

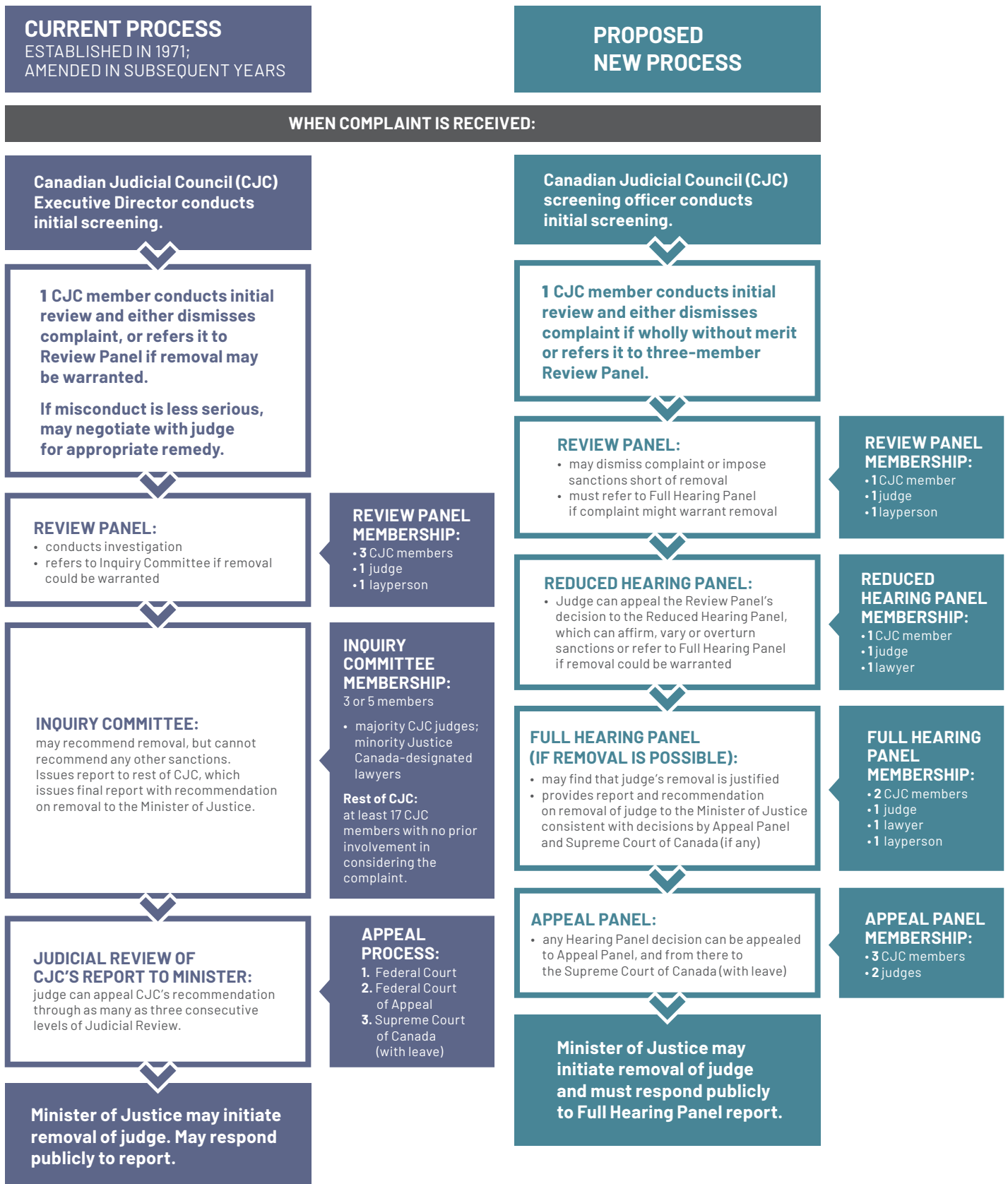
MANAGING COMPLAINTS OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST JUDGES

PROPOSED CHANGES TO LEGISLATION

On December 16, 2021, the Government of Canada reintroduced legislation that proposes changes to the *Judges Act* intended to restructure a judicial complaints process that was originally established 50 years ago. The changes would address shortcomings in the current process by providing mandatory sanctions when a complaint of misconduct against a judge is justified, but would not warrant removal from the bench. The process for more serious complaints – where removal from the bench could be an outcome – would be amended and streamlined. A streamlined appeals process would save time and costs.

Public consultations in 2016 informed the development of the proposed changes, which also respect the constitutional principle of judicial independence.

This bill is focused on modernizing this part of the *Judges Act* and ensuring confidence in our justice system.



The current process is set out for the most part in CJC policy instruments and bylaws; the proposed process would be set out in the *Judges Act*.