

## **Criteria for Queen's Counsel Selection**

1. The Minister of Justice will consider certain criteria when considering an application for Queen's Counsel (Her Majesty's Counsel, learned in the law, for the Province of Alberta) and will award the appointments of Queen's Counsel to those lawyers who 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 Queen's Counsel

### **Professional Qualities, including**

- A history of honesty, integrity, discretion 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

2. The Minister of Justice may also consider the following in awarding a Queen's Counsel:

### **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 superior commitment to access to justice

### **Contribution to the Community, including**

- A superior contribution to the life of the community including leadership on community, cultural and philanthropic organizations

- Contributions to the community in order to 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 superior contribution to the legal profession through leadership in governance of the profession or Bar related activities
  - A superior contribution to legal scholarship through teaching or legal writing and research
  - A recognition of superior contribution in a variety of legal practices, including service to government, business corporations, non-profit organizations, administrative tribunals, academic institutes, Crown Prosecutor's office and the Law Society
3. The Minister is committed to consider each application on the established merits of the individual alone without regard to law firm affiliation or seniority at the Bar and will consider each application on a equal basis regardless of gender, age, race, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital or family status, disability or political affiliation.