



## JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING CANDIDATES

#### Basic Requirements

- To be eligible for an appointment as a Justice of the Peace in and for the Northwest Territories, applicants must:
  - be between 19 and 75 years of age;
  - have resided in the Northwest Territories for at least 6 months prior to appointment;
  - be a Canadian citizen;
  - have at least 10 years of work or volunteer experience;
  - apply for a Criminal Record Check and provide the results as part of the application process.
- Justices of the Peace, once appointed, are not permitted to practice as a lawyer in the Northwest Territories, be employed with the GNWT or carry out other employment or volunteer work that would conflict with their role as a Justice of the Peace.

#### Professional Excellence

- Professional excellence is the paramount criterion in assessing a candidate interested in becoming a Justice of the Peace.
- Applicants must have:
  - a demonstrated interest and commitment to learning about the role of the court in society and respective roles of the judiciary and other participants in the justice system.
  - an excellent reputation within the community;
  - the ability to listen and communicate effectively;
  - the ability to be impartial and unbiased when making decisions;
  - have good writing and communications skills;
  - the ability to work with evolving technology (i.e.: telephone and video hearings, tele warrants, remote appearances, etc.); and
  - the ability to be on-call evenings and weekends as it may be required for certain duties.
- A post-secondary or law degree is an asset but not required.

#### Community Awareness

- Applicants must have:
  - a demonstrated commitment to public service;
  - an awareness of, and an interest in, knowing about the social problems that give rise to cases coming before Justices of the Peace;
  - a demonstrated sensitivity to cultural and ethnic diversity, including Indigenous peoples' interests and the communities they come from; and
  - experience living and working in northern communities and connection to the Northwest Territories.

#### Personal Characteristics

- Applicants must:
  - possess an ability to listen and to maintain an open mind while hearing all sides of an argument;
  - have and exhibit respect for the essential dignity of all persons regardless of their circumstances;
  - exhibit politeness, patience and consideration while expressing compassion and empathy for others;
  - possess moral courage and high ethics;
  - have the ability to make decisions on a timely basis and to exercise sound judgment while working independently;
  - be punctual, organized and possess good, regular work habits;
  - have a reputation for integrity and fairness;
  - have the absence of pomposity and authoritarian tendencies; and
  - have the ability to handle social isolation.

#### Demographic

The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee recognizes the need to have a compliment of Justices of the Peace that is representative of the population they serve.