

**Date:** July 28, 2025

**To:**

Executive Director and Senior General Counsel  
Canadian Judicial Council  
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**Re: Judicial Accountability and Revolving-Door Justice in British Columbia**

Dear Members of the Canadian Judicial Council,

My name is Ivan Scott and I write to you not only as a private citizen of British Columbia, but also as a former corporate executive, professional civil engineer, and community advocate who led the “Keep the RCMP in Surrey” campaign, which garnered the support of over 100,000 British Columbians. I have long held a deep respect for the rule of law and the institutions that uphold it.

It is with this respect—and concern—that I express what I know to be a growing and justified alarm shared by many: our judicial system is no longer serving its fundamental duty to protect the public. The principles of transparency, efficiency, impartiality, and accountability, which should define Canadian justice, are steadily being undermined by systemic dysfunction and an apparent detachment from public expectation.

**The Problem is clear—and it’s in the Courts**

The signs are unmistakable. Major crime is increasing. Repeat offenders are regularly released on bail. Our police—both RCMP and municipal—work under increasing strain, only to see their efforts undone in court. What was once a justice system is increasingly seen as a revolving door for offenders.

The problem does not lie with law enforcement. It lies with courtroom decision-making, where public safety is often sacrificed in the name of procedural formalism or unchecked leniency.

Despite multiple letters sent directly to senior judicial figures in British Columbia, I have not received even the basic courtesy of a reply. This silence is not only discourteous—it is deeply troubling. It suggests an institution that believes itself immune to public concern. Judicial independence is essential, yes—but when it breeds institutional indifference, it becomes a threat to public trust.

## **A System That Serves Itself—Not the People**

There is a prevailing perception that the system is more responsive to the interests of the legal profession than to the citizens it claims to serve. Prolonged litigation, absurd procedural delays, and the toleration of vexatious lawsuits have become routine. The result? Justice too often goes to the party with the more expensive lawyer, not the more compelling case.

Here are some of the most pressing concerns:

1. **Justice for Sale** – The legal system increasingly appears structured to benefit legal professionals through extended and unnecessary litigation. Procedural complexity and needless delays seem almost designed to favor those with the resources to endure them. This perception is corrosive—and not unfounded.
2. **Lack of Judicial Accountability** – Judges who render irrational, dangerous, or ideologically driven decisions are insulated from consequence. There is no meaningful oversight, no performance review, and no real transparency. This would be unacceptable in any other public institution.
3. **Judicial Overreach** – Courts are not legislatures. Yet judges are increasingly assuming activist roles, making decisions that defy legislative intent under the guise of constitutional interpretation or “judicial independence.” This fosters public confusion and undermines respect for both parliament and judiciary.
4. **Unpredictability and Frivolity** – The legal system is marked by inconsistency, excessive reliance on prior-case minutiae, and the tolerance of frivolous or abusive claims. This unpredictability disincentivizes fair settlements, promotes endless litigation, and buries the public’s faith in reliable legal outcomes.
5. **Inefficient Use of Time** – The daily operating hours of courts, particularly the Supreme Court of British Columbia, are indefensibly short. A typical day runs from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm (with a 15-minute break), then 2:00 pm to

4:00 pm (again with a 15-minute break). Four hours of courtroom work per day is neither efficient nor acceptable given the volume and urgency of cases.

## Recommendations

The public demands a legal system that puts justice first. Therefore, I respectfully call on the Canadian Judicial Council to support or initiate the following reforms:

1. **Reform Bail Guidelines** – Tighten eligibility for repeat violent and sexual offenders, with mandatory public safety assessments.
2. **Implement Judicial Performance Metrics** – Track and report bail decisions, recidivism outcomes, and case timelines as a matter of public record.
3. **Mandate Victim and Community Input** – Ensure that release decisions formally acknowledge the impact on victims and communities.
4. **Establish a Civilian Judicial Liaison Office** – Create a public-facing ombuds office, independent of the legal profession, to monitor citizen complaints and unanswered correspondence.
5. **Rebalance Charter Application** – Review how Charter rights are weighed, ensuring public safety and dignity are given equal constitutional weight.
6. **Publish Monthly Revolving-Door Case Reports** – Provide the public with data on repeat offenders who are released and reoffend.
7. **Consider Broader Reform Consultation** – If provincial resistance persists, a national referendum or consultation on judicial oversight should be considered.

## Conclusion

The judiciary is not immune from accountability simply because it is independent. Independence requires earned legitimacy—and that legitimacy depends on public trust. That trust is being lost.

This is not a call for disrespect toward the bench. It is a call for responsibility from it.

The judiciary is meant to serve the people, not the other way around.

I respectfully ask the Canadian Judicial Council to take a more active role in evaluating judicial performance, increasing transparency, and ensuring that courts

are not allowed to operate above the standards expected in a modern, democratic society.

I am not alone in these concerns. Thousands of British Columbians—and many more Canadians—are losing faith in a system that appears unaccountable, inefficient, and detached from public realities.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and provide a statement on how the Canadian Judicial Council intends to engage with these pressing concerns. If no such mechanisms currently exist, I urge you to lead in helping to establish them.

Because silence is complicity—and we have been silent for too long.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

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