

News Release

Archdiocese of St. John's

Date: September 23, 2020

Earlier today, lawyers representing the Archdiocese of St. John's petitioned for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada the decision of the Newfoundland and Labrador Court of Appeal in John Doe et al. v. the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's.

This decision to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada was not made lightly. The Court of Appeal judgement overturned some of the legal conclusions made by the trial judge of this case. As this ruling will set a legal precedent that will likely have profound implications for not only the future operations of the Archdiocese, but for the operations of other Episcopal Corporations, charities and organizations, it is imperative that a clear understanding and ruling of the application of this law be obtained.

The Archdiocese has immense sympathy for those who suffer as a result of abuse and we regret that this petition to appeal will prolong the legal proceedings of this case. We ask for prayers for all those involved in this sad matter as we continue to move forward, focused on our daily work of building God's kingdom through service, word and worship.

As this matter is still before the courts, the Archdiocese will not be making any further comment at this time. A copy of this release and a letter to the people of the Archdiocese are available on the Archdiocesan website.