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Canada

Ministère de la Justice
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BY EMAIL

October 30, 2020

Our File Number: 500008446

Ms. Louise Meagher
Executive Director
Judicial Compensation and Benefits Commission
99 Metcalfe Street, 8th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 1E3

Dear Ms. Meagher:

Re: Update on Preparation for 2020 Judicial Compensation and Benefits Commission

I write on behalf of counsel for the Government and the Judiciary (including the Federal Court prothonotaries) further to the Order of the Commission dated June 20, 2020, where the parties were directed to provide a report to the Commission by October 31, 2020 as to the status of their information exchange and their preparedness to proceed with the inquiry commencing on December 1, 2020.

On behalf of the parties, I can advise that, while the exchange of information relevant to the Commission's inquiry has been delayed by the pandemic, the parties expect to be ready to proceed with the commencement of the inquiry on December 1st.

Specifically, I can advise that the Update on Prevailing Economic Conditions in Canada provided by the Department of Finance is expected to be made available to the parties by mid November. The parties also anticipate receiving the information pertaining to the income of self-employed lawyers from the Canada Revenue Agency on November 13, 2020. Third, updated projections regarding the Industrial Aggregate Index provided by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions are expected by mid to late November. Fourth, information from the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs concerning recent applications for, and appointments to, the judiciary has been received, with periodic updates and clarification being provided as required. A request for information concerning judicial annuities has also been sent to the OCFJA. A response is expected before the end of November.

Finally, in respect of the compensation provided to the Deputy Minister group in the Government of Canada, information for the three years prior to 2019-2020 has been made

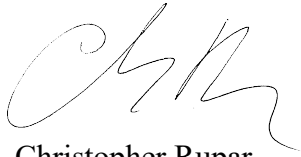
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available to the parties. Unfortunately, the information relating to the final year (2019-2020) will not be available until at least January 2021. The relevant authorities have advised that this delay is caused by issues surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Questions arising from the first three years of information have been sent to the relevant government officials for clarification. Notwithstanding this situation, the parties do not expect the delay in receiving this information to adversely affect the overall timeframe of the inquiry, although it may push off the dates of the first steps in the inquiry's procedural timetable.

Consequently, the parties confirm that they are prepared to proceed with the inquiry commencing December 1, 2020, as set out in the Commission's Order of June 20, 2020. It is also respectfully requested that the Commission convene a conference call or videoconference with the principal parties shortly after December 1st to discuss scheduling matters going forward. As a result of court appearances already scheduled, it is respectfully requested that the conference take place late in the afternoon (i.e. 5:00 p.m.) in the first two weeks of December, with December 10 and 11 being the preferred dates and December 1-4, 7 and 8 being the non-preferred dates for the conference. In preparation for that first meeting, and following the receipt of the information described above, the parties will provide the Commission with a draft procedural timetable for the inquiry.

Please do not hesitate to contact counsel for the parties if the Commission requires any additional information.

Yours truly,



Christopher Rupar
Counsel, Government of Canada

cc: Pierre Bienvenu, Ad. E., Azim Hussain and Jean-Simon Schoenholz, counsel for the CSCJA and the CJC
Andrew Lokan, counsel for the Federal Court Prothonotaries
Kirk Shannon, counsel for the Government of Canada