

December 31, 2023

To:

Canadian Director General of Charities Directorate  
Canadian Minister of National Revenue  
Canadian Minister of Justice  
Canadian Minister of Canadian Heritage:

Re: Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, Operating in Canada as:

Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, CRA charitable registration # 11928 8918 RR0001, and

La Tour de Garde, Société de Bibles et de Traités du Québec, CRA charitable registration # 87081 7384 RR0001, and

JW Congregation Support, CRA charitable registration # 81092 5255 RR0001

All operating under the trade-name: Jehovah's Witnesses or les Témoins de Jéhovah and their internal divisions or associated charities operating as Circuits and Congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses

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I am a Canadian citizen. I was a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses for 40 years, and was baptized into the religion at the age of 16 years old.

I became a Jehovah's Witness at a vulnerable point in my life when my parents divorced and I moved away from my home and family to live with my mother. I was frightened and lonely moving from a small town to a city. A Jehovah's Witness classmate had me "study" the Bible for six months, and I was baptized as a Jehovah's Witness when I was 16 years old. It was never discussed that there would be consequences to me if I ever later disagreed with some of the Jehovah's Witness teachings.

I was a Jehovah's Witness for 40 years before I clearly realized that I could not continue to be a part of this organization. My children – three sons and two daughters-in-laws, are still members of this organization. My entire social network was also a part of this group. When I expressed a doubt in a doctrinal matter my whole social structure was shattered. My sons would no longer speak to me, even a greeting. I was no longer able to visit them or my newborn grandson. Since that time they have had a second son whom I have never seen or held in my arms. I feel that being cut off from everyone is one of the cruelest ideologies on the planet. I contemplated

suicide myself. I knew that returning was impossible because of what I knew about this organization. Being in such a space is truly a tragedy. This cult has taken much from me as many others.

Back when I was 16 in school, I was an honour student and looking forward to going to University, but becoming a Jehovah's Witness changed all those hopes and dreams. There was pressure from the congregation to not go to university and to just take a menial job, because the end of the world was so close. This was a part of the indoctrination process. It has had far reaching effects everywhere in my life and continues to be a source of anxiety. It takes much time and resources to heal from cult indoctrination.

I believe the Jehovah's Witness organization does not deserve tax exemption because they do not contribute to Canadian society by offering charitable programs for others or for even their own people. They are a multi-million dollar organization that doesn't even take responsibility for the negative actions of pedophiles in their midst by compensating victims of child abuse. They have numerous harmful policies that go against Canadian public policy.

