

## **King's Counsel Selection Criteria**

The Minister of Justice will consider certain criteria when making recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and will recommend the appointment of lawyers who, in accordance with the *King's Counsel Act*, have been called to the bar for at least ten years, with a minimum of five years practicing in the province of Alberta, and have demonstrated the following attributes to the extent that they make the applicant a leader in the legal profession.

### **Competence**, including:

- sound intellectual ability with a thorough, comprehensive, and current knowledge of law and practice in the applicant's field
- distinguished legal service with demanding and challenging legal work that contributes to the development of the law and practice
- a recognized expertise in a particular area of law and practice (which may include the general practice of law)
- an outstanding ability as a lawyer in the applicant's field, to a standard to be expected of King's Counsel

### **Professional qualities**, including:

- a history of honesty, integrity, and candid dealings in professional and personal matters including dealings with professional colleagues, clients, lay people, and the courts and in the execution of duties as an officer of the court
- the trust and confidence of others
- the respect of fellow lawyers
- the respect of the Bench and administrative tribunals before which the applicant may appear
- demonstrated mentorship of junior members of the Bar

The Minister of Justice may also consider the following when making recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council:

### **Contribution to the administration of justice**, including:

- a demonstrated commitment to make legal services available to all who require them, regardless of the ability to pay

- a significant commitment to access to justice

**Contribution to the community**, including:

- a significant contribution to the life of the community, including leadership on community, cultural, and philanthropic organizations
- contributions that further the well-being of the community
- providing service and support to communities and community organizations in ways that encourage initiative, self-help, cooperation, and partnership building

**Contribution to the legal profession**, including:

- a significant contribution to the legal profession through leadership in governance of the profession or bar-related activities
- a significant contribution to legal scholarship through teaching or legal writing and research
- a significant contribution in legal practice, including service to government, business corporations, non-profit organizations, administrative tribunals, academic institutions, the Crown Prosecutors' office, and the Law Society

The Minister of Justice is committed to considering each application on the established merits of the individual without regard to law firm affiliation and will consider each application on an equal basis regardless of gender, age, race, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital or family status, disability, or political affiliation.