

Judicial Compensation and Benefits Commission
8th floor - 99 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa, Ont.
K1A 1E3

K.F.Connor
59 Queen Eliz. Dr.
Charlottetown, PEI
C1A 3A8

December 11, 2007

Madam Sheila Block,
Chairperson.

For a country that cherishes democracy, this process is an abomination. Various Leaders and Parties have over the years created and perpetuated an elitist class paid for by the masses.

This invitation to comment is a poor and unacceptable excuse for public participation. First of all the advertisements do not give any information what so ever as on the current status of judicial salaries, allowances, annuities, perquisites, etc. (Quite a lengthy list) In other words anyone commenting would be doing so without any pertinent information at all.

Secondly, the lead time from the ads appearing and the deadline for submissions is too short.

Thirdly, requesting ten copies of written submissions, as well as an electronic format is absurd and a wilful deterrent for an average person to submit.

Despite the insult to democracy which this process is I submit the following suggestions:

1. That the Act governing this process be rescinded and Judicial Compensation and Benefits be governed and administrated through the same system as all other civil servants.
2. That salary increases be automatically calculated on the basis of cost of living increases, as are Old Age Pensions, for example.
3. That allowances and perquisites (what ever they are) be reduced to be on par with the rest of the Federal Civil Service.
4. That pensions (annuities) be calculated on the same basis as the rest of the Federal Civil Service and be administrated through that.

The system in place, by which judges are political appointments, is not worthy of a modern democracy, and the endless benefits piled upon each other awarded to these lucky few is not worthy of a modern democracy, either.

It is time that the whole system of appointing judges as well as the too generous remuneration package be streamlined and updated.

The Canadian taxpayers deserve to be relieved of the cost of this Judicial Compensation and Benefits Commission arrangement , and have a system instituted using automatic inflation based salary increases, and a freeze on all the rest of the list of fringe benefits, as well as general prudence in the operation of our Courts.

In the name of fairness, these should be the recommendations of your Commission.
Yours truly,

K.F. Connor