The CJC takes all allegations of misconduct about judges seriously. When an allegation appears to be serious enough to possibly warrant removal, the matter may be sent to a Review Panel of five persons for further consideration. That Review Panel must include a member of the public who is neither a lawyer nor a judge. This is to ensure that the public has a role to play in commenting on the conduct of their judges.

The essential function of a Panel is to decide whether an Inquiry Committee should be constituted in accordance with subsection 63(3) of the Judges Act.

If you are interested in participating in the work of a Review Panel, please consider the following:

Lay persons for judicial conduct review panels should demonstrate that they possess and exemplify the following qualities:

• Possesses integrity;
• Is respected in their community;
• Is aware of current events / social issues;
• Understands principles of judicial independence;
• Can commit the necessary time to review a matter and participate in deliberations;
• Can maintain confidentiality of the process and the deliberations;
• Has the language skills to understand, discuss and write about the issues at hand, in one of Canada’s official languages.

To participate in the work of a JCRP, you must be a Canadian citizen residing in Canada and available to travel if necessary. You must be willing to take part in an information and training session regarding the duties and authorities of a JCRP.

If asked to participate on a Panel, you may:

• receive an honorarium for your service.
• be identified in public Council communications (such as a press release) but must refrain from publicly speaking about the matter;
• sign an undertaking of confidentiality;
• be considered an agent of Council for purposes of any legal action
• agree to any terms and conditions set by the Council.

If you would like to be considered, please submit a letter (no more than 3 pages) that indicates how you possess the qualities we seek and your understanding of the task. Please send your letter to:

The Registrar, Canadian Judicial Council, info@cjc-ccm.gc.ca