

FAQ: For Adult Recipients of the *MWCI Compensation Fund*

What is the MWCI Compensation Fund?

The Province, the Government of Canada and the City of Vancouver have established a \$4.9 million fund to compensate 98 children of the missing and murdered women identified in the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI) report. The compensation fund was a key recommendation of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry.

What is the PGT's role in administering the MWCI Compensation Fund for adult recipients?

The PGT is working with the provincial government to coordinate the payment of funds to adults eligible for compensation from the MWCI Compensation Fund. In order to receive compensation, you will be required to complete an application and sign a release form, witnessed by a lawyer or notary. The PGT will provide you with the application package and the release. You will be asked to return the completed application to the PGT, and your lawyer/notary will be asked to return the executed release directly to the PGT. Once the PGT receives the executed release from your lawyer/notary, arrangements will be made for the settlement payment to be sent to you.

Why is the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) involved on behalf of adult recipients?

The PGT has expertise with respect to financial management options for those who may require or desire assistance in managing the compensation. We have established a project team to provide advice and support to adults who are recipients of this compensation.

How long will it take to receive my funds?

When the PGT receives your completed application and the executed release, we will forward it to the provincial government who will process your application and arrange for the settlement funds to be sent to you. We may need to contact you to ensure we have correct information for delivery of your funds. Once we have this information, it will take approximately 4 weeks for you to receive the funds if you reside in BC. If there are any delays, the PGT project team will make inquiries on your behalf.

Why do I need a lawyer/notary to complete the release form?

The role of the lawyer/notary is to verify your identity, witness your signature and forward the executed release back to the PGT. The cost of this service will be paid by the government. You may choose either a lawyer or a notary to help you with the release form. If you aren't sure how to find a lawyer or notary there is information available on professionals in your area.

Lawyer Referral Service: <http://www.cbabc.org/For-the-Public/Lawyer-Referral-Service>

BC Notaries Society "Find a Notary": <http://www.notaries.bc.ca/findNotary/searchForm.rails>

You may also contact the PGT MWCI Compensation Fund project team who can assist you in making these arrangements.

What type of identification do I need?

Generally the lawyer/notary will want to see, as a minimum, one piece of photo identification issued by government, such as a driver's licence, BC ID card or Passport. You should confirm this with the lawyer/notary when making your appointment. If you do not have sufficient ID, contact the PGT MWCI Compensation Fund project team who will assist you.

Will these funds impact my income assistance benefits?

The Province has taken steps to exempt these settlement monies from being treated as income and/or assets under the income assistance program in BC. This should ensure that income assistance for any of the eligible recipients residing in BC will not be impacted by receipt of compensation funds. The PGT MWCI Compensation Fund project team can provide you with more information on this if you need it.

How can the PGT help me?

Depending on the assistance you require, the PGT may:

- Provide information on lawyers/notaries in your community
- Provide information on how you might manage these funds
- Provide information on options for others to assist you with financial management if needed, perhaps through a power of attorney or representation agreement
- Agree to act as your attorney under a power of attorney or representative if you want this service.

What service would the PGT provide if I appoint the PGT as an Attorney or Representative?

Depending on what you would like, and if you reside in BC, the PGT could:

- Assist with annual taxes and bill paying
- Provide financial advice and planning
- Make investment decisions
- Assist with application for other benefits
- Work with you on maximizing the use of your funds
- Assist with student loan applications
- Assist with setting up a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) if you are eligible

How do I get more information about the PGT and its services?

Please visit our website www.trustee.bc.ca

For financial management information, you may wish to review the PGT publication “Dollars and Sense” - <http://www.trustee.bc.ca/reports-and-publications/documents/Dollars%20and%20Sense.pdf>

How do I contact the PGT MWCI Compensation Fund project team?

You can email the project team at compfund@trustee.bc.ca or phone 604.660.1738.

FAQ: For Recipients of the *MWCI Compensation Fund* who are under 19 years of age

What is the MWCI Compensation Fund?

The Province, the Government of Canada and the City of Vancouver have established a \$4.9 million fund to compensate 98 children of the missing and murdered women identified in the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI) report. The compensation fund was a key recommendation of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry.

What is the Public Guardian and Trustee's (PGT) role in administering the MWCI Compensation Fund for recipients under 19 years of age?

The PGT is working with the provincial government to coordinate the payment of funds to individuals eligible for compensation from the MWCI Compensation Fund who are under the age of 19. In order to receive compensation, your legal guardian will be required to complete an application and sign a guardian settlement agreement, witnessed by a lawyer or notary. The PGT will provide your legal guardian with the application package and the guardian settlement agreement. Your legal guardian will be asked to return the completed application to the PGT, and the lawyer/notary will be asked to return the executed guardian settlement agreement directly to the PGT. Once the PGT receives the executed guardian settlement agreement from the lawyer/notary, arrangements will be made for the settlement payment to be sent to the PGT to be held in trust for you until you reach age 19.

Why does a lawyer/notary need to witness the guardian settlement agreement?

The role of the lawyer/notary is to verify your legal guardian's identity, witness his/her signature and forward the executed release back to the PGT. The cost of this service will be paid by the government.

Your legal guardian may choose either a lawyer or a notary to help with the release form. Here is some information for your legal guardian if he or she isn't sure how to find a lawyer or notary in your area.

Lawyer Referral Service: <http://www.cbabc.org/For-the-Public/Lawyer-Referral-Service>

BC Notaries Society "Find a Notary": <http://www.notaries.bc.ca/findNotary/searchForm.rails>

Your legal guardian may also contact the PGT MWCI Compensation Fund project team who can assist in making these arrangements.

What type of identification will my legal guardian need for the guardian settlement agreement to be witnessed by a lawyer/notary?

Generally the lawyer/notary will want to see, as a minimum, one piece of photo identification issued by government, such as a driver's licence, BC ID card or Passport. Your legal guardian should confirm this with the lawyer/notary when making the appointment.

How long will it take to receive my funds?

When the PGT receives your completed application and guardian settlement agreement, we will forward it to the provincial government who will process your application and arrange for the settlement funds to be sent to the PGT to be held in trust for you until you reach age 19. It will usually take about 4 weeks for the funds to be received by the PGT. If there are any delays, the PGT project team will make inquiries on your behalf.

Why are the settlement funds paid to the PGT and not to me or my parent or guardian?

In British Columbia, certain funds received by a child or youth, such as the proceeds of a settlement of claim arising in BC, are paid to the PGT to be held in trust until the youth reaches age 19.

What happens to my funds once they are paid to the PGT?

The PGT places the funds in an interest bearing account in your name. Funds are professionally invested in one or more of the PGT's pooled investment funds. Requests for funds before you turn 19 are considered on a case by case basis by the assigned PGT Guardianship and Trust Officer.

What happens when I turn 19?

At age 19, you are legally an adult in BC and entitled to receive the balance of your trust funds. The PGT will contact you and make arrangements for you to obtain payment of the funds.

What if I am not able to manage my funds once I become an adult?

If you, or your parent or guardian, have concerns that you will not be able to manage your money as a result of mental or physical disability, you can contact the PGT in advance of your 19th birthday. Depending on what is needed, our staff can assist with developing a transition plan to help support you with your finances when you become an adult, such as setting up a trust, making a representation agreement, appointing an attorney under a power of attorney, or obtaining a committee order..

What if I want to learn more about how to manage my money so that I am prepared to manage it as an adult?

The PGT is able to provide financial literacy workshops to you if you would like to learn more about how to manage money, including the importance between wants and needs, goal setting, budgeting, and good and bad credit. If you are interested in attending a financial literacy workshop, you can contact the PGT for more information.

Many financial institutions in BC also have web based tools and applications that can assist you with learning more about how to manage your money and become financially fit.

Will these funds impact income assistance benefits for my legal guardian or for me once I am an adult?

The Province has taken steps to exempt these settlement monies from being treated as income and/or assets under the income assistance program in BC. This should ensure that income assistance for any of the eligible recipients residing in BC will not be impacted by receipt of compensation funds. The PGT MWCI Compensation Fund project team can provide you with more information on this if you need it.

How do I get more information about the PGT and its services?

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How do I contact the PGT project team?

You can email the project team at compfund@trustee.bc.ca or contact 604.660.4420.