



May 5, 2014

Via email: nffn@sen.parl.gc.ca; lcjc@sen.parl.gc.ca; FINA@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Senator Bob Runciman
Chair, Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

The Honourable Senator Joseph A. Day
Chair, National Finance Committee
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

Mr. James Rajotte, M.P.
Chair, Finance Committee
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Sirs:

RE: Bill C-31, *Economic Action Plan 2014 Act, No. 1, Part 6, Division 5, Judges Act* amendments

I am writing to express the Canadian Bar Association's support for the proposed amendments to the *Judges Act* in Bill C-31, increasing the number of Superior Court judges in Alberta and Quebec.

Other CBA Sections will address other parts of Bill C-31 in separate letters.

The Canadian Bar Association is a national association representing over 37,500 jurists, including lawyers, notaries, law teachers and students across Canada. The Association's primary objectives include improvement in the law and in the administration of justice.

The proposed amendments to the *Judges Act* respond to the persuasive business case made by the provincial governments in Alberta and Quebec for additional judges to ensure the sound administration of justice and represent a significant step towards improving access to justice in those provinces.

The CBA's recent [Equal Justice Report](#),¹ an extensive study of access to justice in Canada, notes that government spending on the justice system has declined in recent years as compared to spending on health and education. Unresolved legal problems, and inadequate access to justice as a result of an

¹ www.cba.org/CBA/equaljustice/secure_pdf/EqualJusticeFinalReport-eng.pdf

inadequate number of judges, impose heavy costs not just on the litigants but on broader society. The report calls for re-centring the courts in the civil justice system as the main pathway to dispute resolution processes and referral to other services for non-legal aspects of people's problems.

The CBA is heartened by the government's action on this front and looks forward to working toward other improvements with all stakeholders in the justice system.

Yours truly,

(original signed by Fred Headon)

Fred Headon