

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

B.C. Ombudsperson coming to Williams Lake

Victoria – Has the provincial government, local government, or other B.C. public body treated you unfairly? Next week, B.C.'s independent voice for fairness is holding a complaint clinic in Williams Lake to help.

Free and confidential appointments with B.C. Ombudsperson staff are being booked in Williams Lake on July 14. Appointments can also be made in Prince George on July 11 and 12, in Quesnel on July 13, and in 100 Mile House on July 15.

Call the Office of the Ombudsperson toll-free at 1-800-567-3247 for more information and to reserve a time.

“The Office of the Ombudsperson serves all of British Columbia,” says Ombudsperson Jay Chalke. “Our mobile complaint clinic is a great option for anyone in the Cariboo and Prince George who has not been successful resolving their concerns about a provincial or local public authority on their own. We can review your situation at the clinic. That initial review can lead to an investigation by our office.”

The Ombudsperson is independent of government and has jurisdiction over all provincial ministries and boards, Crown corporations, colleges and universities, schools and school boards, health authorities, local governments and self-governing professions.

“We receive around 7,500 inquiries and complaints annually,” says Chalke. “Our complaint clinics are one way for people to reach us. We are also available by phone, mail, fax, or web form.

“Your complaint can help others. We have seen many times that just one voice can lead to systemic improvements that assist many.”

Since 1979, the Office of the Ombudsperson has had a statutory mandate from the provincial legislature to uphold fair and reasonable conduct by provincial public authorities. In addition to investigating individual complaints, the Ombudsperson also publishes systemic investigations and recommendations for changes that address administrative unfairness and improve public administration in B.C.