

# Terms of Reference Funding Decisions of the Human Rights Expert Panel

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## **1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

- 1.1. Provide financial support to help Canadians gain access to the courts for the litigation of test cases of national significance; and
- 1.2. Help assert and clarify certain constitutional and quasi-constitutional official language rights and human rights in Canada.

## **2. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXPERT PANELS**

- 2.1. To ensure that the cases funded by the Program are chosen independently, decisions regarding Program funding are rendered by two independent expert panels: an Official Language Rights Expert Panel and a Human Rights Expert Panel.
- 2.2. The expert panels are independent of the Minister of Canadian Heritage and report only to the University of Ottawa.
- 2.3. Members of the expert panels observe the policies and rules of operation adopted by their committee.
- 2.4. Members of the Human Rights Expert Panel assess the merits of each case and approve only cases that can further the Program's objective of clarifying rights while ensuring that the eligibility criteria, the terms of reference and the Program's terms are complied with.
- 2.5. Funding decisions are the exclusive responsibility of the expert panels.
- 2.6. The expert panels undertake to make funding decisions with transparency, integrity, independence and objectivity.

## **3. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CCP STAFF TOWARD THE EXPERT PANELS**

- 3.1. Provide administrative support to the expert panels.
- 3.2. Receive funding applications, analyze applications in accordance with the eligibility criteria established by the expert panel in charge of the decision, and present a recommendation to the expert panel.
- 3.3. Execute a funding agreement with each applicant approved for funding, hereafter referred to as the recipient.
- 3.4. Issue payments in the amounts approved by the expert panels.
- 3.5. Manage recipients' files, including ensuring that they submit their reports, and approve recipients' expenses and the reimbursement of their expenses.

#### **4. HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT PANEL DECISION-MAKING METHOD AND PROCESS**

- 4.1. Funding applications are received and analyzed by CCP staff.
- 4.2. Funding applications and their analyses are made available to members of the expert panel through the LiquidFiles interface two weeks before the panel meets.
- 4.3. Every funding application and its analysis is presented to the Human Rights Expert Panel at the expert panel meeting by the legal counsel responsible for the analysis of the application.
- 4.4. The members deliberate each funding application in light of the eligibility criteria to determine whether funding will be granted. The members will consider the budgetary limits of the CCP fiscal year in their decision-making.
- 4.5. The decision to grant or not to grant funding is made by a majority of the members present at the meeting.
- 4.6. The decision, with reasons, is moved, adopted and recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the expert panel.
- 4.7. The expert panel's decisions are final and without appeal.

#### **5. MAXIMUM FUNDING GRANTED TO RECIPIENTS**

- 5.1. The expert panel cannot grant more than the following maximum amounts per funding category:
  - 5.1.1. Development of test cases: \$15,000
  - 5.1.2. Litigation
    - 5.1.2.1. Trial: \$200,000
    - 5.1.2.2. Motion for leave to appeal: \$5,000
    - 5.1.2.3. Appeal: \$50,000
  - 5.1.3. Legal Interventions
    - 5.1.3.1. Request for leave to intervene: \$5,000
    - 5.1.3.2. Intervention : \$35,000
  - 5.1.4. Accessibility: \$5,000
- 5.2. Any funding received to develop a test case, other than accessibility funding, will be deducted from the maximum amount available for litigation.
- 5.3. In most situations, the amount granted to a funding applicant by the Human Rights Expert Panel will be the amount requested by the applicant, subject to the maximum amount given in paragraph 5.1.

- 5.4. The expert panel may grant an amount lesser than the amount requested by the applicant. The recipient will be provided with reasons for the reduced amount of funding. Unless otherwise stated by the expert panel, this provision does not prevent the funding recipient from submitting an application for additional funding, should be it necessary.

## **6. REVIEWING FILES IN WHICH FUNDING HAS BEEN GRANTED**

- 6.1. Where the circumstances require the CCP staff to request that the expert panel review funding granted to a recipient, the expert panel will review the request, along with any explicative documents provided by the recipient, at their next scheduled meeting.
- 6.2. The expert panel has the sole discretionary power to make decisions about reviewing the funding granted by the CCP, including but not limited to the following, when necessary:
  - 6.2.1. Issuing a directive to the funding recipient;
  - 6.2.2. Reducing the amount of funds available for the remainder of the file;
  - 6.2.3. Ordering that the funding be revoked and that the recipient return any unused funds;
  - 6.2.4. Ordering that the funding be revoked and that the recipient return the total amount granted by the CCP; or
  - 6.2.5. Any other reasonable and appropriate measure required to maintain the integrity and fulfil the objectives of the CCP.