

# Psychiatrist Profile

## About the Board and Mandate

The British Columbia Review Board is an adjudicative tribunal established under the *Criminal Code of Canada* to review the circumstances of, and make dispositions with respect to, individuals found unfit to stand trial or not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder.

The mandate of the Board is to safeguard public safety as well as the rights of mentally ill accused persons until they can be safely reintegrated into society. The Board holds hearings and exercises many authorities and obligations of a court.

The *Criminal Code* requires Review Boards to be appointed in every province and territory by the Lieutenant Governor in Council (the Cabinet) of each province. Each Review Board must consist of at least five persons. The Chair of the Review Board must be either a judge or a person qualified to be a judge (at least 10 years' call to the Bar). At least one member of the Review Board must be qualified to practice psychiatry. Each Review Board panel also includes other members, often referred to as "public members," whose qualifications are not specified in the *Criminal Code*. Typically, in BC these are individuals with experience in mental health, medicine, psychology, social work, or criminology. All members other than the Chair are part-time members.

A "quorum" (a panel of members designated to conduct a hearing) of the Review Board must consist of at least the Review Board Chair or a designated alternate chair, a psychiatrist, and any other member. The British Columbia Review Board generally sits in panels of three.

The Review Board is a paperless office, other than sending documents to accused persons. The Board holds hearings both in-person and by video. The majority of the in-person hearings are held at the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital in Coquitlam, but others are at locations around the province. Members are expected to have access to a computer and/or other device that will allow them to view, download and upload documents, view documents while at in-person hearings, attend video hearings from home, and submit invoices to the Board.

## Psychiatrist

The psychiatrist member has specialized knowledge and experience, usually gained from working in a forensic setting, of assessing and treating people with complex mental, physical and substance use disorders, prescribing medications and psychological therapies, as well as assessing and managing risk in such cases. Together with the alternate chair and the public member, they participate fairly and appropriately in the hearing process.

In addition, they must have the ability to listen to evidence, question witnesses, determine relevant information, and interpret and apply risk assessment methods to reach a considered and reasoned decision.

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

The British Columbia Review Board extends a standing invitation for expressions of interest in becoming a part-time member. Women, visible minorities, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity or expression (LGBTQ2S+), and others are encouraged to put their names forward for appointments.

### **Required Competencies for Psychiatrists:**

- Entitled under the laws of a Canadian province to practice psychiatry;
- Understanding of and experience with the forensic system, risk assessment, and risk management;
- Commitment to continuous learning with respect to forensic psychiatry and risk assessment;
- Understanding of and experience with issues related to mental health and the criminal justice system, and the delivery of mental health services;
- Ability to effectively listen to, understand and critically analyze evidence;
- Excellent decision making, research and writing skills; and
- Demonstrated decisiveness.

### **Desirable Attributes for Psychiatrists:**

- Certification as a forensic psychiatrist;
- Understanding of governing legislation (*Criminal Code*) and the Tribunal's mandate; and
- Ability to interpret legislation and policies.

### **Required Attributes for All Review Board Members:**

- No direct or indirect conflict of interest with the member's responsibility to the Tribunal;
- Compliance with the Board's Code of Conduct
- High ethical standards and integrity in professional and personal dealings;
- Commitment to respecting diversity;
- Appreciation of the responsibility to serve the public interest;
- Flexible, responsive and willing to consider others' opinions;

- Ability to listen and communicate effectively;
- Strong analytical, conceptual, problem-solving, and reasoning skills;
- Demonstrated ability to treat others with fairness;
- Able and willing to fulfill time commitment required to carry out responsibilities;
- Computer skills, including ability to conduct hearings via video conference, and ability to enter and retrieve information using web-based systems; and
- Commitment to continuous learning about the Tribunal, the administrative justice sector, and the forensic system.

**Time Commitment:**

- Minimum of 1-2 hearings days per month (including additional time for preparation).

**Term:**

- Members are appointed by Order in Council for a fixed term of two to five years.

**Compensation:**

- Tribunal compensation is governed by Treasury Board Directive 1/20. The Review Board is classified as a Level 4 tribunal.

**To apply please submit:**

- Current curriculum vitae
- Relevant experience, knowledge in areas of the Board's jurisdiction
- Maximum time commitment/availability/willingness to travel

Please send all expressions of interest to [Theresa.Newport@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Theresa.Newport@gov.bc.ca).