

NOTICE

To: Members of the Prince Edward Island Law Society

**From: Dr. Heather Keizer, Chair, Mental Health and Addictions Services
and Verna Ryan, Chief Administrative Officer, Mental Health and Addictions Services**

Date: June 12, 2017

Re: Recruitment for Chair/Vice-Chair of for the Prince Edward Island Mental Health Review Board

Hearings

The Mental Health Review Board ("MHRB") meets on an as needed basis. In the last two years, MHRB has met 21 times in 2016 and 23 times in 2015.

Requirements

Section 27 of the *Mental Health Act* provides that the Chair of the Review Board shall be a member in good standing of the Law Society of Prince Edward Island.

Skills and Experience

The following represents a good description of the skills and experience necessary to discharge the obligations incumbent upon the Chair of the Review Board:

- (a) working knowledge of the *Mental Health Act*, and in particular those provisions relating to involuntary admission, consent to treatment, and treatment without consent;
- (b) demonstrable experience in administrative law, and in particular experience before or on administrative tribunals;
- (c) flexibility to respond to time sensitive scheduling of hearings;
- (d) demonstrable experience in writing clear and cohesive legal decisions and reasons;
- (e) demonstrable ability to work in teams and collaboratively with other decision makers to build consensus;
- (f) demonstrable access to technical and word processing support to prepare and release decisions in a timely fashion as required by the Act; and
- (g) demonstrable ability to understand and process medical and psychiatric terminology in short time frames.

The first 2 criteria are by far the most important, as the Chair of the Review Board is required to work with the other members of the Board to reach legal determinations affecting a patient's rights, including their liberty interest. Not all applicants before the Board are represented by Counsel, and it falls to the Chair of the Board to ensure that specific legal requirements pursuant to the *Mental Health Act*, and more general requirements in respect of natural justice and administrative law, are respected.

Given the important civil liberties which these hearings address, that decisions be issued within the statutory timeframe.

Remuneration

The rate of compensation paid to a member of the MHRB is \$142.00/diem.

The rate of compensation paid to the Chair of the MHRB is \$200/diem.

Closing date

Anyone interested in being a member of the MHRB is asked to submit a copy of their CV to the attention of Verna Ryan at vryan@gov.pe.ca by the end of day on June 30, 2017.