

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parliamentary Committee Releases Report on Dismissal Process Reviews

VICTORIA – The Special Committee to Review Provisions of the Public Service Act released its report today examining dismissal process reviews overseen by the Merit Commissioner. The *Public Service Act* requires a parliamentary committee to undertake a one-time review of provisions of the Act related to dismissal process reviews five years after those provisions came into force.

“Our Committee heard that dismissal process reviews are working as intended and have contributed to improved dismissal practices,” said Committee Chair George Chow. “We found that the existing provisions of the Public Service Act provide the Merit Commissioner with the tools needed to effectively oversee just cause dismissal processes, and our recommendations reflect support for this important work.”

“Independent oversight of just cause dismissal processes is critical to ensure government is handling such cases appropriately,” added Deputy Chair Mike Morris. “Our Committee agrees dismissal process reviews by the Merit Commissioner are an important tool to safeguard public and employee confidence.”

The Committee makes nine recommendations to increase timeliness, transparency, and fairness throughout the just cause dismissal investigation process, and address targeted issues brought forward by the Merit Commissioner. In the course of its work, the Committee received input from the Merit Commissioner, Public Service Agency, other key stakeholders, and the public.

The report is available at: www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/ppsa

The members of the committee are:

George Chow, MLA, Vancouver-Fraserview (Chair);
Mike Morris, MLA, Prince George-Mackenzie (Deputy Chair);
Mike de Jong, K.C., MLA, Abbotsford West;
Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary-Similkameen;
Harwinder Sandhu, MLA, Vernon-Monashee; and
Nicholas Simons, MLA, Powell River-Sunshine Coast

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