

445 Gottingen Street,  
Halifax, N. S.

Friday, March 3rd., 1950

Mr. John A. Y. MacDonald,  
Deputy Attorney General,  
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Sir: -

*This letter was composed  
and typed by Dr. Alfred  
Waddell on behalf of  
Viola Desmond who then  
signed the letter.*

This will acknowledge yours of January 19th, 1950.

In reply, I wish to state that I have made it clear in my previous correspondence with both the Minister of Justice and your Department that I was arrested without being told on what charge, incarcerated overnight in a mice-infested cell, and fined the following morning.

I was given no opportunity to secure counsel or bail, and I insist that this is a gross violation of human rights, considering that the offence, or alleged offence, was hardly of a nature to justify such treatment.

As to my application for remission, I am convinced that this conviction is a blot, not on myself, but on the Province of Nova Scotia, and it is a question of pride or shame on their part of the Province whether it wishes to retain or delete this atrocity from its books, for I do not believe any sane individual is of the opinion that my conviction resulted from any other cause than that I am a member of Nature's out-cast race.

My request is that you investigate and verify the statements I have made, and if there is a proven violation of rights, I do not believe it is up to me, except as an informant, to direct what steps should be taken.

Yours truly,

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