



Independent Advisory Board
for Supreme Court of Canada
Judicial Appointments

Comité consultatif indépendant sur
la nomination des juges de la
Cour suprême du Canada

Dear Madam/Sir,

RE: Supreme Court of Canada Appointment Process - 2017

On July 14, 2017, the Prime Minister of Canada opened the process to select the next justice of the Supreme Court of Canada to fill the vacancy which will be created by the retirement, on December 15, 2017, of Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin. The process is to fill the ninth position on the Supreme Court. From the nine members then assembled, the Prime Minister will identify the next chief justice. ([View Prime Minister's news release](#))

Under the process, used for the first time in 2016, an independent and non-partisan Advisory Board has been given the task of reviewing all applicants and identifying suitable candidates for consideration by the Prime Minister. The members of the Advisory Board were announced on July 17, 2017. ([View Prime Minister's news release](#))

In his Mandate Letter to the Advisory Board members, the Prime Minister asked that they develop and submit to him, by no later than October 23, 2017, a list of three to five qualified and functionally bilingual candidates from Western Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba) and Northern Canada (Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon). Candidates may demonstrate that they satisfy the geographical requirement by reference to their bar membership, judicial appointment or other relationship with Western Canada or Northern Canada. The question of whether a candidate is functionally bilingual will be assessed by the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs in accordance with established and objective criteria.

The Board's Terms of Reference ([View Terms of Reference](#)) stipulate that in establishing a list of qualified candidates, members must seek to support the Government of Canada's intent to achieve a gender-balanced Supreme Court of Canada that also reflects the diversity of members of Canadian society, including Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and members of ethnic, linguistic and other minority communities, including those whose members' gender identity or sexual orientation differs from that of the majority.

As the Board's Chairperson, I encourage you to use your networks and knowledge of the judiciary and legal community in your jurisdictions to identify qualified candidates, and urge them to submit an application through the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs at the following address: <http://www.fja-cmf.gc.ca/scc-csc/form-formulaire-eng.html>. Your early attention to this matter is much appreciated as the deadline to file an application for an appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada is September 15, 2017, at 23:59 PDT.

Yours truly,

The Right Honourable Kim Campbell, P.C., C.C., O.B.C., Q.C.,
Chairperson, Independent Advisory Board for Supreme Court of Canada Judicial Appointments