

Presiding Justice of the Peace recruitment

Government is seeking to appoint Presiding Justices of the Peace for Cape Breton Island. Presiding Justices of the Peace may, subject to the *Justice of the Peace Act* and Regulations, deal with all matters prescribed to a Presiding Justice of the Peace in the Criminal Code and the *Summary Proceedings Act*.

For example, Presiding Justices of the Peace preside over trials relating to summary offences including under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, summary offence ticket matters, and peace bond applications and hearings. At the Justice of the Peace Centre, Presiding Justices of the Peace hear emergency protection order applications under the *Domestic Violence Intervention Act*; grant Warrants; and address release of persons in custody.

- Justice of the Peace (JP) Centre (277 Pleasant Street) – A rotation of the following shifts: in person 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; in person 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; on call 9:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. to deal with emergency matters; and in person 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Presiding Justices of the Peace (PJP) would deal with matters under the *Criminal Code* and *Summary Proceedings Act*; applications for Emergency Protection Orders under the *Domestic Violence Intervention Act*; etc.
- JP Centre Backup Shift – This is a weekly rotation to provide assistance should there be a backlog of work at the JP Centre.
- Motor Vehicle Act and Peace Bond Matters in Halifax/Dartmouth – This is a rotation for the following matters:
 - in-person MVA matters (5250 Spring Garden Road, Halifax) - Monday to Thursday evenings, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - telephone peace bond applications (277 Pleasant Street, Dartmouth) - every second Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - In-person peace bonds (5250 Spring Garden Road, Halifax) - every second Tuesday and every second alternate Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Motor Vehicle Act and Peace Bond Matters in Cape Breton Regional Municipality
 - In-person MVA matters (136 Charlotte Street, Sydney) every Wednesday, 6:00 pm to 10:00 p.m.
 - In-person peace bonds (136 Charlotte Street, Sydney) every Monday, 6:00p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

- Summary Offence Tickets and Peace Bond Hearings in the Regions – This is a rotation of SOT and peace bond hearings at the following Court locations: Amherst, Annapolis Royal, Antigonish, Bridgewater, Digby, Kentville, Pictou, Shubenacadie, Truro, and Windsor.
- Halifax/Dartmouth Daytime Summary Offence Tickets (277 Pleasant Street, Dartmouth) - This weekly rotation (Thursdays) is for in person arraignments, remission of penalty, and defaults in the morning and applications to set aside automatic convictions and withdrawals in the afternoon.

Eligibility

To apply to be a Presiding Justice of the Peace, you must:

- be a lawyer with no less than 5 years standing with the Nova Scotia Barristers Society.
- not currently practice criminal or family law or be willing to give up the practice.
- Resides on Cape Breton Island.

Selection criteria

The selection committee will review applications for the following criteria and be shortlisted. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.

Characteristics, including respect for the essential dignity of all persons regardless of their circumstances and a reputation for integrity and fairness. Not involved in serious, unresolved professional complaints, civil actions, or outstanding financial claims such as unpaid taxes or insolvency proceedings.

Candidates must be in good standing with the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society and consent to have the Barristers' Society release information about their status, discipline record and any outstanding complaints, and agree to submit to a criminal record check.

Intellectual and judgment ability, including the ability to be fair and open-minded, patient, and able to make decisions promptly.

Professional excellence, including a high level of professional achievement in area(s) of legal work in which the candidate has been engaged and good writing and communication skills.

Community awareness and understanding, including a commitment to public service (volunteer record), awareness of the interest in knowing more about the social problems which give rise to cases coming before the courts and sensitivity to changes in social values relating to criminal and family matters.

Diversity

We encourage application from Indigenous people, African Nova Scotians, other racially visible people, persons with disabilities, women and other employment equity groups. Candidates are encouraged to self-identify as bilingual.

How to apply

To apply to be considered for appointment as a Presiding Justice of the Peace, please send one copy of each of the following: your resume, a covering letter stating why you are interested, your credentials and certifications, and 2 reference letters (including at least 1 professional reference) to the attention of Natasha Matthews at the address or email below. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted to schedule an interview. The application deadline is February 17, 2025.

Natasha Matthews
A/Director, Court Services
Department of Justice
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Halifax NS B3J 2L6
Natasha.Matthews@novascotia.ca