

ACTION COMMITTEE ON COURT OPERATIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

May 8, 2020

11:30 – 1:30 By teleconference

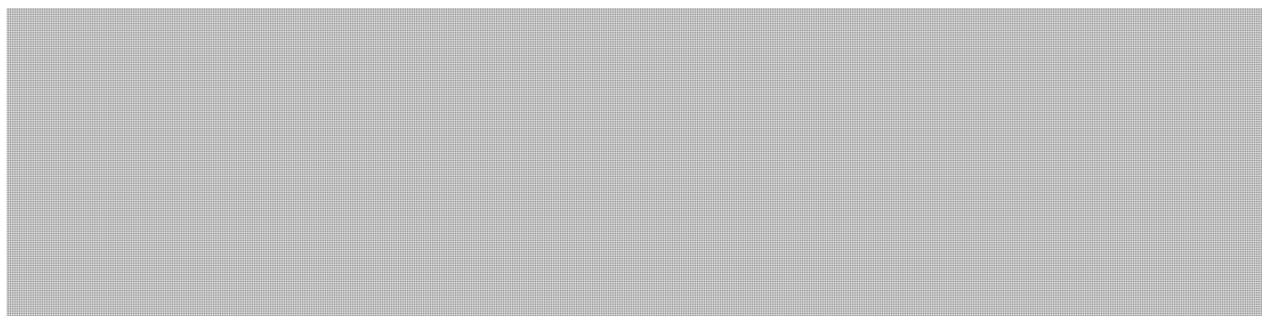
Attendees:

Rt. Hon. Richard Wagner, Chief Justice of Canada (Co-Chair)
Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada (Co-Chair)
Hon. Geoffrey Morawetz, Chief Justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice
Hon. Mary Moreau, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta
Hon. Terry Matchett, Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta and President of the Canadian Council of Chief Judges
Hon. David Eby, Attorney General of British Columbia
Nathalie G. Drouin, Ad. E., Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General of Canada
Tina Namiesniowski, President of the Public Health Agency of Canada
Renée Thériault, Executive Legal Officer, Supreme Court of Canada (member *ex officio*)

AGENDA

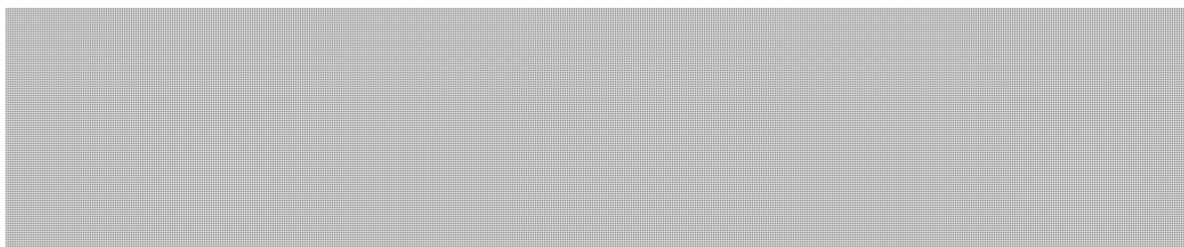
- 1. Introductory remarks by Co-Chairs**
(10 minutes)

**Chief Justice Wagner and
Minister Lametti**



- 2. Discussion and finalization of Terms of Reference**

All attendees



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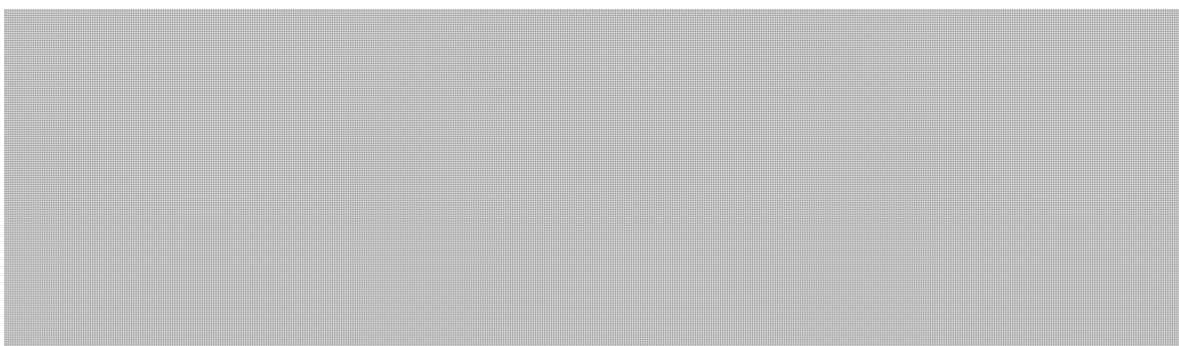
- 3. Overview of First Ministers' Statement
on shared public health approach to re-
starting economy**
(10 minutes)

Minister Lametti



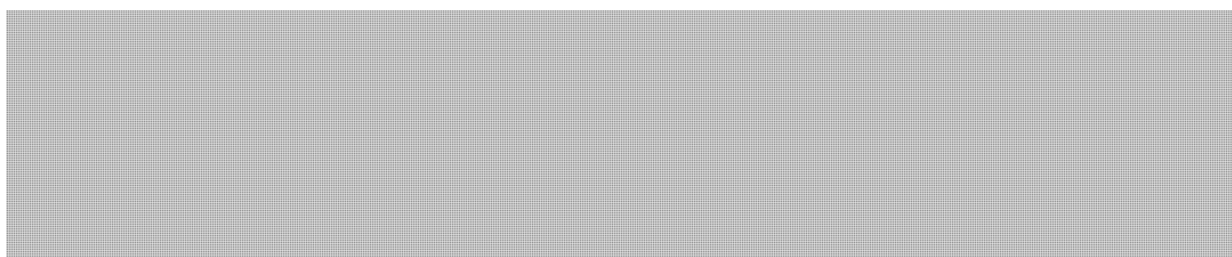
- 4. Overview of court adaptations and
Measures to restore court operations**
(15 minutes)

**Chief Justice Wagner
and other judicial
members**



- 5. Overview of justice sector planning
and adaptation by provincial and territorial
governments**
(15 minutes)

Attorney General Eby



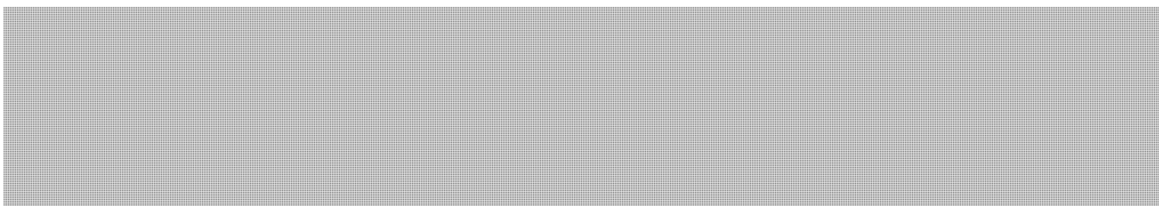
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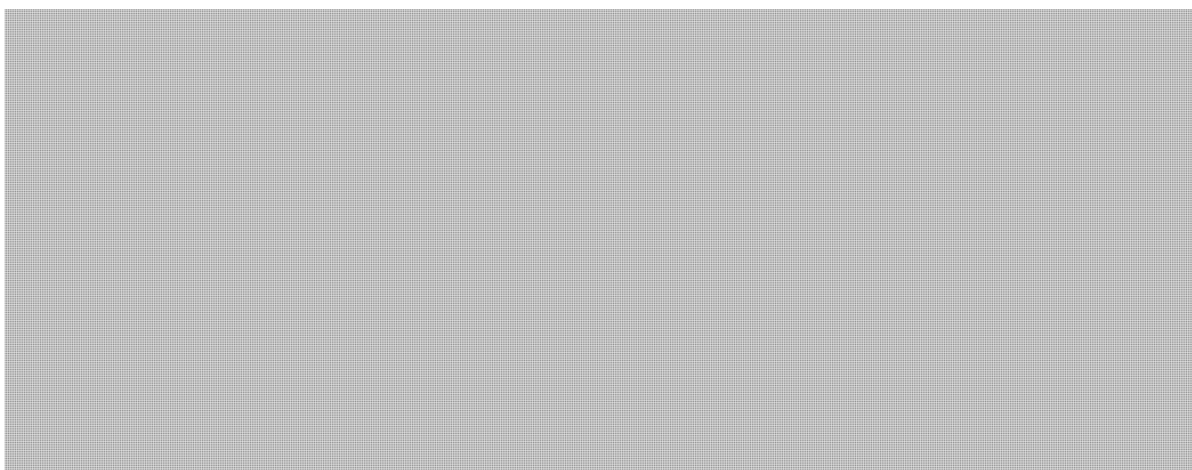
- 6. Presentation of PHAC's risk-informed decision-making guidelines for workplaces and businesses**
(20 minutes)

**President
Namiesniowski**



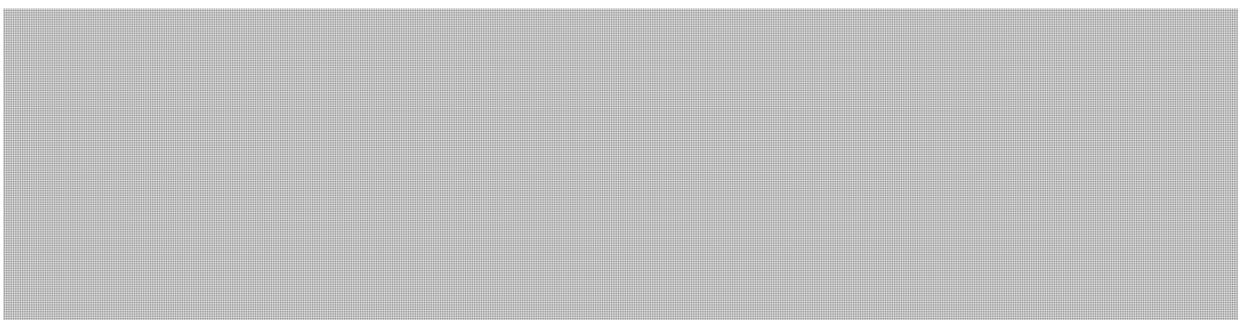
- 7. Roundtable**
(25 minutes)

All attendees



- 8. Next steps**
(5 minutes)

All attendees



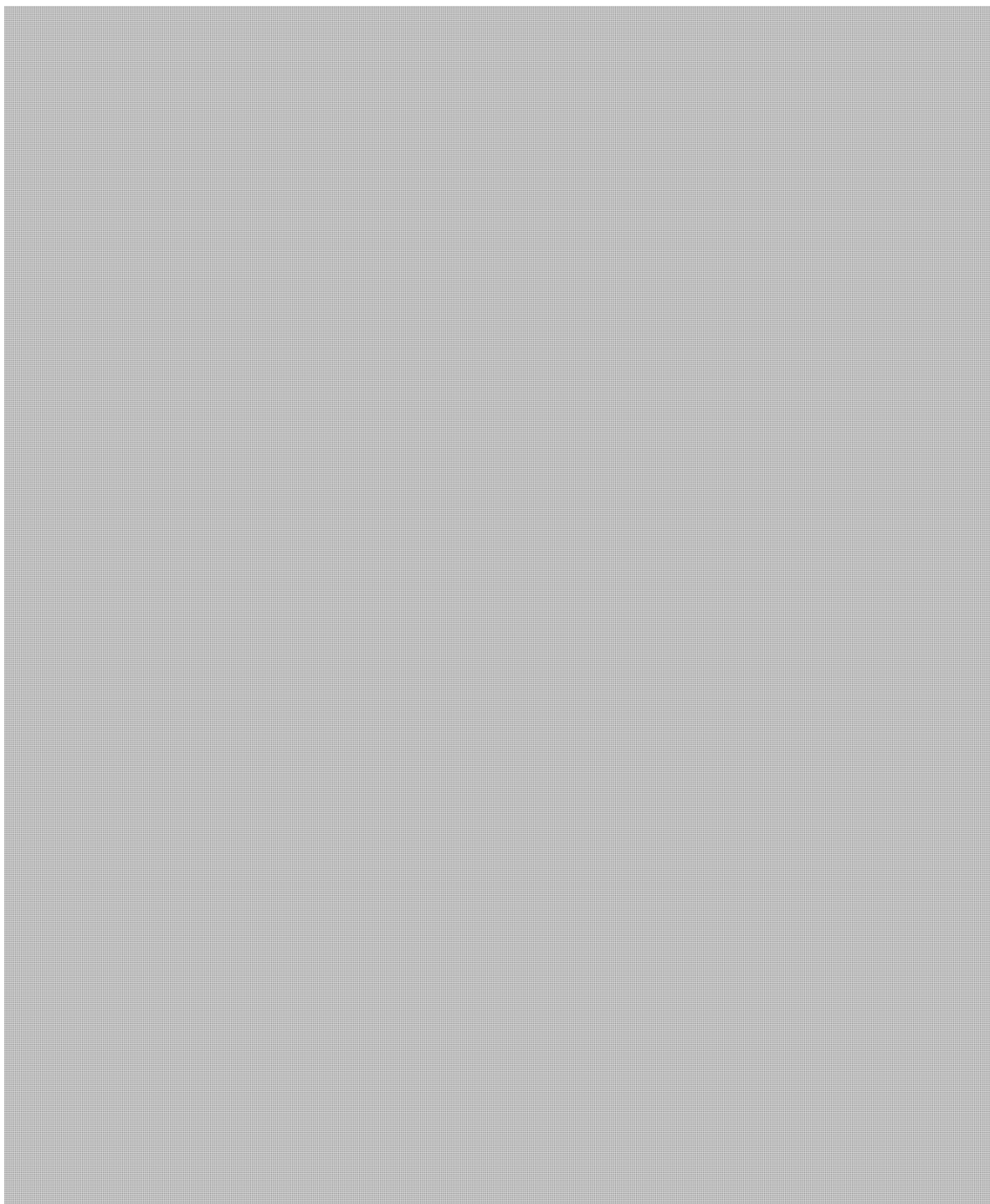
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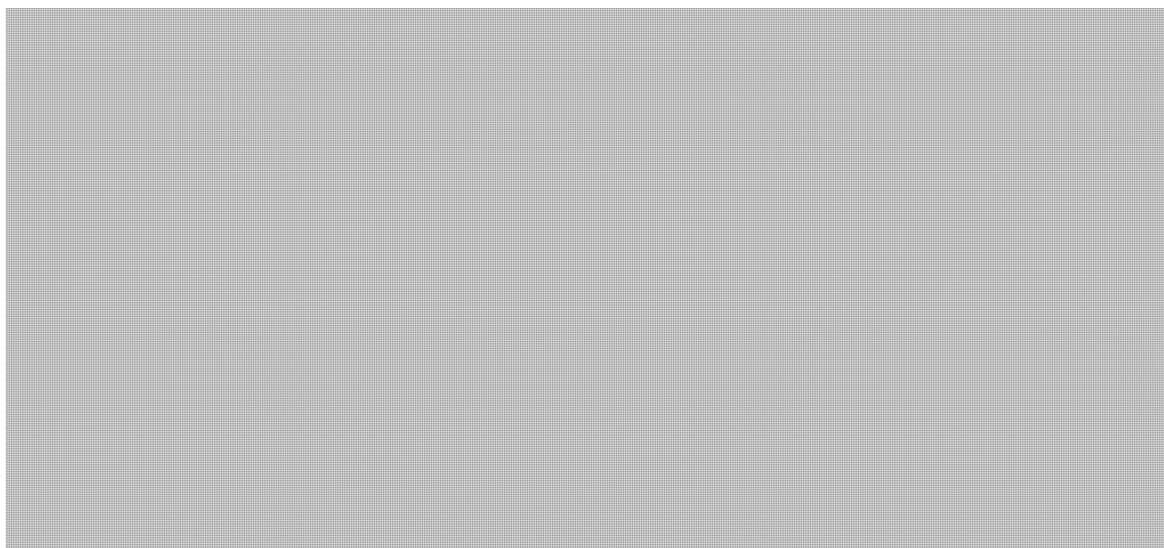
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Talking Points Action Committee – Introductory Remarks

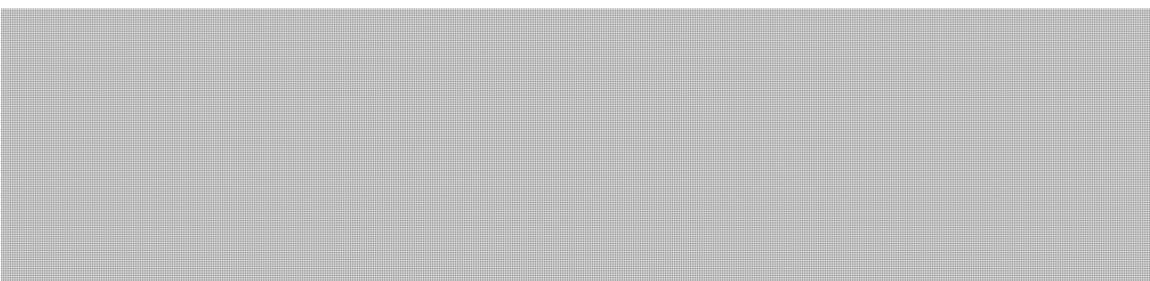


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- **Specifically on the issue of support, the groundwork has been laid for a Working Group made up of officials knowledgeable about the justice sector and workplace safety. The tentative composition of this Working Group is as follows:**
 - **Renée Thériault, Executive Legal Officer of the Supreme Court of Canada**
 - **The Honourable Michael MacDonald, former Chief Justice of Nova Scotia and currently Interim Executive Director of the Canadian Judicial Council**
 - **Sheila Bristo, Assistant Deputy Attorney General with the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Ms. Bristo is the co-chair of the Heads of Courts Administration (HoCA), and will liaise with that group**
 - **Workplace and occupational health and safety experts from Employment and Skills Development Canada**
 - **Officials from my department.**



- **Finally, while we have not yet confirmed a future meeting schedule, we anticipated that we will need to meet regularly –**

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even frequently – in the immediate future. We recognize that for some of you it may simply not be possible to attend every meeting, given the heavy and wide-ranging responsibilities each of you carry. The Terms of Reference contemplate the possibility of sending an alternate representative when necessary.

- **Those were the housekeeping items I wished to address. I would now open it up to all committee members for the discussion on the Terms of Reference. In order to ensure everyone has the opportunity to speak, and in light of the means of communication we are using, the Chief Justice and I will initially call on committee members individually for specific comments.**
- **Following that, we will summarize what we have heard and work towards consensus on a final, approved iteration.**

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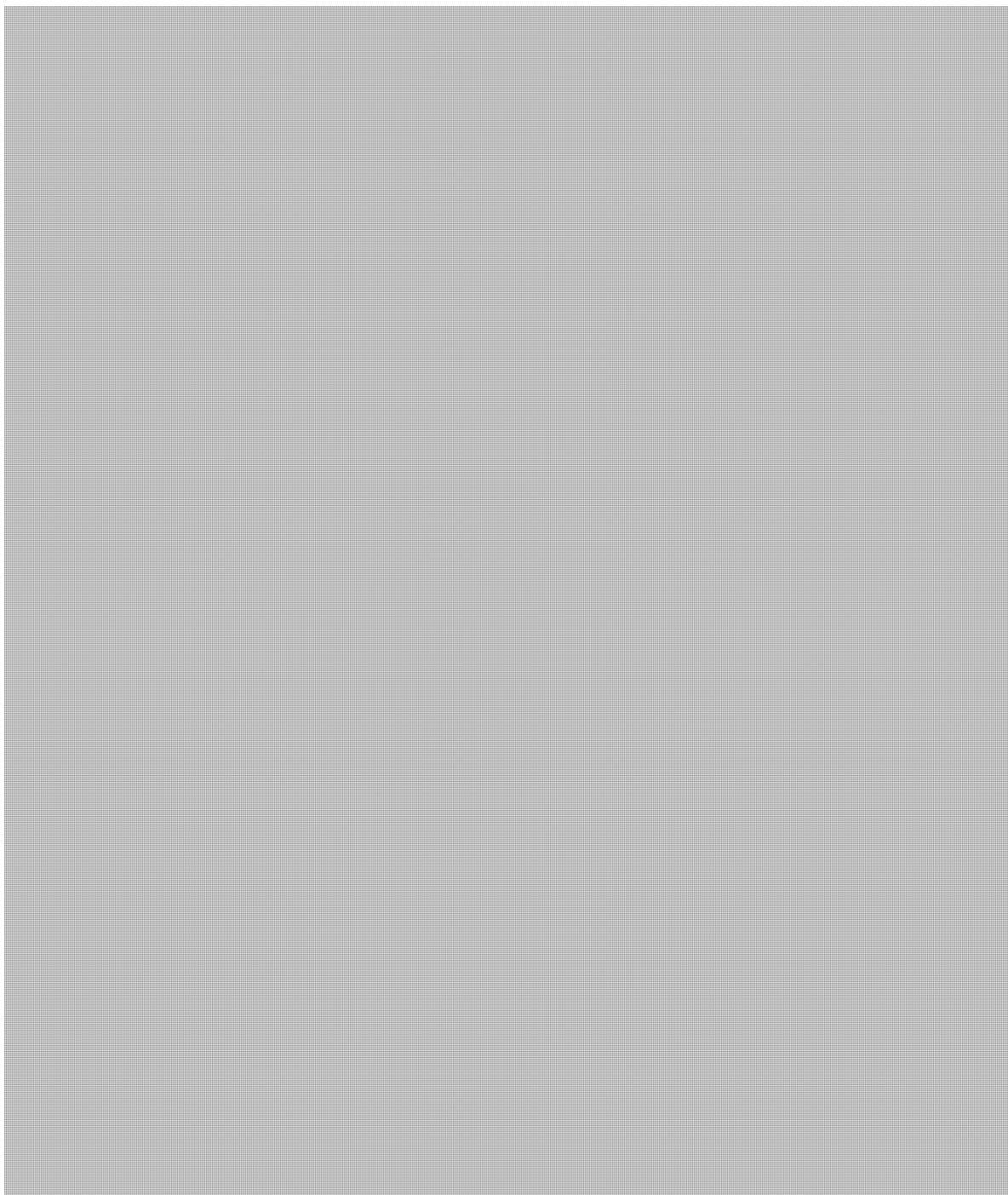
Stephen Zaluski
Director and General Counsel
Judicial Affairs Section, PLLSS

Anna Dekker
Counsel
Judicial Affairs Section, PLLSS



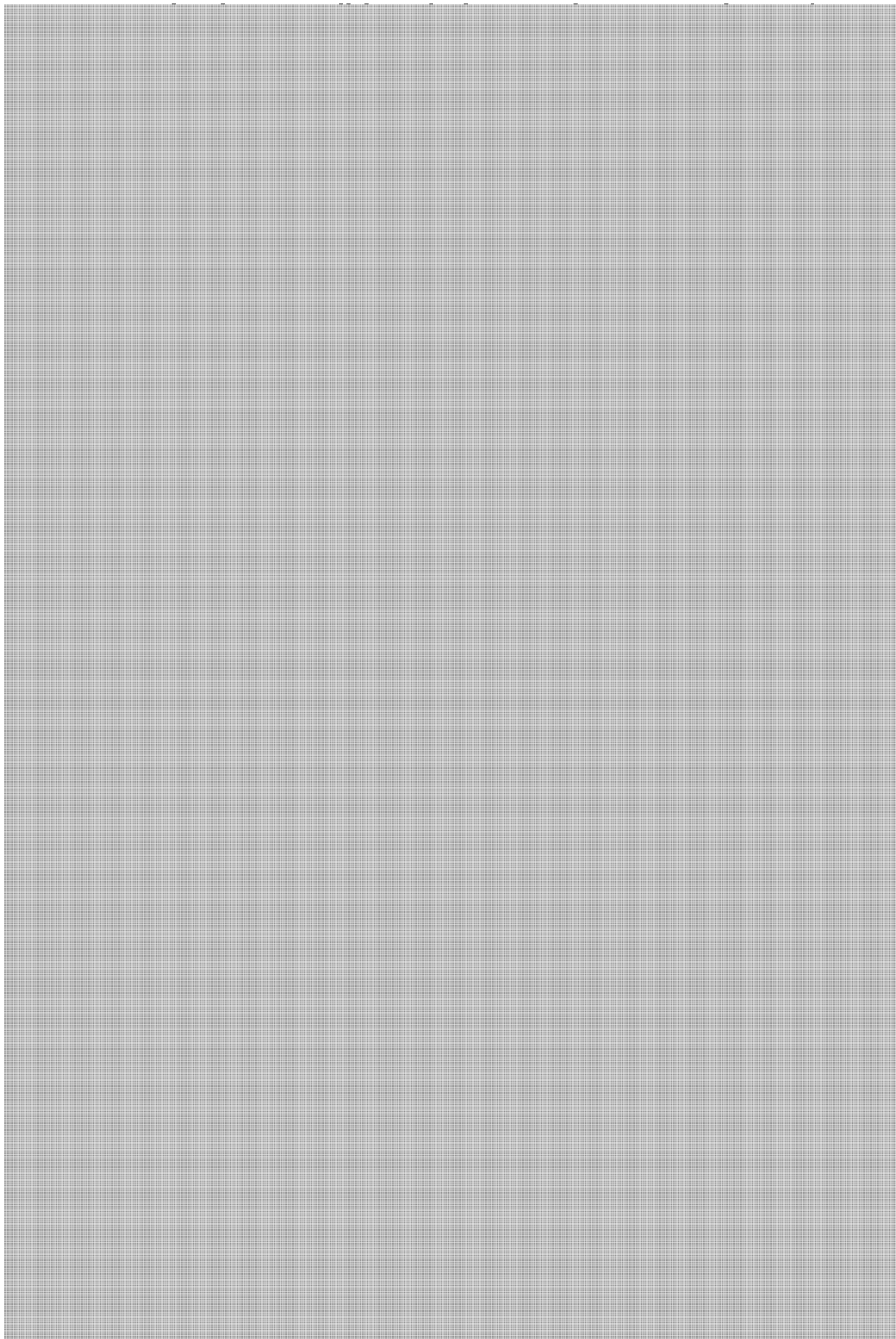
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Talking Points Action Committee – Overview of First Ministers' Statement



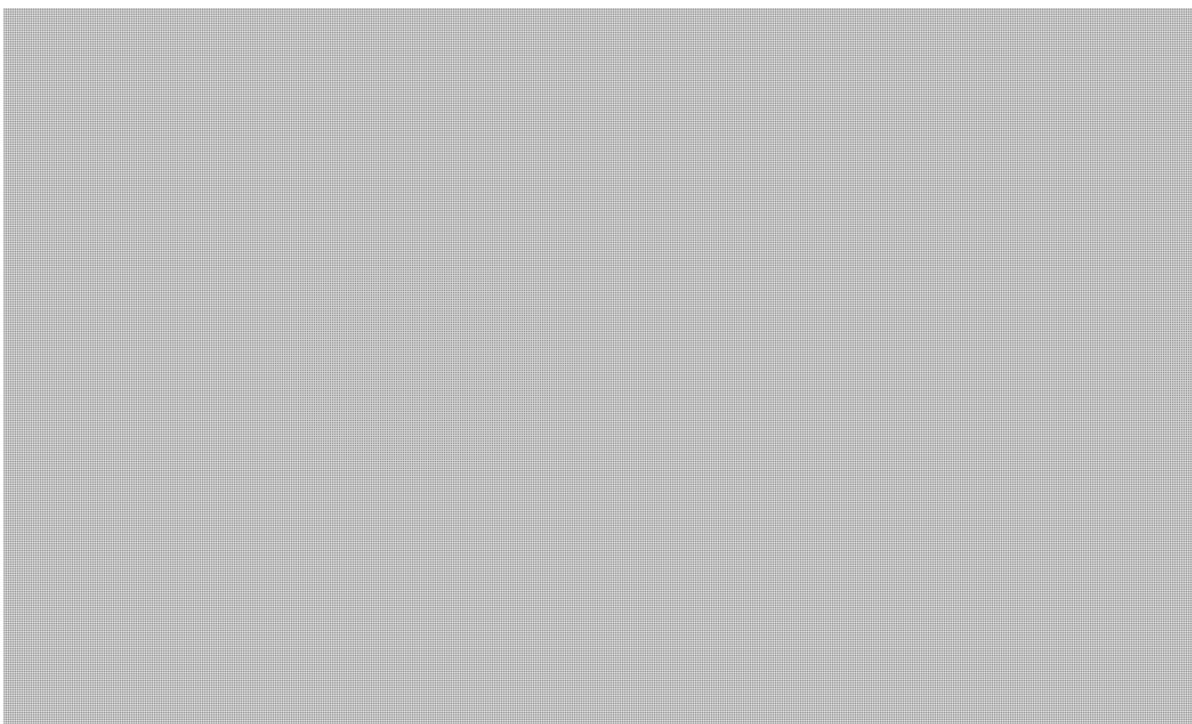
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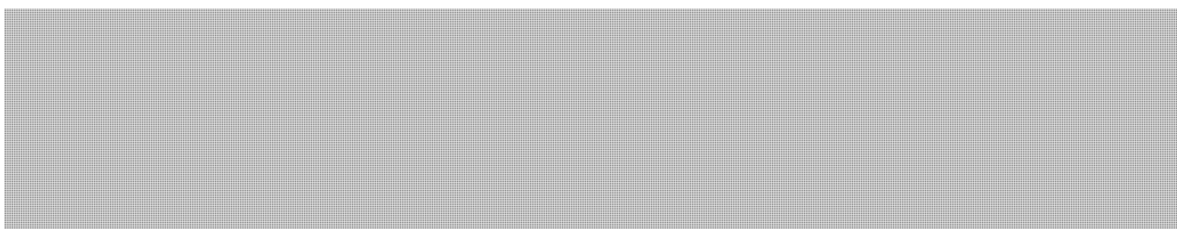


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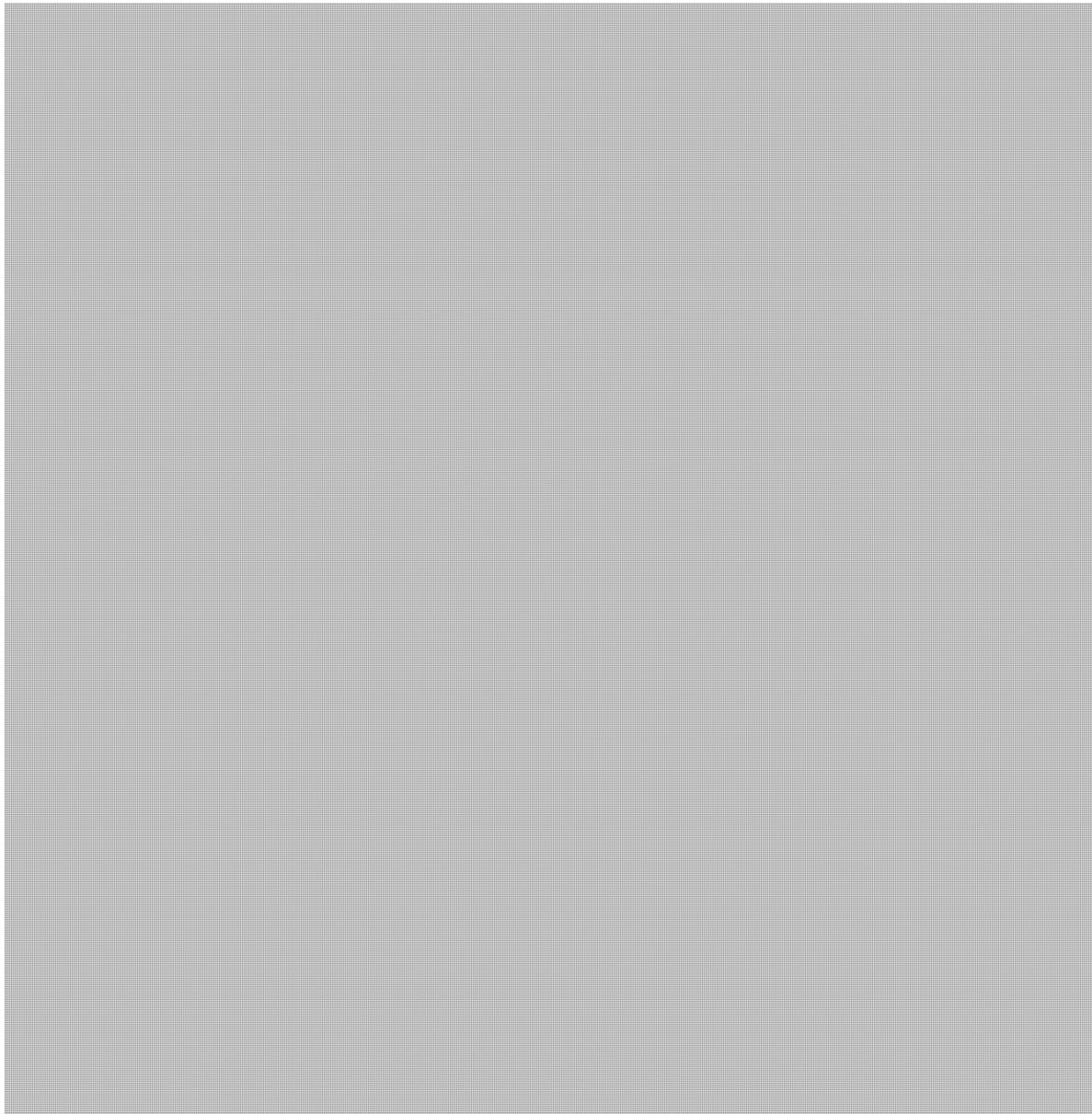
- **The Statement identifies the following criteria as key pre-conditions before beginning to relaxing constraints:**
 - **COVID-19 transmission is controlled: health care systems are able to manage new cases, and infection numbers are stable.**
 - **Sufficient public health capacity is in place to test, trace, and isolate all cases.**
 - **Expanded health care capacity exists for all patients, both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19.**
 - **Supports are in place for vulnerable groups and communities, and for key populations.**





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Talking Points Introduction of Attorney General David Eby

- Thank you, Chief Justices. We turn now to an overview of justice sector planning and adaptation by provincial and territorial governments, led by Attorney General Eby.
- Attorney General Eby was first elected to the British Columbia legislature in 2013, and was re-elected and appointed to his current position in July 2017. He was raised in Ontario and attended law school at Dalhousie (Schulich).
- From there, he crossed the country and settled on the West Coast. His career as a human rights advocate and lawyer included five years with the Pivot Legal Society in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Immediately prior to entering politics, Attorney General Eby was the Executive Director of the BC Civil Liberties Association.

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- We also meet regularly in our current roles – most recently last week at an FPT justice ministers teleconference

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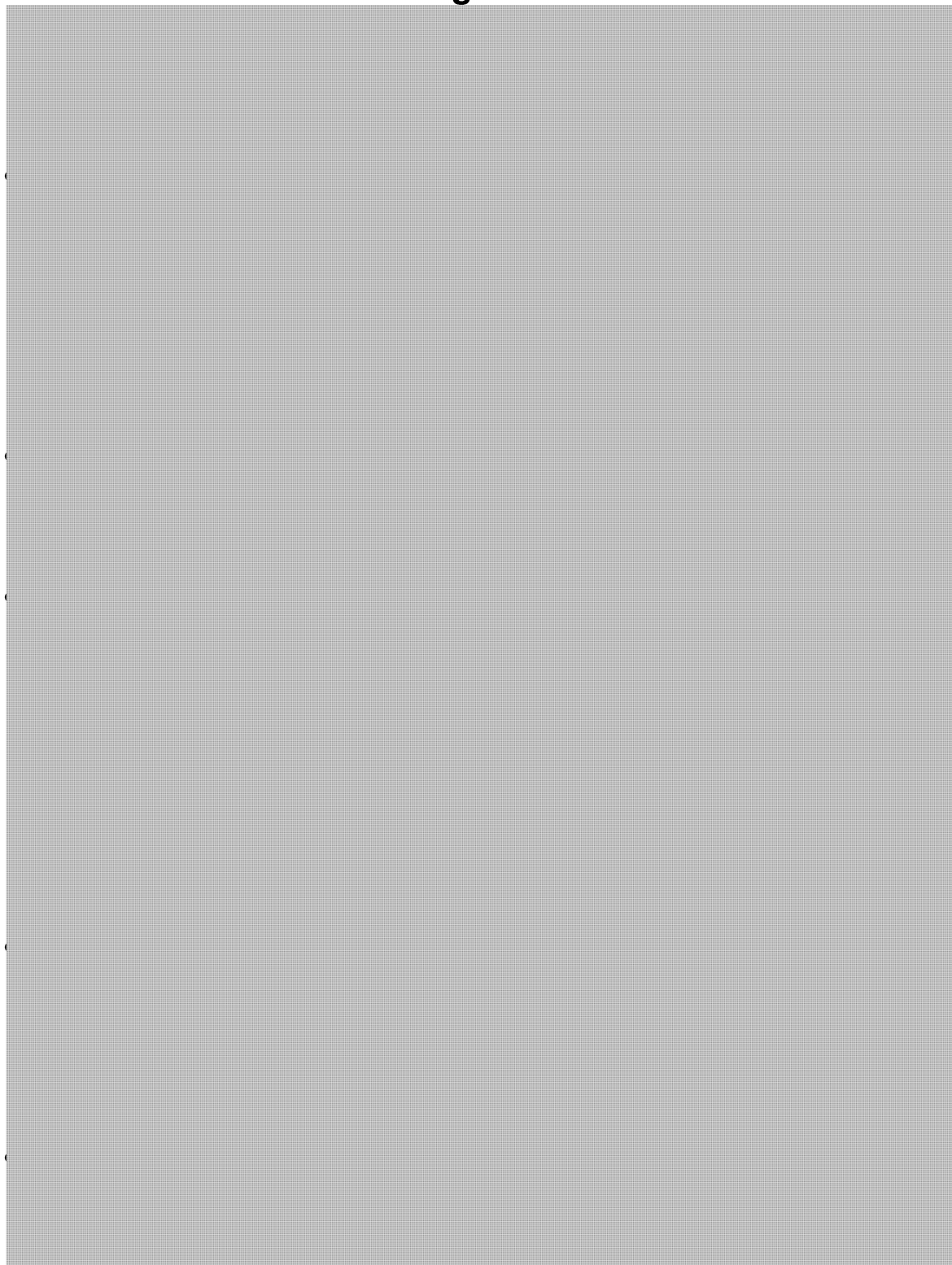
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Talking Points



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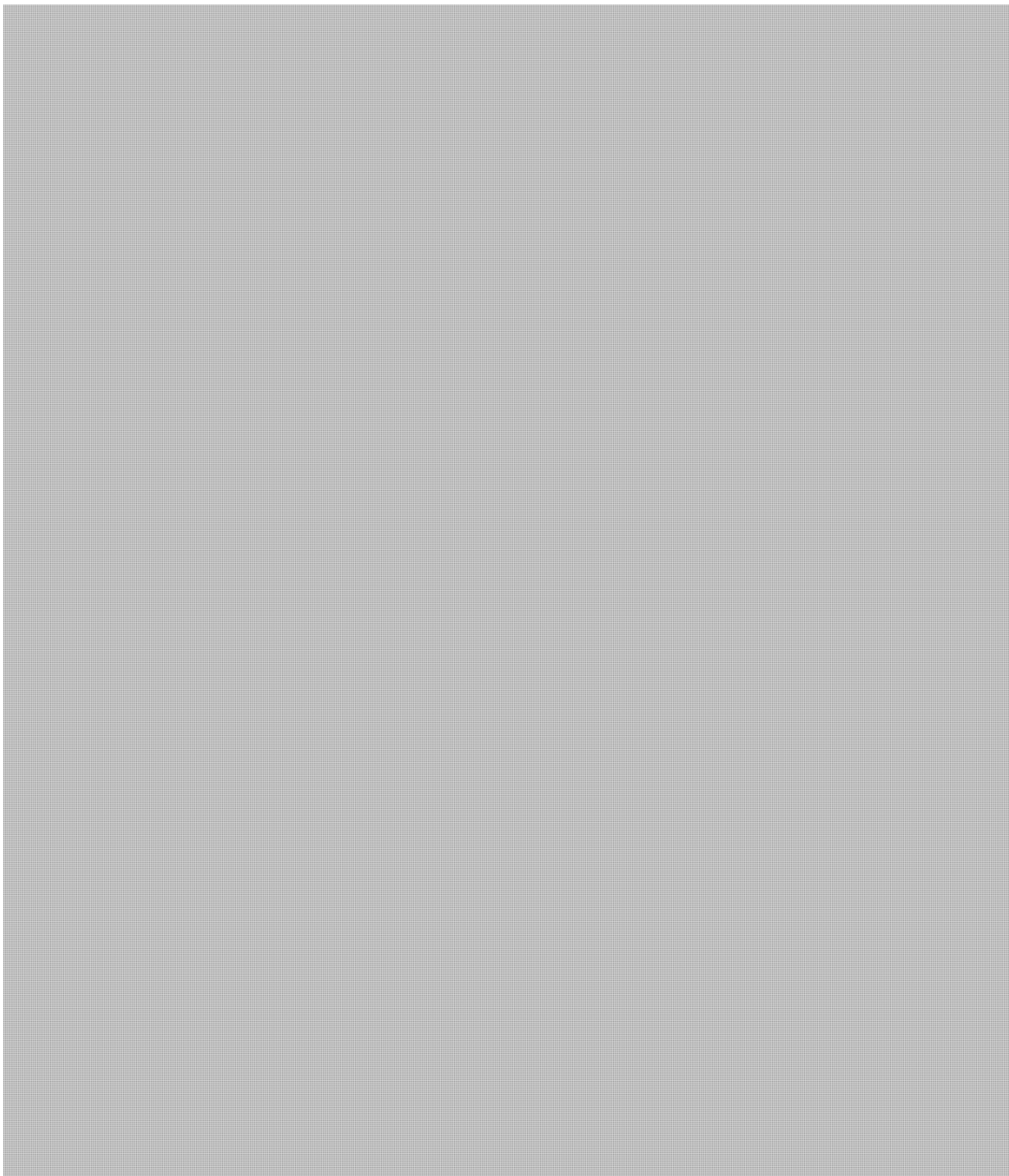
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Talking Points

Introduction of PHAC President Namiesniowski

[for possible use by Chief Justice Wagner]

- **It is now my pleasure to introduce Tina Namiesniowski (nam-ish-NOF-ski), President of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).**
- **President Namiesniowski took on her current role in May 2019 after holding progressively more senior positions in various federal departments, including the Privy Council Office, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Canada Border Services Agency.**
- **As President, she supports PHAC's mandate to protect Canadians' health by preventing and controlling chronic and infectious diseases, as well as preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. PHAC also seeks to strengthen intergovernmental collaboration on public health and facilitate national approaches to public health policy and planning.**
- **Such a mandate is clearly designed for times such as these, and I'm sure you could not have predicted that, within a year of being appointed, you would be facing such an unprecedented public health emergency on a national and global scale. I cannot imagine your life these days.**
- **We are grateful, President Namiesniowski, that you made the time to join us today. We look forward to your presentation on risk-informed decision-making guidelines for workplaces and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. I know it will resonate with and inform the national guidance we look forward to developing specifically for courts.**
- **I turn the line over to you.**



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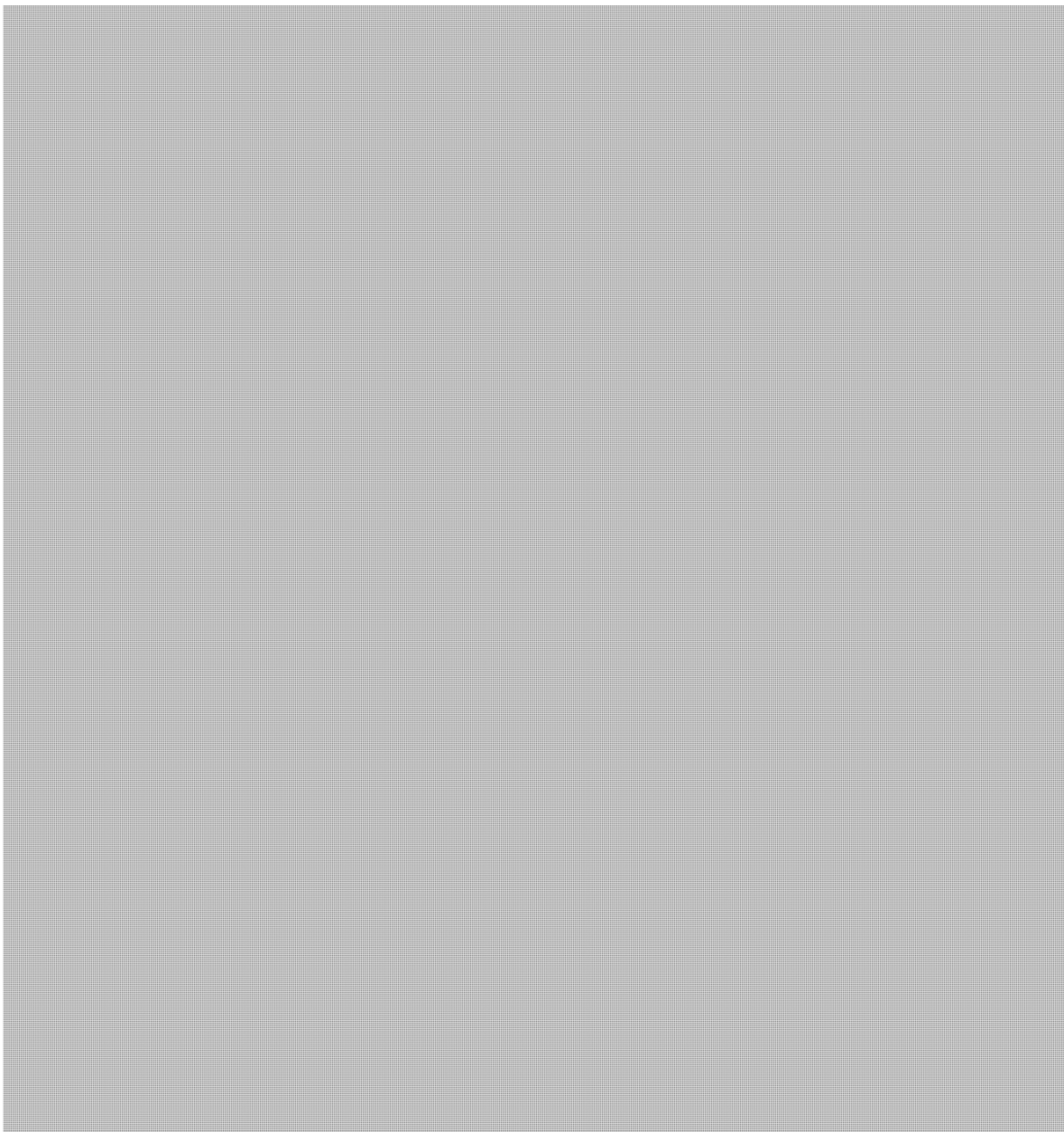
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Talking Points Action Committee – Roundtable Discussion / Objectives and Outcomes



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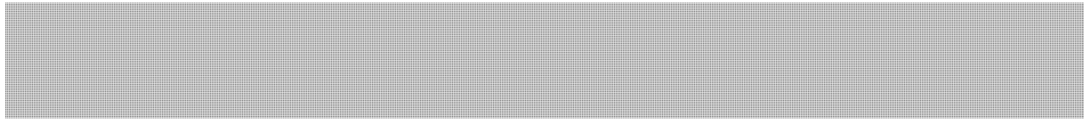
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