
University of Toronto
Faculty of Law
Falconer Hall
84 Queen's Park, Room 309
Toronto (Ontario) M5S 2C5

Dear Professor Trebilcock,

I am writing to you as Director of Research for the Quebec *Commission of Inquiry on the Awarding and Management of Public Contracts in the Construction Industry*. I would like to invite you to participate in roundtable discussions we will be holding in Montreal, later this spring.

The Commission – The Commission was set up by the government of the Province of Quebec in October 2011. It is chaired by Madam Justice France Charbonneau, a federally appointed judge from the Quebec Superior Court. She is assisted by M. Renaud Lachance, a former auditor general of the province of Quebec, and Professor Roderick Macdonald of the McGill Faculty of Law. Its mandate is broad and wide-ranging: to paint a portrait of stratagems of corruption and collusion currently being deployed in the granting and administration of public contracts in the construction industry – together with possible links with the financing of political parties; and to paint a portrait of the extent to which and the manner in which organized crime has infiltrated into the construction industry in Quebec more generally. The Commission is also charged with making recommendations that are future-regarding: to establish processes and mechanisms that aid in the identification, prevention and elimination of stratagems of collusion and corruption and that will serve to counter the influence of organized crime in the construction industry.

The Commission is staffed with about a hundred prosecutors, lawyers, police investigators as well as other experts (accountants, economists, engineers, criminologists, sociologists). To date, the Commission has met privately with over 1000 potential witnesses and more than 120 of them testified during public hearings. The Commission is entirely independent from the government and is expected to complete its report in April 2015.

The roundtables – The Commission is in the process of organizing roundtable discussions, behind closed doors, with experts and various stakeholders, on themes and topics relevant to the drafting of possible recommendations. Your expertise on competition law and issues related to law and economics would be highly pertinent and valuable to our reflection.

We do not require participants in these discussions to prepare a formal paper. However, we do ask that they submit an overview of their general thoughts, in a 4-5 page document. Our research team will draft and circulate documents for them to read as well as a series of questions aimed at focusing the discussion during specific roundtable sessions.

The roundtables will take place later this spring, in May and June. The specific dates will be determined after consultation with potential participants. Travel expenses will be entirely covered by the Commission, together with a symbolic remuneration of 1000\$.

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A member of my team will get in touch with you shortly, in order to discuss your interest and availability to participate in the roundtables.

I thank you in advance for considering this invitation. I hope we have a chance to meet in Montreal.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Geneviève Cartier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Geneviève Cartier
Director of Research