
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Attorney General

TASK FORCE TACKLES CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORMS

VANCOUVER – Government has established a working group to review the civil justice system in British Columbia, Attorney General Geoff Plant announced today.

A 9-member Civil Justice Reform Working Group of Justice Review Task Force will be co-chaired by B.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Donald Brenner and Deputy Attorney General Allan Seckel. Members also represent the Law Society of B.C., the Canadian Bar Association and the B.C. Provincial Court.

“The Chief Justice and I, through the Justice Review Task Force, have asked the Civil Justice Reform Working Group to consider the question: is there a better way for the civil justice system in this province to resolve disputes? Answering that question goes beyond just tinkering with the Supreme Court rules,” said Plant. “The focus of their job will be on making the entire system of resolving civil disputes more accessible by making it easier to understand, cheaper to use, and available to all British Columbians.”

The Civil Justice Reform Working Group will present its findings to the Justice Review Task Force (JRTF) by Dec. 2005.

“I join with the Attorney General in wanting to take on the uneasy task of assessing the basic assumptions of the status quo,” said Chief Justice Donald Brenner. “We want to ensure that we have an entire system that makes civil justice accessible.”

The Civil Justice Reform Working Group joins three other groups already formed under the JRTF, which are working on fundamental change to the family justice system, a new criminal justice approach to street crime and strategies to manage large criminal cases in B.C.

For more information on the task force, visit the website at <http://www.bcjusticereview.org/>. See attached backgrounder for the complete list of Civil Justice Reform Working Group members.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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