



Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs



The Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs (FJA) is an agency of the Government of Canada, established in 1978 under the *Judges Act*. Its mandate is to support and safeguard judicial independence through a wide variety of services provided to Canada's judiciary.

The federal judiciary is composed of judges of appeal courts and superior courts from all provinces and territories and of judges of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Federal Court of Appeal, the Federal Court and the Tax Court of Canada.

Since its establishment and to this day, FJA's primary responsibility is to administer Part I of the *Judges Act*, which deals with eligibility for judicial appointment as well as salaries and benefits of judges.

FJA's other responsibilities include:

- administering the judicial appointments process;
- preparing a budget and providing services and staff to the Canadian Judicial Council;
- administering a judicial intranet that provides judges with email and a secure and restricted communications system;
- providing language training to judges in both official languages;
- publishing the Federal Courts Reports;
- coordinating and managing international programs;
- managing an annual budget of over \$400 million.



Judicial Appointments Secretariat

FJA administers 17 advisory committees responsible for evaluating candidates for federal judicial appointment. Lawyers and judges of provincial and territorial courts who are qualified and wish to be considered for federal judicial appointment must submit their application to FJA. The Commissioner is responsible for administering the appointments process on behalf of the Minister of Justice. The Commissioner must ensure that all candidates for judicial appointment are treated fairly.

In addition, since 2006, the Minister of Justice has given FJA the mandate to administer the process for evaluating candidates for appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada.



Federal Courts Reports

The *Federal Courts Reports* are the official reports of the decisions of the Federal Court of Appeal and the Federal Court. They are published under section 58 of the *Federal Courts Act*. Only decisions or parts of them that are of sufficient significance or interest are published in the reports. Selected decisions are published in both official languages and undergo a thorough editorial process. In addition, decisions published in the reports, in full text or as digests, are available free of charge on FJA's Web site.



Language Training

FJA administers a language training program for judges. The goal of the program is for judges to better understand and express themselves in their second language, so that they can communicate effectively in that language. As a result, judges contribute to the advancement of bilingualism and bijuralism within Canada's judicial system.



International Programs

Canada's judicial system and its judiciary have an excellent world-wide reputation. This is due to the independence of our judiciary, the way justice is administered in Canada, and the fact that justice is provided in two languages (English and French) and according to two systems of law (civil law and common law).

FJA cooperates with the Canadian International Development Agency and other Canadian and foreign partners in various projects related to the judiciary, judicial governance, the rule of law, the administration of justice and the management of courts and court offices. FJA carries out these projects on site in countries

where such services are needed. In addition, FJA carries out short term initiatives at the request of foreign governments and various international organizations, and provides information on Canada's judicial system. Every year, FJA welcomes foreign delegations who are interested in learning more about our judicial institutions.

In order to carry out these activities, FJA has access to:

- more than 1,000 judges from all provinces and territories who speak English, French or both languages;
- staff members who have great expertise in judicial appointments, management of salaries and benefits, judicial ethics, language training and legal publishing;
- partners specializing in judicial education and the management of courts and court offices.

Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs

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Monday to Friday,
from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
(Eastern Standard Time).

Services are available
in English and French.