

# **Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges**

## **Judicial Independence Committee – Administrative Independence**

### **Report to the 2021 Annual General Assembly**

#### **1. *Members of the Committee***

- 1) Judge Mayland McKimm – B.C. Chair - third term
- 2) Judge Karen Ruddy - Yukon - third term
  - i. No one remembers Judge Ruddy not being on the committee
- 3) Judge Donovan Molloy - Northwest Territories – retired from committee
- 4) Justice Jerry La Grandeur – Alberta - first term
- 5) Judge Michelle Brass – Saskatchewan – first term
- 6) Judge Wanda Garreck – Manitoba – first term (June 2021)
- 7) Justice Lucia Favret – Ontario – third term
  - i. Pretty sure she has also always been on the committee
- 8) Juge Marco La Brie – Quebec – second term
- 9) Judge Alanna Murphy – Nova Scotia – first term
- 10) Judge Nicole Angers – New Brunswick – first term
- 11) Judge Jeffrey Lantz – PEI – third term
  - i. Another lifer

(All members appointed effective September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 except Judge Brass who replaced Judge Inez Cardinal in December of 2019 and Judge Garrick who replaced Judge Julie Frederickson in June of 2021)

#### **2. *Meetings***

The committee met approximately monthly by teleconference until the summer of 2021 at which time the committee agreed that meeting once every two months was more effective.

#### **3. *Topics of discussion***

##### **a.) Impacts of the Pandemic on our working conditions**

The committee continued to keep a close eye on issues that arose from time to time from restrictions and difficulties arising from the Pandemic. As the year progressed members believed that challenges to Judicial Independence that arose are dealt with effectively and comprehensively.

The committee recognises that as we move out of the pandemic, assuming that ever actually happens we will see a multitude of new systems and developments in the delivery of justice services to the public. We will continue to maintain a watching brief on roll outs of new programs and development of new delivery models to ensure they do not raise judicial independence concerns.

b.) Security of Courthouses and Courtrooms in the execution of our duties

The committee continues to work on preparing a report for the Board on security conditions necessary for the successful execution of our judicial functions. We have completed two thirds of that report and have one last section to vet as a committee and will be prepared to disseminate the report to the Board for approval later in the fall.

c.) Bibliography

The Bibliography of materials relating to Judicial Independence is nearing completion under the careful guidance of Justice Le Grandeur on Alberta. We expect that it will be in publishable form in the next month or two.

d.) Judicial Independence Education

The committee continues to work to ensure that judicial independence is a topic of discussion and consideration at all new Judges educational opportunities. The expectation now is that we will focus on provincial educational opportunities as the committee is comfortable that the topic is now properly disseminating through the letter from the CAPCJ president, at the Bromont New Judges School and at the Niagara on the lake Program. We will continue to watch this topic and do our best to keep it front of mind for new judges.

The minutes of each meeting are forwarded to Judge Cohen for posting on the website.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Judge Mayland McKimm  
Chair  
Judicial Independence Committee – Administrative Independence