



October 9, 2018

The Honourable Lynn Smith, QC
Chair, 2017 Judicial Compensation Commission
Peter A. Allard School of Law
Allard Hall
1822 East Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Dear Ms. Smith,

Re: 2017 Judicial Compensation Commission

The Law Society of Alberta made submissions to each of the previous commissions reviewing judicial compensation and benefits, and provides this brief submission to the 2017 Judicial Compensation Commission.

In our previous submissions, the Law Society supported the key principle of protection of the public interest through judicial independence. We noted that financial security was an integral part of that independence.

We reiterate and affirm our support of that key principle. Judicial independence is essential to a fair and respected justice system in a free and democratic society.

We also note, as we have before, the important role of the Commission in an effective and objective judicial compensation process.

While the Law Society does not advocate for any specific remuneration or benefit package, it is our submission that the Commission should accept that financial security is an important component of judicial independence, and remains an important factor in attracting further high quality candidates.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald Cranston, QC
President
Law Society of Alberta

cc: Don Thompson, QC, Executive Director, Law Society of Alberta