

FROM ISOLATION TO ACTION: Building A Strategic Litigation Guide from Nunavut's COVID-19 Emergency Response

An Abstract of the Thesis by

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This thesis examines Nunavut's COVID-19 isolation hubs through a rights-based lens and develops a strategic litigation guide grounded in seven years of frontline practice. It uses a three-strand design: practice-based autoethnographic analysis, doctrinal human rights analysis, and one expert interview. The analytic framework integrates critical race theory, intersectionality, trauma-informed care, decoloniality, and Canadian and international law. Findings indicate routine searches, paternalistic restrictions, and de facto confinement that undermined privacy, equality, mobility, health, and dignity, with disproportionate burdens on Inuit women, families, and persons with disabilities. The thesis offers a practical guide that situates litigation within a broader advocacy ecosystem and sets out minimum conditions and wider decolonial considerations for Inuit-led accountability. It concludes that litigation may be tactically useful but cannot deliver decolonization; durable change requires Inuit leadership, transparency, and culturally grounded program design.