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*Judicial Compensation Committee*

**Board Members**

Chairperson

Michael Werier, Winnipeg <sup>(1)</sup>

Members

Robert Simpson, Winnipeg <sup>^ (2)</sup>

David Shrom, Winnipeg <sup>(3)</sup>

(1) Minister's and Judge's Designates

(2) Minister's designate

(3) Judge's designate

(^) Government Appointment

**Mandate:**

The Judicial Compensation Committee is established under *The Provincial Court Act*. The Act provides for the appointment, jurisdiction and compensation of provincial court judges within Manitoba.

**Authority:**

*The Provincial Court Act*

**Responsibilities:**

On or before April 1, 2002 and on or before April 1 in every third year after 2002, a compensation committee, to be known as the Judicial Compensation Committee, must be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The committee is established to investigate, report and make recommendations with respect to the following:

- a) The salaries to be paid to
  - The Chief Judge,
  - An Associate Chief Judge, and
  - A judge of the court, other than the Chief Judge or an Associate Chief Judge, including Masters of The Court of Queen's Bench; and
  
- b) The benefits to be paid, including pensions, vacations, sick leave, disability benefits, travel expenses and allowances, to the Chief Judge, an Associate Chief Judge and a judge of the court and Masters of The Court of Queen's Bench.

To the greatest extent possible, the Judicial Compensation Committee must conduct its review in an inquisitorial manner, assessing evidence it determines is relevant and necessary to enable it to make these recommendations.

**Membership:**

The committee consists of three members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council as follows:

- a) One person designated by the Minister of Justice;
- b) One person designated by the judges of the court; and
- c) One person, who shall act as chairperson, designated by the members who are designated under (a) and (b). If the designates cannot agree on a neutral chairperson, the chairperson shall be selected by the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Manitoba.

**Length of Terms:**

Within 180 days after the compensation committee is appointed or such further time period as may be necessary and allowed, it must give its report, including recommendations, to the minister, the Chief Judge, the Associate Chief Judges and the judges of the court.

**Desirable Expertise:**

There are no formal requirements under the Act, however committee members should have a sound understanding of the law. Members should also possess a thorough understanding of the judicial systems in Manitoba, especially the provincial court system and the roles of the Chief Judge, Associate Chief Judges, puisne judges and Masters of The Court of Queen's Bench.

There is no formal educational requirement; however, potential board members should be legally trained and able to demonstrate an understanding of compensation issues including but not limited to issues of salaries, benefits, pensions and expenses.

An effective board member must be able to read and understand complex, legal and financial written material, analyze written and verbal information in order to ascertain facts, and apply relevant legislation to this written and verbal information in order to make effective recommendations on compensation matters for judges.

Board members must:

- Possess a high degree of verbal and written communication skills including the ability to conduct a review in an inquisitorial manner;
- Have the ability to assess evidence and determine its relevance and necessity;
- Possess active listening skills;
- Be able to read and interpret legislation and how it applies to the compensation of judges;
- Adhere to a high degree of confidentiality; and
- Have the ability to make decisions in a fair and unbiased manner.

**Time commitment:**

The committee members must be able to devote sufficient time during the 180 day period or such further time period as may be necessary and allowed to convene hearings, evaluate information and complete a written report on the committee findings and recommendations.

**Meetings:**

Location: Meetings typically take place in Winnipeg.

**Remuneration:**

Chair &  
Members: \$210.00 an hour and reimbursement for expenses.