



**Canadian Centre for  
Christian Charities**

*Supporting ministries in a complex world*

**Sent via e-mail**

Hon. Premier Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
premier@ontario.ca

Hon. Lisa Thompson  
Minister of Government and Consumer Services  
Ministry of Government and Consumer Services  
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria,  
Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction  
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
7th Floor, 56 Wellesley St. W  
Toronto, ON M7A 2E7  
prabmeet.sarkaria@pc.ola.org

**October 28, 2020**

**RE: BILL 213 CODE OF PRACTICE**

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Thompson, and Associate Minister Sarkaria,

The Canadian Centre for Christian Charities (CCCC) is a national umbrella organization of over 3,300 faith-based charities. CCCC exists to support these ministries as they become ever more exemplary, healthy and effective.

CCCC's is the largest single umbrella organization and voice representing Christian charities in Canada, and our membership includes 128 denominational offices and over 2,000 churches.

We write to you for clarification on [Bill 213, Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2020](#). Schedule 8 of the Bill proposes changes to the [Marriage Act, RSO 1990, c M3](#) including adding a Code of Practice, and cancelling registration where it is in the public interest.

Can you please advise as to why these changes are being proposed? More importantly, can you please provide a draft of the proposed Code of Practice? Can you also please clarify what scenario would necessitate and justify the exercise of ministerial discretion to cancel registration because the person should not, “in the public interest, continue to be authorized to solemnize marriage”?

As of yet, there has been no discussion during legislative debate as to the motivation, content, or purpose of these proposed amendments. For our faith leaders, solemnizing marriages is an important part of church and social life. As such, we are mindful of the importance of any proposed changes to the *Marriage Act*. We want to be responsive to the actual content of any amendments and communicate accurately to both our churches and to policy makers what those changes could mean for our churches.

Should you have any questions about how charities and churches fulfil important social and religious functions around solemnizing and celebrating marriages, we would be pleased to answer.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide much needed clarity on Schedule 8 of Bill 213.

Sincerely,

Rev. John Pellowe,  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Centre for Christian Charities