If you or a loved one are considering hiring a personal injury lawyer in Canada, here is a checklist that can help you choose the right one for your case.

# Research Their Experience

Complex cases can require a more experienced hand. Consider the level of experience and expertise of the lawyer you plan to hire:

* + Review their website and online reviews to determine the experience level.
  + How long have they been practising?
  + How many cases have they handled that are similar to yours?

# Check Their Credentials

You want to ensure the person you hire is not only a professional but legally allowed to practice in your area. Ask plainly:

* + Are they licensed to practice law in your province?
  + Do they have the necessary certifications to have personal injury cases?
  + Do they specialize in personal injury cases?

# Schedule a Consultation

* + Use this opportunity to gauge their level of expertise and their communication style.
  + Take notes on their responses.

# Consider How They Communicate

Regular and effective communication goes a long way, especially when arguments need to be made in court. How they communicate now can indicate how they may communicate later.

* + Can they explain the expected legal process well?
  + Are they clarifying your options clearly?
  + Are they communicating in an understandable manner?
  + Will they communicate with you regularly?
  + How can you get a hold of them if needed?

# Look for Transparency

The last thing you want is another unforeseen issue. Your lawyer should be clear on what to expect to the best of their ability. Consider the following:

* + Are they clear about the fee structure?
  + Do you understand how they are charging for their services?
  + What additional costs should you be aware of? Particularly, what disbursements do they anticipate being necessary to properly prepare your case?

# Evaluate Their Track Record

* + What is their success rate in settlements and in court?
  + Can they provide references if asked?

# Trust your gut

Trust your instincts. You should feel comfortable and confident in your lawyer’s abilities and trust they have your best interest at heart.