

August 18, 2016

VIA MAIL AND EMAIL

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

RE: New Appointments Process for Justices of the Supreme Court of Canada

The Advocates' Society (the "Society") is a not-for-profit association of over 5,500 lawyers throughout Ontario and the rest of Canada. The mandate of the Society includes, amongst other things, making submissions to governments and other entities on matters that affect access to justice, the administration of justice and the practice of law by advocates. As courtroom advocates, the Society's members have a keen interest in the effective judicial resolution of legal disputes.

On behalf of the Society, I write to congratulate you on the recent announcement of the new process by which Justices will be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

For several years, the Society has raised its concerns with the appointments process for Supreme Court Justices. In letters written to the Minister of Justice and her predecessors, the Society has urged the development of an appointments process that is founded on the values of openness, transparency, non-partisanship, and representativeness of the diversity of Canada. The Society advocated for a selection process which would be published in advance to members of the public, which would encourage the participation of relevant stakeholders including representatives of the Provinces and Territories from which appointments are intended to be made, and through which the strongest candidates would be short-listed for ultimate consideration by the Prime Minister. We are pleased that the new appointments process integrates these important values and elements. We are confident that the new appointments process will enhance public confidence in the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

In our letter to the Minister of Justice on July 22, 2016, we stressed the importance of these same values to all Federal judicial appointments. The Society would be pleased to engage further with your Government as you examine the appointments process for judges of the Provincial and Territorial Courts of Appeal and Superior Courts, as well as the Federal Court of Appeal, the Federal Court and the Tax Court.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Berg', written in a cursive style.

Bradley E. Berg
President

August 18, 2016

VIA MAIL AND EMAIL

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H8

Dear Minister:

RE: New Appointments Process for Justices of the Supreme Court of Canada

As you know, The Advocates' Society (the "Society") is a not-for-profit association of over 5,500 lawyers throughout Ontario and the rest of Canada. The mandate of the Society includes, amongst other things, making submissions to governments and other entities on matters that affect access to justice, the administration of justice and the practice of law by advocates. As courtroom advocates, the Society's members have a keen interest in the effective judicial resolution of legal disputes.

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Bradley E. Berg
President