

HANS J. HAHN

F.Eng.

June 11, 2006

Mr. John M. Moreau, QC
Commissioner
The Judicial Compensation Commission
310-9 Street NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1T4

Dear Sir:

Re: **Compensation for judges of the Provincial Court of Alberta**

Hereby I would like to submit the following points:

1. The time allowed for making submissions is way too short. From Thursday, June 1, 2006, till noon of Monday, June 12, 2006, this is barely a full working week if the submissions have to be sent in by mail. One could infer that submissions from the public are not really wanted.
2. From my work experience (as outlined in the attached CV) and nearly 20 civil lawsuits over the last 23 years (a few of the cases are still going on), I feel qualified for making this submission as a concerned layperson.
3. Mr. Kereliuk from Alberta Justice told me that the provincial court judges presently make around \$200,000 per annum. He also explained the pension benefits.
4. Considering that nurses, teachers and engineers make an average only about 30 to 45% of the salary of provincial court judges, the judges are well paid. A similar disproportion exists for crown prosecutors who make about \$75,000 to \$125,000, with the \$125,000 applying only to a few. And I think that crown prosecutors have heavier workloads than judges.
5. Compared to farmers, non-unionized workers in nursing homes, etc., judges make seven to 10 times as much as these people.
6. In summary, compared to the general public, judges are well paid or overpaid and should get only nominal raises if any at all. The above also applies to pension payments.
7. If judges point to the extremely high incomes of some professionals as sort of justification for their demands, they are free to leave the bench and pursue other careers. They still can go for a CA designation and an LL.M. in tax law. After obtaining such qualifications they can join Belcaky Flynn or similar firms to get the high incomes made by some individuals there.
8. The often heard reason that judges should not be put in danger of being bribed does not really apply. Most of them are hearing criminal matters, and most of their criminal clients, except for some moguls from the drug scene, are at the very bottom of the income pyramid.
9. To get a happier judiciary, perhaps more crown prosecutors should be appointed to the bench. This would also alleviate other problems in civil litigation.

Sincerely,


Hans J. Hahn

Encl