

**FINAL REPORT OF THE
2007 BRITISH COLUMBIA
JUDGES COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

Report to the Attorney General of British Columbia
and the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia
Pursuant to Section 5 of the Judicial Compensation Act

Province would be sufficiently secured within two years that significant salary increases would then be affordable. Thus, the Commission recommended cost of living increases for Years One and Two, a substantial increase in Year Three to \$198,000 and a further cost of living increase in Year Four. The cost of living increases were to be based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.

The Government rejected the Commission's recommendations for Years One and Two, substituting a 0% increase for both years, but adopted the recommendations for Years Three and Four.

The resulting salaries were as follows:

2004/05	\$161,250	0% increase
2005/06	\$161,250	0% increase
2006/07	\$198,000	23.3% increase
2007/08	\$202,356	2.2% increase

Benefit Plans

The 2004 Commission was asked to consider whether Provincial Court Judges should be subject to system-wide changes made to their benefit plans. The Association took the position that no changes should be made to the benefit plans of a judge without prior consideration by a compensation commission. The Government disagreed, arguing that allowing across-the-board changes to flow through automatically to judges would not threaten the independence of the judiciary.

The 2004 Commission concluded that, for retired judges, changes to benefits in their pension plan could be made between commissions, observing that the plan was administered by trustees obligated to act in the interest of all members. For sitting judges, on the other hand, the Commission recommended that no benefit, premium, fee or term of a benefit plan (with the exception of the Medical Services Plan and Pharmacare) should be changed without prior consideration by a commission. The Government adopted this recommendation.

Professional Development Allowance

The 2004 Commission acceded to a request by then Chief Judge Baird Eilan that the professional development allowance be increased. The Commission recommended an increase to \$3,000 with the ability to carry forward any unused portion for one year. The Government adopted the proposed increase in the amount of the allowance, but insisted that allowable expenses be restricted to certain enumerated categories, rather than giving full discretion to the Chief Judge.