

**Written Greetings for The Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada**

Rentrée judiciaire du Barreau Laurentides-Lanaudière

**Joliette, QC – 14 septembre 2023
Saint-Jérôme, QC – 15 septembre 2023**

Greetings to everyone taking part in the Rentrée judiciaire du Barreau Laurentides-Lanaudière 2023.

You are a leading voice in the Quebec legal community, and I applaud your determination to make our justice system more effective and accessible.

It is an honour to be appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. I am excited for this opportunity to pursue my deep commitment to equality, combatting discrimination and promoting human rights.

These are the foundations of a strong, effective justice system, and must guide our efforts to improve access to justice, eliminate systemic racism and discrimination, and advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

There is much progress to build on. Our government will continue to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous people, Black and other racialized people in all parts of our justice system and will work with parliamentarians toward the successful passage of legislation to address miscarriages of justice and gun violence. We will work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis, guided by our Action Plan, to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

I will also prioritize filling judicial vacancies. We need more jurists with diverse voices and backgrounds, and I encourage you to consider applying for appointment to the Bench.

I look forward to the work ahead, together, as we build a justice system that is truly centred on the people it serves.

Thank you.

The Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada