

## **NCI Press Conference January 31st 2023**

### **Bernard Massie**

The reason why I accepted this mandate is that I was deeply disturbed by the lack of transparency and the insufficiency of scientific and democratic debates leading to shortcomings in the management of this pandemic, in particular at the level of the risk/benefit analysis.

In addition to the suffering caused by the virus, many are wondering if the health measures deployed have not also caused collateral emotional, physical and social injuries that could have been avoided.

The population was stunned by fear and anxiety, and this led to social fractures within families and communities.

It's high time to launch the process of healing and reconciliation, which will necessarily go through an in-depth examination of the causes of the health crisis and the relevance as well as the impact of the measures put in place to mitigate the deleterious effects of the pandemic on the overall health of populations.

It's my most ardent wish that this process of healing and reconciliation take place through respect, dialogue and non-violent communication so that we emerge from this crisis all grown up.

I am honored and grateful to the Commission for giving me the opportunity to take part in this essential citizen investigation which will allow everyone to testify to their experiences and share their opinions on what should be done in the future to improve the management of similar scale pandemics.

I am here to learn, listen and put my open-mindedness and my scientific rigor at the service of the population. I look forward to the future to avoid, as much as possible, the pain and division resulting from a polarization that has been exacerbated by the absence of debate. It's time for benevolence and humility.

My role will be to provide a space for dialogue to free speech and to listen carefully to what people have to testify in order to draw up the most accurate assessment possible which will serve as a basis for the development of our recommendations at the end of the public hearings.