

Manitoba Criminal Code Review Board

Board Members

Chairperson

Karen Wittman

Members

Dr. Maralyn MacKay

Dr. Jim Skinner

Dr. Hazel Wiebe

Dr. Thomas Thompson

Dr. Stanley Yaren

John Field

Ken Mandzuik (Alternate Chairperson)

Jamie Jurczak (Alternate Chairperson)

Elissa Neville (Alternate Chairperson)

Mandate:

A Criminal Code Review Board shall be established or designated for each province to make or review dispositions concerning any accused in respect of whom a verdict of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder or unfit to stand trial is rendered.

Responsibilities:

Main function is to make and review dispositions concerning any accused who has been found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder or unfit to stand trial. The Board also makes placement decisions with respect to dual status offenders and recommendations for the interprovincial transfer of accused held under its jurisdiction. A Criminal Code Review Board sitting agenda can include Disposition Hearings, Disposition Review Hearings and other matters regarding patient files that require a discussion of the Board. The constitution of the Criminal Code Review Board is outlined in ss. 672.39 to 672.44 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

Membership:

The Criminal Code Review Board shall consist of not fewer than five members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and must sit at least one member who is a psychiatrist.

Length of Term:

The appointment remains in effect until it is revoked.

Desirable expertise:

The chairperson of a Criminal Code Review Board shall be a judge of the Federal Court or of a superior, district or country court of a province, or a person who is qualified for appointment to, or has retired from, such a judicial office.

A Criminal Code Review Board must have at least one member who is entitled under the laws of a province to practice psychiatry and, where only one member is so entitled, at least one other member must have training and experience in the field of mental health, and be entitled under the laws of a province to practice medicine or psychology.

A Criminal Code Review Board must have a quorum of three persons composed of the chairperson, a psychiatrist and any other member (a lay person).

All Board members are required to have good knowledge and understanding of the relevant sections of the Criminal Code of Canada as they relate to the verdicts of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder and unfit to stand trial. Similarly, the members also require a good working knowledge and understanding of medical terminology as it relates to mental health issues.

The Chairperson is required to have experience in conducting hearings and maintaining decorum throughout the hearings. All members require excellent communication and listening skills and analytical abilities in assessing the evidence presented at the hearings, as well as decision making abilities in order to craft suitable dispositions.

Time commitment:

The Board meets approximately three half days per month (Monday afternoons), with occasional full day hearings scheduled, particularly if the sittings are scheduled in Brandon or Selkirk. The Board members are provided with their files in advance for review in preparation for the hearings.

Meetings:

Meetings are held in Winnipeg, Selkirk and Brandon.

The board travels to Selkirk twice a year and to Brandon once a year.

Remuneration:

	Existing hourly rate @ minimum 3.5 hours	Hourly rate for preparation time
Chairperson/alternate chair	\$80.00	\$90.00
Psychiatrist	\$106.10/Winnipeg hearings; \$111.50/Brandon & Selkirk hearings	\$106.10 or \$111.50 @ 1.5 hours
Legal member	\$75.00	\$75.00 @ 1.5 hours
Lay person	\$65.00	\$65.00 @ 1.5 hours