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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2026

To Our Fellow Albertans

**Re: Alberta Chief Justices' Statement of January 27, 2026**

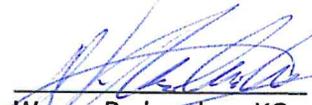
The Alberta Family Lawyers Association, an association dedicated to improving people's experience of family law in Alberta when it touches their lives, currently has more than 800 family-law lawyer members. AFLA is well positioned to understand—and to help Albertans understand—the essential role that the rule of law and judicial independence play in our society. Our members see every day how these principles shape fair outcomes and protect the rights of individuals and families.

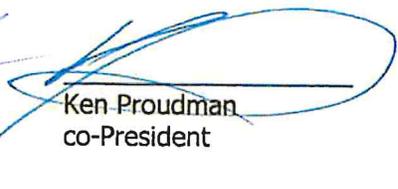
The Chief Justices of Alberta recently emphasized that “a properly functioning democracy requires three separate branches of government that exercise their power and authority independently according to the Constitution,” and that judicial independence “protects the public.” These are not theoretical concepts; they are the very foundation of a justice system and a society that treats everyone equally.

AFLA stands in full support of the Chief Justices' January 27, 2026 statement. These principles are core to our justice system and our society. We are committed to standing up for them. The Statement of the Chief Justices is attached for ease of reference.

Sincerely,

**ALBERTA FAMILY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

  
 Wayne Barkauskas, KC  
 co-President

  
 Ken Proudman  
 co-President

Board:

Wayne Barkauskas, KC (co-President), Ken Proudman (co-President), Krista Cossar (Vice President), Doug Moe, KC (Treasurer), Chelsea Boucher (Secretary), Ingrid Hess, Linda Goold, Ashley Cox, Emma Benarzi, Judith Acevedo, Janaia Fedor, Shantelle Smith