



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public Guardian and Trustee

Public Guardian and Trustee Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Vancouver – Today, the Public Guardian and Trustee celebrates 50 years of protecting the legal, financial and personal care interests of vulnerable British Columbians. It was on this day in 1963 that the *Public Trustee Act* came into force creating the office of the Public Trustee, the forerunner of the modern Public Guardian and Trustee.

“This is a significant milestone for our office. Since its creation, the Public Guardian and Trustee has acted to protect the interests of British Columbians who are unable to act on their own behalf,” said Catherine Romanko, British Columbia’s current Public Guardian and Trustee. “Over the years, this office has managed the affairs of individual clients, administered estates and advocated for law reform to improve the protection of legal and financial interests of children and vulnerable adults across the province.”

When established in 1963, the office of the Public Trustee assumed the responsibility and jurisdiction of three officials: the Official Guardian, Official Committee and Official Administrator for the County of Vancouver. In 2000, the BC Legislative Assembly passed the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act*, which created the current Public Guardian and Trustee.

Over the past five decades, the Public Guardian and Trustee has upheld its mission of safeguarding the legal and financial interests of children; managing the legal, financial and personal care interests of adults needing assistance in decision making; and administering the estates of deceased and missing persons.

About the Public Guardian and Trustee

The Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) is a corporation sole established under the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act*. Its mandate is to serve:

- Children and youth under the age of 19 by protecting their legal and financial interests;
- Adults who require assistance in decision making through protection of their legal rights, financial interests, personal and health care interests; and
- Deceased persons where there is no one willing or able to administer their estates, the estates of missing persons and the beneficiaries of personal trusts.

The PGT has a fiduciary duty to represent the interests of its clients and is independent of government in its case related decision making. For more information see the PGT Annual Report at www.trustee.bc.ca.

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Public Guardian and Trustee News Release

– 30 –

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