

February 5, 2007

MOU signed by Chair, EAAT and Minister of Employment and Income Assistance

The Honourable Claude Richmond, Minister of Employment and Income Assistance (MEIA), and Marilyn McNamara, Chair of the Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal (EAAT), recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provides greater clarity to the relationship between the parties.

The MOU clarifies the Chair's role in ensuring effective management and operation of the EAAT and the Minister's role in providing appropriate support and resources to the EAAT, while recognizing the independence of EAAT.

The MOU is based on the Administrative Justice Office's (AJO) model MOU document which, in consultation with the AJO, the parties adapted to meet their particular needs. In particular, the parties chose to use the simplified format provided for Part 4 of the model MOU (Board Finance and Administration). The MOU also specifies reporting requirements.

Use of a MOU is recommended as a best practice for defining the respective roles and accountabilities of a Tribunal Chair and responsible Minister. For further information on the model MOU, please contact Richard Rogers at the AJO (richard.rogers@gov.bc.ca; 250/387-1712).