



March 23, 2026

Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

As Premiers from across Canada, we write jointly to advance reform to the process of appointments to the superior trial courts and courts of appeal of the provinces, as well as to the Supreme Court of Canada. We are calling for a new, collaborative approach, wherein our governments can meaningfully engage in filling judicial positions in our respective jurisdictions.

In other federal systems such as the United States, Australia, Germany and Switzerland, the appointment of state-level superior trial and appellate court judges rests with state governments rather than the federal government. In this respect, Canada remains an outlier, and a discussion of reform is long overdue. It is crucial that the selection of superior court judges result from diligent, rigorous, and ethical processes, guaranteeing its independent and non-partisan nature. And it is equally crucial that provincial governments have a substantive role in selection processes of judges of their superior courts to respect the federalism principle. The current model does not address the significant deficit of federal legitimacy of the superior court appointment process.

We need to act toward lasting reforms that will serve to reinforce the confidence of all Canadians in our judiciary.

We are therefore requesting that federal judicial appointments for superior trial courts and courts of appeal of the provinces be chosen from candidates recommended and approved by the relevant provincial government, and that both the provincial and federal governments be given full access to the same information for all assessed judicial candidates.

Active engagement of our governments will help ensure that judicial appointments appropriately reflect the diversity and the unique needs of each province and territory. Further, providing our governments with a formal and meaningful role in the appointment process to superior trial courts and courts of appeal, as well as to the Supreme Court of Canada, will strengthen public confidence in the administration of justice, promote an open and cooperative federalism, and help ensure the judiciary reflects the communities it serves.

We look forward to working with you towards reform that will serve to reinforce the confidence of all Canadians in our judiciary.

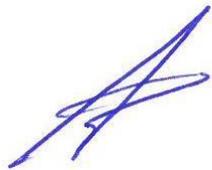
Sincerely,



Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario



Honourable François Legault
Premier of Quebec



Honourable Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan



Honourable Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta