

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2013/14 Briefing Book**

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**Overview
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Ministry of Justice Estimates 2013/14 Budget Briefing

Budget Highlights

Operating Budget

The Budget, net of recoveries, is \$1,139,891 million which is a \$27.811 million increase over the prior year (2012/13 – Restated)

1. The \$27.811 million increase is primarily due to budget lifts in Policing and Security Programs, and Corrections Branch:

- s.16, s.17
- \$9.600 million increase for Corrections Branch, Surrey Pretrial Services Center.
- \$3.900 million increase for Corrections Branch operational base pressures in salaries and benefits, and inmate supplies and services.
- offset by other budget changes netting to a reduction of \$1.379 million.

2. External recoveries in JAG total \$86.699 million:

	(\$millions)
Justice Services	3.502
Court Services	2.852
Legal Services	0.300
Agencies, Boards and Commissions	0.668
Corrections Branch	6.044
Policing and Security Programs	26.011
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	0.300
Emergency Management BC	5.122
Office of Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	4.036
Liquor Control and Licensing	11.390
BC Utilities Commission	6.674
Special Accounts	19.796
Others	0.004
	86.699

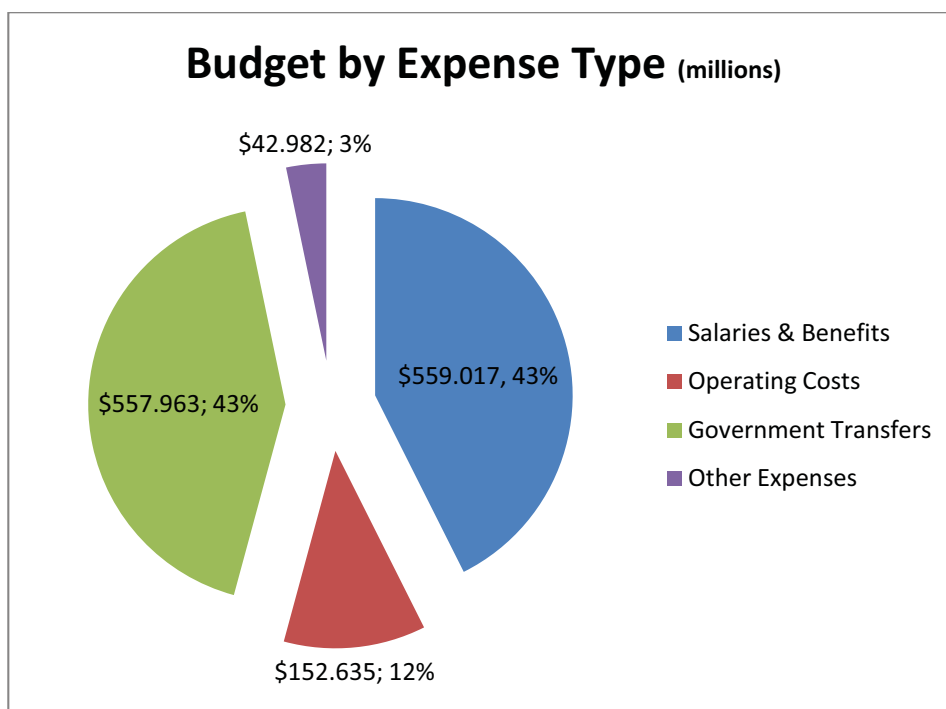
Capital Budget:

The Budget is \$18.927 million, an increase of \$6.045 million from the previous year. The increase is primarily due to notional budget to be available for s.12, s.17

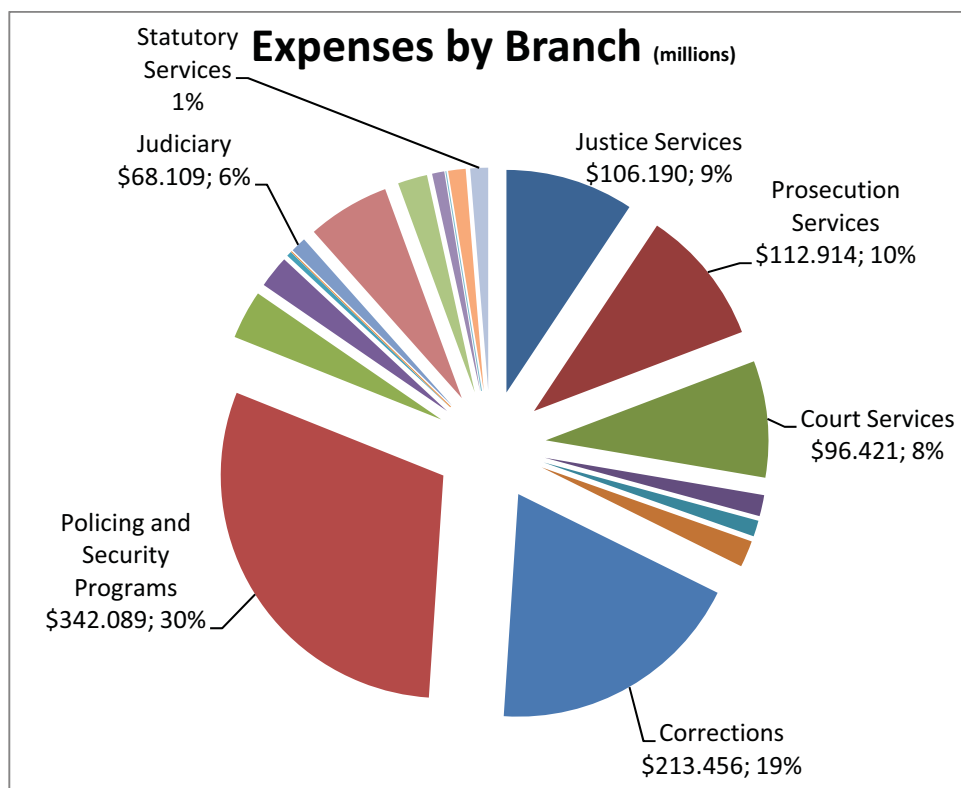
For administrative purposes, most capital provided to the Ministry is centralized in Executive and Support Services and Corporate Services, with the exception of capital held for the Judiciary, Public Guardian and Trustee, BC Utilities Commission and the Independent Investigations Office.

Ministry of Justice Estimates 2013/14 Budget Briefing

Ministry Budget by Expense Type and by Branch



¹Expenses by Cost Type do not include recovery offsets



²Total expenses by branch are net of recoveries

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2013/14 Budget Briefing**

Budget Summary by Appropriation

(\$ millions)	2012/13	2013/14	Change	Change
	Restated	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
	Estimates ¹			
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Ministry Operations	981.975	1,007.918	25.943	3%
Judiciary	67.041	68.109	1.068	2%
Crown Proceeding Act	24.500	24.500	0.000	0%
Independent Investigations Office	9.300	10.100	0.800	9%
B.C. Utilities Commission	0.001	0.001	0.000	0%
Emergency Program Act	14.478	14.478	0.000	0%
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account	0.000	0.000	0.000	0%
Corrections Work Program Account Special Acc	1.281	1.281	0.000	0%
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	0.000	0.000	0.000	0%
Crime Asset Management Fund Special Account	0.000	0.000	0.000	0%
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13.504	13.504	0.000	0%
Total	1,112.080	1,139.891	27.811	3%
Capital Expenditures	12.882	18.927	6.045	47%

Operations Budget - Core Business Summary

(\$ millions)	2012/13	2013/14	Change	Change
	Restated	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
	Estimates ¹			
Vote 31 – Attorney General Operations				
Justice Services	106.225	106.190	(0.035)	(0.0%)
Prosecution Services	112.939	112.914	(0.025)	(0.0%)
Court Services	96.758	96.421	(0.337)	(0.3%)
Legal Services	17.600	17.571	(0.029)	(0.2%)
Agencies, Boards and Commissions	13.295	13.295	0.000	0.0%
Executive and Support Services	23.315	22.011	(1.304)	(5.6%)
Subtotal	370.132	368.402	(1.730)	(0.5%)
Vote 32 – Solicitor General Operations				
Corrections	200.113	213.456	13.343	6.7%
Policing and Security Programs	326.346	342.089	15.743	4.8%
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	40.231	40.210	(0.021)	(0.1%)
Emergency Management BC	26.769	26.736	(0.033)	(0.1%)
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	4.177	4.150	(0.027)	(0.6%)
Liquor Control and Licensing	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.0%
Corporate Services	14.206	12.874	(1.332)	(9.4%)
Subtotal	611.843	639.516	27.673	4.5%
Judiciary	67.041	68.109	1.068	1.6%
Crown Proceeding Act	24.500	24.500	0.000	0.0%
Independent Investigations Office	9.300	10.100	0.800	8.6%
B.C. Utilities Commission	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.0%
Emergency Program Act	14.478	14.478	0.000	0.0%
Statutory Services	14.785	14.785	0.000	0.0%
Total	1,112.080	1,139.891	27.811	2.5%

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2013/14 Budget Briefing**

Budget Summary by Branch

Executive and Support Services

Centralization of corporate services and the efficiencies gained are reflected in the budget reduction of \$1.304 million

Corrections

Surrey Pretrial Services Centre is reflected in the budget increase in the amount of \$9.600 million for the partial year of operations. Additionally, another \$3.900 million has been provided for pressures in base operations. These lifts have been partially offset by the centralization of corporate services staff.

Policing and Security Programs

s.13, s.16, s.17

Corporate Services

Centralization of corporate services and the efficiencies gained are reflected in the budget reduction of \$1.332 million.

Judiciary

Judiciary budget has increased by \$1.068 million

s.3

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2013/14 Budget Briefing**

Operations Budget by Group Account Classification (GAC)

(\$ millions)	2012/13	2013/14	Change	Change
	Restated	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
	Estimates ¹			
Salaries & Benefits	548.695	559.017	10.322	1.88%
Operating Costs	150.622	152.635	2.013	1.34%
Government Transfers	539.923	557.963	18.040	3.34%
Other Expenses	42.054	42.982	0.928	2.21%
Recoveries	(85.364)	(86.007)	(0.643)	0.75%
Recoveries External	(83.850)	(86.699)	(2.849)	3.40%
TOTAL	1,112.080	1,139.891	27.811	6.80%

Salaries & Benefits

Increase of \$10.322 million is the operations lift in Corrections Branch for Surrey Pretrial Services Centre and base pressures, offset by budget reductions for the efficiencies gained through centralizing corporate services functions.

Operating Costs

Increase of \$2.013 million includes funding for program operations of the new facility, Surrey Pretrial Services Centre.

Government Transfers

Increase of \$18.040 million s.13, s.16, s.17 The balance of the increase is for inmate health and food services in Corrections Branch, most of which is for the new facility, Surrey Pretrial Services Centre.

Other Expenses

Increase of \$0.928 million.

Recoveries

Increase of \$0.643 million.

Recoveries External

Increase of \$(2.849) million.

Core Business Area	2012/13 Restated	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Plan	2015/16 Plan	2013/14 Changes	2014/15 Changes	2015/16 Changes
Justice Services	106,225,000	106,190,000	106,155,000	106,155,000	-35,000	-35,000	0
Criminal Justice	112,939,000	112,914,000	112,867,000	112,867,000	-25,000	-47,000	0
Court Services	96,758,000	96,421,000	96,083,000	96,083,000	-337,000	-338,000	0
Legal Services	17,600,000	17,571,000	17,543,000	17,543,000	-29,000	-28,000	0
Agencies, Boards and Commissions	13,295,000	13,295,000	13,295,000	13,295,000	0	0	0
Executive and Support Services	23,315,000	22,011,000	20,701,000	20,680,000	-1,304,000	-1,310,000	-21,000
Corrections	200,113,000	213,456,000	219,308,000	219,321,000	13,343,000	5,852,000	13,000
Policing and Security Programs	326,346,000	342,089,000	344,682,000	346,312,000	15,743,000	2,593,000	1,630,000
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	40,231,000	40,210,000	40,190,000	40,190,000	-21,000	-20,000	0
Emergency Management BC	26,769,000	26,736,000	26,702,000	26,702,000	-33,000	-34,000	0
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	4,177,000	4,150,000	4,123,000	4,123,000	-27,000	-27,000	0
Liquor Control and Licensing	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0
Corporate Support Services	14,206,000	12,874,000	11,543,000	11,543,000	-1,332,000	-1,331,000	0
Judiciary	67,041,000	68,109,000	68,109,000	68,109,000	1,068,000	0	0
Crown Proceeding Act	24,500,000	24,500,000	24,500,000	24,500,000	0	0	0
Independent Investigations Office	9,300,000	10,100,000	10,100,000	10,100,000	800,000	0	0
BC Utilities Commission	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0
Emergency Program Act	14,478,000	14,478,000	14,478,000	14,478,000	0	0	0
Special Accounts	14,785,000	14,785,000	14,785,000	14,785,000	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,112,080,000	1,139,891,000	1,145,166,000	1,146,788,000	27,811,000	5,275,000	1,622,000

Ministry of Justice is responsible for Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission, but they are presented separately in Estimates (in Other Appropriations).

CAPITAL BUDGET

Core Business Area	2012/13 Restated	2013/14 Estimates	2014/15 Plan	2015/16 Plan	2013/14 Changes	2014/15 Changes	2015/16 Changes
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)							
Executive and Support Services	\$5,091	\$6,036	\$3,050	\$3,050	\$945	(\$2,986)	\$0
Corporate Services	\$4,759	\$11,346	\$14,827	\$10,871	\$6,587	\$3,481	(\$3,956)
Judiciary	\$590	\$765	\$605	\$590	\$175	(\$160)	(\$15)
Independent InvestigationS Office	\$1,882	\$388	\$242	\$0	(\$1,494)	(\$146)	(\$242)
BC Utilities Commission	\$20	\$10	\$10	\$10	(\$10)	\$0	\$0
Public Guardian and Trustee (Special Account)	\$540	\$382	\$363	\$363	(\$158)	(\$19)	\$0
Total	\$12,882	\$18,927	\$19,097	\$14,884	\$6,045	\$170	(\$4,213)

Capital budget increased by \$6.045 million from 2012/13 to 2013/14 primarily due to:

· s.12, s.17 notional allocation for s.12, s.17

**Ministry of Justice
2013/14 Top Three Budget Day Issues**

Issue 1 - Funding for Justice Reform

Potential Questions:

Is the Government still committed to Justice Reform? If so, why is there not more funding in the budget?

Ministry Response:

- The Government remains committed to Justice Reform. Indeed many of the action items outlined in White Paper 1, we have already made progress on including significant changes in governance that will provide ongoing leadership to the justice system and its reform. True reform will require time. Reform will be phased in over a number of fiscal years and it will be guided by our White Paper action plan, Policing Plan and our response to the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry recommendations. Justice Reform commitments will be managed within existing Ministry resources.

Issue 2 - Funding for RCMP Contract Increases

Potential Questions:

Why did the 13/14 budget for the Policing and Security Branch increase and what is this increase for?

Why is there no funding for Green Timbers?

Why is there no funding for RCMP severance?

Ministry Response:

- 2013/14 increase in RCMP funding includes two components:
 1. RCMP salary increases of 1.75%, 1.5 %, and 2% for 2012-2014 respectively along with some other compensation adjustments such as service pay and shift premiums; and
 2. Other costs arising out of the signing of the new PPSA.

- These increases are required to essentially maintain current frontline police service levels.
- Any final costs that may result from either Green Timbers or the severance issue are still topics of conversation with the federal government. For Green Timbers, our interests remain in ensuring that our government pays a reasonable amount. With regard to severance, both the BC government and BC municipalities are in discussions with the federal government on this issue,

s.16

It's important that the federal government continue to work with municipalities and BC on this issue through the contract management committee with a view to cost certainty and fiscal sustainability. The Ministry will continue working with the Office of the Comptroller General to prepare, based on generally accepted accounting principles, for any potential costs that may be applied to BC.

Issue 3 - Funding for Legal Services Society

Potential Question:

How does the funding for the Legal Services Society compare to 2012/13 and how does it reconcile with the Legal Services Society Service Plan?

Ministry Response:

- The Legal Services Society is receiving approximately the same level of funding in 2013/14, as in 2012/13.

Reconciliation of Legal Services Society Funding

(\$ millions)	FY 12/13	FY 13/14
Basic Legal Aid	\$62.918	\$62.918
New Funding for Family Law Services	\$2.100	\$2.100
Large Case fund (>\$75k & <\$175k)	\$1.813	\$1.813
Immigration & Refugee – provincial	\$0.800	\$0.800
Immigration & Refugee – federal	\$0.900	\$0.900
Sub-total (Provincial Grant)	\$68.531	\$68.531
Immigration & Refugee – federal		
Vancouver Drug Court	\$0.112	\$0.120
Sub-total (Core Legal Aid)	\$68.643	\$68.651
Major Trials (>\$175k)	\$2.855	\$2.855
(2) Federally prosecuted cases > \$50k from Govt' of Canada		\$0.650
Downtown Community Court	\$0.320	\$0.370
(1) Unrestricted Accumulated Retained Earnings (deferred revenue)	\$0.500	
Total (LSS Service Plan)	\$72.318	\$72.526

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (\$000)

VOTE 32 Attorney General Operations

Description	Total 2012/13 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Justice Services	106,225	12,554	—	3,013	—	15,567	—	176	12	548	208	366	—	—	—
Prosecution Services	112,939	82,074	548	19,698	—	102,320	1,779	1,342	—	4,417	176	2,618	—	—	375
Court Services	96,758	65,089	888	15,866	—	81,843	2,098	1,344	—	2,516	1,784	2,903	—	—	916
Legal Services	17,600	37,428	485	9,032	—	46,345	20	856	—	34,098	658	2,069	—	127	—
Agencies, Boards and Commissions	13,295	2,622	4	629	—	3,255	891	81	—	664	32	116	—	2	—
Executive and Support Services	23,315	10,726	25	2,593	52	13,396	—	295	715	117	4,758	387	—	12	4
Minister's Office	1,231	416	—	119	52	587	—	144	—	—	—	40	—	—	3
Corporate Services	22,084	10,310	25	2,474	—	12,809	—	151	715	117	4,758	347	—	12	1
Total	370,132	210,493	1,950	50,831	52	263,326	4,788	4,094	727	42,360	7,616	8,459	—	141	1,295

VOTE 33 Solicitor General Operations

Description	Total 2012/13 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Corrections	200,113	121,040	3,551	29,170	—	153,761	—	1,240	1,431	3,679	1,966	2,391	—	—	8,657
Policing and Security Programs	326,346	6,536	25	1,569	—	8,130	—	184	264	962	396	582	—	—	129
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	40,231	5,383	74	1,292	—	6,749	—	100	36	505	126	218	—	—	—
Emergency Management BC	26,769	9,742	79	2,338	—	12,159	55	256	43	6,835	447	381	—	—	39
Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles	4,177	3,065	6	736	—	3,807	—	45	445	83	125	148	—	—	—
Liquor Control and Licensing	1	6,876	3	1,650	—	8,529	—	238	147	500	338	338	—	—	55
Corporate Services	14,206	8,612	20	2,075	—	10,707	—	114	213	64	1,149	472	—	—	1
Total	611,843	161,254	3,758	38,830	—	203,842	55	2,177	2,579	12,628	4,547	4,530	—	—	8,881

VOTE 34 Judiciary

Description	Total 2012/13 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Judiciary	67,041	48,905	95	11,737	—	60,737	1,803	1,424	—	228	1,450	1,450	—	3	90
Superior Courts	14,350	9,559	65	2,294	—	11,918	—	136	—	71	1,243	545	—	—	16
Provincial Courts	52,691	39,346	30	9,443	—	48,819	1,803	1,288	—	157	207	905	—	3	74
Total	67,041	48,905	95	11,737	—	60,737	1,803	1,424	—	228	1,450	1,450	—	3	90

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2013/14 Operating Expenses
56	—	655	1	2,022	158	—	93,086	93,244	—	—	59	59	—	(1,200)	(1,200)	(10)	(3,492)	(3,502)	106,190
88	—	260	300	11,355	—	—	—	—	—	—	927	927	(1,688)	—	(1,688)	—	—	—	112,914
1,475	—	3,278	261	16,575	—	—	—	—	—	—	855	855	—	—	—	—	(2,852)	(2,852)	96,421
—	—	93	—	37,921	—	—	—	—	—	—	313	313	—	(67,308)	(67,308)	(290)	(10)	(300)	17,571
—	—	30	—	1,816	—	—	—	—	8,893	—	—	8,893	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(667)	(668)	13,295
—	—	1,559	636	8,483	—	—	—	—	—	—	843	843	—	(709)	(709)	(1)	(1)	(2)	22,011
—	—	5	—	192	—	—	—	—	—	—	308	308	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,087
—	—	1,554	636	8,291	—	—	—	—	—	—	535	535	—	(709)	(709)	(1)	(1)	(2)	20,924
1,619	—	5,875	1,198	78,172	158	—	93,086	93,244	8,893	—	2,997	11,890	(1,688)	(69,218)	(70,906)	(302)	(7,022)	(7,324)	368,402

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2013/14 Operating Expenses
1,000	—	7,254	224	27,842	—	—	37,979	37,979	—	—	182	182	—	(264)	(264)	—	(6,044)	(6,044)	213,456
101	—	135	4	2,757	72	—	358,660	358,732	—	—	66	66	—	(1,585)	(1,585)	(1)	(26,010)	(26,010)	342,089
—	—	155	—	1,140	125	12,343	30,119	42,587	—	—	—	—	(9,816)	(150)	(9,966)	—	(300)	(300)	40,210
113	—	214	1	8,384	—	—	13,884	13,884	—	—	3	3	—	(2,572)	(2,572)	(1)	(5,121)	(5,122)	26,736
—	—	29	1	876	—	—	1,901	1,901	—	—	1,603	1,603	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4,035)	(4,036)	4,150
196	—	49	128	1,989	—	—	—	—	—	—	873	873	—	—	—	—	(11,390)	(11,390)	1
155	—	148	—	2,316	—	—	—	—	—	—	566	566	—	(713)	(713)	(1)	(1)	(2)	12,874
1,565	—	7,984	358	45,304	197	12,343	442,543	455,083	—	—	3,293	3,293	(9,816)	(5,285)	(15,101)	(4)	(52,901)	(52,905)	639,516

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2013/14 Operating Expenses
70	—	649	—	7,167	4	—	175	179	—	—	26	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	68,109
4	—	400	—	2,415	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,350
66	—	249	—	4,752	4	—	175	179	—	—	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	53,759
70	—	649	—	7,167	4	—	175	179	—	—	26	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	68,109

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
(\$000)

VOTE 35 Crown Proceeding Act

Description	Total 2012/13 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Crown Proceeding Act	24,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	24,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

VOTE 36 Independent Investigations Office

Description	Total 2012/13 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Independent Investigations Office	9,300	5,008	—	1,389	—	6,397	—	1,380	155	245	281	78	—	—	34
Total	9,300	5,008	—	1,389	—	6,397	—	1,380	155	245	281	78	—	—	34

VOTE 37 British Columbia Utilities Commission

Description	Total 2012/13 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
British Columbia Utilities Commission	1	2,651	231	682	—	3,564	436	87	—	1,612	244	249	—	25	—
Total	1	2,651	231	682	—	3,564	436	87	—	1,612	244	249	—	25	—

VOTE 38 Emergency Program Act

Description	Total 2012/13 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Emergency Program Act	14,478	703	300	295	—	1,298	—	150	5	3,000	190	71	—	—	2,051
Total	14,478	703	300	295	—	1,298	—	150	5	3,000	190	71	—	—	2,051

Special Account(s)

Description	Total 2012/13 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Civil Forfeiture Account	—	466	—	112	—	578	—	43	1,873	—	24	40	—	22	—
Corrections Work Program Account	1,281	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	41	—	—	475
Criminal Asset Management Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Guardian and Trustee Operating Account	8,893	15,409	168	3,698	—	19,275	—	133	—	2,017	1,316	624	—	14	26
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	23,678	15,875	168	3,810	—	19,853	—	176	1,873	2,017	1,354	705	—	36	501

	70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2013/14 Operating Expenses
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,500
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,500

	70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2013/14 Operating Expenses
	270	—	613	567	3,623	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,100
	270	—	613	567	3,623	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,100

	70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2013/14 Operating Expenses
	—	—	1	456	3,110	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	(6,674)	(6,674)	1
	—	—	1	456	3,110	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	(6,674)	(6,674)	1

	70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2013/14 Operating Expenses
	1,880	—	134	—	7,481	150	5,299	250	5,699	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,478
	1,880	—	134	—	7,481	150	5,299	250	5,699	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,478

	70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2013/14 Operating Expenses
	—	—	—	—	2,002	1,282	—	—	—	—	—	130	130	—	—	—	—	(3,992)	(3,992)	—
115	—	—	60	—	705	—	—	476	476	—	—	100	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,281
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	633	308	5,071	—	—	—	—	—	—	351	351	—	—	—	—	(15,804)	(15,804)	8,893
—	—	—	—	—	—	2,000	—	—	2,000	11,504	—	—	11,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,504
	115	—	693	308	7,778	3,282	—	476	3,758	11,504	—	581	12,085	—	—	—	—	(19,796)	(19,796)	23,678

**Ministry of Justice
Revised 2013/14 – 2015/16 Service Plan**

**Summary of Changes and
Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures**

Background

On June 27, 2013, updated Service Plans for 2013/14 – 2015/16 were tabled in the Legislature with the re-tabling of the 2013 Budget. In election years, the budget must be tabled within 90 days of the new Cabinet swearing in.

The updated Ministry Service Plan included the following changes:

- New Message from the Minister
- Added content to reflect the organizational changes announced June 10, 2013
 - Content was added for the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch
 - Purpose of the Ministry (page 7)
 - Strategic Context (first paragraph, page 10)
 - Strategies (pages 29 – 30)
 - Performance measure (pages 35 – 36)
- Updated language throughout to reflect developments since the original service plans were published (e.g., legislation that has since been enacted; reports that have since been released)

Ministries were directed not to update the 2012/13 forecasts in the performance measures to actual, final results for 2012/13. Those results will be presented in the 2012/13 Annual Reports to be publicly released in July 2013.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

The goals, objectives and strategies included in the Revised Service Plan have not been changed since publication of the original service plan in February 2013.

The goals and objectives are based on the themes put forward in the White Paper on Justice Reform, Part One: A Modern, Transparent Justice System, and the strategies emphasize innovation and reform.

Goal 1 A transparent and accountable justice and public safety system

- Objective 1.1 Clear governance
- Objective 1.2 Common understanding
- Objective 1.3 Performance focus

Goal 2 Timely, accessible and efficient processes and services

- Objective 2.1 Efficient case management
- Objective 2.2 Early assistance to citizens
- Objective 2.3 Smart choices at the start

Goal 3 Balanced, integrated and evidence-based programs

- Objective 3.1 Integrated, risk-based approaches
- Objective 3.2 Programs based on what works
- Objective 3.3 Citizen-focused services

Performance Measures

The performance measures have not been revised from the original service plan with the exception of an additional performance measure (#14) added for Liquor Control and Licensing.

The performance section is introduced with two key messages:

1. The Ministry is currently engaged in a process to develop a stronger set of key performance measures that are relevant to the public and ensure there is accountability in achieving results.
2. As part of the Justice Reform Initiative, a key Ministry priority for 2013/14 is to engage with justice partner agencies and stakeholders to develop aggressive, system-wide strategies for ensuring timely justice for British Columbians.

The following 14 performance measures are presented:

1. Percentage of British Columbians who have confidence in the justice system
2. Number of data sets available on DataBC, by branches
3. Number of Provincial Policing Standards approved for implementation
4. Family court timeliness: Median age of a family application when first order is issued
5. Small claims timeliness: Median age of a small claims case at first substantive appearance; and median age of a small claims case at trial stage
6. Criminal case timeliness: Median time to conclude Provincial criminal cases (Adult and Youth)

7. Timeliness of Victim Financial Assistance claim adjudication
8. Timeliness of Disaster Financial Assistance private sector claim adjudication
9. Crime rates
10. Crime severity indices
11. Rates of non-reoffending
12. Traffic fatality and injury rates
13. Impaired driving fatality rates
14. Percentage of inspected/investigated liquor licensees in compliance

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2013/14 Briefing Book**

**Justice Reform
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2. Justice Summits
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5. Court Case Delays
6. Civil Resolution Tribunal and Tribunal Transformation
7. s.12
8. Community Safety Act Overview
9. Corporate Services Restructuring Update

2013/14 ESTIMATES NOTE

Justice System Reform and White Papers

Suggested Response:

- We know that increasing access to justice is an integral part of supporting BC families and building safer communities.
- Our government is committed to improving timeliness and efficiency in the justice system.
- That's why BC's plan for justice reform focuses on developing innovative, front-line operations that respond to the needs of British Columbians.
- We have:
 - Expanded justice access centres by establishing one in Victoria. This is a one-stop, citizen-focused centre for legal information and services. The first phase is anticipated to open in September.
 - Expanded the availability of child protection mediators to rural and remote communities to resolve child protection cases.
 - Addressed delays and backlogs in traffic court by passing legislation to create a Driving Notice Review Board as part of the Road Safety Systems project.
 - Appointed Cheryl Vickers as acting chair, to Canada's first online tribunal, the Civil Resolution Tribunal, and are investing in user-focused technology supports to enable tribunals to reduce costs, complexity and delays for users.
- BC has made significant progress on recommendations from Geoffrey Cowper's independent review of the justice system by:
 - Bringing sections of the Justice Reform and Transparency Act into force, including sections related to a Justice and Public Safety Council with responsibility for setting a strategic vision for the justice system and reporting publicly on system performance;
 - Appointing nine new provincial court judges to address caseload pressures across the province;
 - Holding the first annual Justice Summit to encourage innovation and collaboration across the sector;
 - Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the judiciary, aimed at developing and maintaining an accessible, modern and effective justice system;

- Establishing an executive steering committee to address issues related to the management of the largest criminal cases in the justice system; and
- Conducting LEAN process workshops to engage staff in developing more efficient workflow practices.
- Over the past year, we've also:
 - Brought the Family Law Act into force, landmark legislation that puts children's interests first and encourages families to solve disputes outside the courtroom where appropriate;
 - Launched three justice data dashboards, applications that take raw data and transform it into a visual format, providing a user-friendly way to access information on BC's justice system; and
 - Launched the Independent Investigations Office, a civilian-led agency, to investigate incidents of death or serious harm involving police, signaling a new era of increased transparency and accountability for policing in the province.
- We plan to report to British Columbians on the progress of our reforms aimed at building safer communities, and providing alternatives to using courts.

Background:

Justice Reform Initiative

- In February 2012, the Justice Reform Initiative was announced and a Green Paper was released that identified potential areas of reform to invite dialogue on systemic change.
- Geoffrey Cowper, QC, was asked to conduct a review of the criminal justice system and provide advice on how it could be reformed. At the same time, Gary McCuaig, QC, was asked to review the charge assessment process used by the Criminal Justice Branch to determine which cases referred by police are prosecuted. Additionally, the Legal Services Society was asked to provide advice on legal aid reform that could contribute to broader justice system reform.
- Resulting from the Cowper recommendation was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the judiciary, aimed at developing and maintaining an accessible, modern and effective justice system. The Memorandum of Understanding is attached.

- The resulting reports were released publicly in August 2012. Taking this advice into consideration, a two-part White Paper on Justice Reform was released.

White Paper, Part One

- Part One: A Modern, Transparent Justice System was released in October 2012. It presents an overall vision for justice reform to create a transparent, timely and balanced system.
- Many of the key commitments made in Part One have already been achieved or are currently underway:
 - The Justice Reform and Transparency Act received Royal Assent on March 14, 2013;
 - A Justice and Public Safety Council to set strategic direction and vision for system reform was established in spring 2013;
 - The first Justice Summit to encourage innovation and facilitate collaboration across the justice system was held in March 2013;
 - Government entered into a protocol with the Office of the Chief Judge to work together on two court backlog reduction projects; and
 - An annual justice and public safety plan, including clear performance measures for the justice system, is being prepared and is expected to be released in fall 2013.
- Section H, Conclusion of the White Paper, Part One outlining Immediate Steps, Long-Term Goals, and Key Milestones is attached.

White Paper, Part Two

- Part Two: A Timely, Balanced Justice System focuses on front-line operations and services to the public in civil, family, administrative and criminal law, public safety operations, and innovation in citizen-focused justice.
- In addition to the reports commissioned as part of the Justice Reform Initiative, Part Two took into consideration recommendations from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report and consultations undertaken for the BC Policing and Community Safety Plan.

- Part Two includes seven action items:
 - Advance family justice reform, which includes increased family legal aid services, opening a third justice access centre in Victoria and using technology to provide services to rural and remote communities, and using a phased-in approach to bring into force provisions of the Adult Guardianship and Planning Statutes Amendment Act;
 - Transform dispute resolution, which includes implementing the Civil Resolution Tribunal and the Road Safety Systems initiative;
 - Improve early criminal processes, which includes enhanced system-wide knowledge of risk assessment, expanded criminal duty counsel, and restorative justice;
 - Undertake public safety reform, which includes examining options for models of policing and developing a provincial crime prevention strategy;
 - Protect marginalized women, which involves implementing some of the recommendations made in the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry report;
 - Respond to domestic violence, which includes expanding the number of domestic violence units and exploring the establishment of a framework for domestic violence courts;
 - Require the use of evidence-based approaches, which includes developing an evidence-based approach to specialized courts and problem solving justice and undertaking study projects of large criminal cases and the growth of administration of justice offences.
- Implementation of some of the initiatives is currently underway and planned for completion by March 31, 2014. Many of the initiatives, however, require new funding and will be implemented when new funding becomes available.
- Section G, Conclusion of the White Paper, Part Two outlining Immediate Steps, Long-Term Goals, and Key Milestones is attached.

Appendix A: Status Update on White Paper, Part Two Commitments

ACTION ITEM 1: Advance Family Justice Reform

WP2 Commitment	Deadline	Status
Expand mandatory early assessment in family disputes to other court locations	2015 and Beyond	s.13, s.17
Open a new Justice Access Centre in Victoria	Late 2013	Scheduled to open in late 2013.
Use technology to provide access to Justice Access Centre services to rural and remote communities	2015 and Beyond	
Comprehensively evaluate the physical and virtual Justice Access Centres to determine the best model for service deliver for different communities	2015 and Beyond	s.13, s.17
Support the Legal Services Society to expand family legal aid services	April 1, 2014	
Implement a revised child support process for inter-jurisdictional cases	March 31, 2014	Detailed planning near completion.

s.12

Bring into force provisions of the Adult Guardianship and Planning Statutes Amendment Act related to court guardianship

2015 and Beyond

s.13, s.17

ACTION ITEM 2: Transform Dispute Resolution

WP2 Commitment	Deadline	Status
Appoint the Civil Resolution Tribunal Chair and invest in new technology to launch the tribunal	2013	Tribunal Chair was appointed in March 2013. s.13, s.17
Fully implement the Civil Resolution Tribunal	2015 and Beyond	s.13, s.17
Design and develop the Road Safety Systems Initiative	March 31, 2015	Plan to complete design and development stage in 2015.
Fully implement the Road Safety Systems Initiative	2015 and Beyond	Initial phase is underway.
Explore opportunities to align the province's administrative tribunals into clusters and build a common case management system for tribunals	2015 and Beyond	Business architecture in process. Implementation of the CRT is the first step.

ACTION ITEM 3: Improve Early Criminal Processes

WP2 Commitment	Deadline	Status
Proceed to indentify and implement improvements to communications between police and Crown counsel	March 31, 2014	s.13, s.17
Share evidence-based information about risk assessment practices with justice system participants	March 31, 2014	Initiative commenced in May 2013.
Support the Legal Services Society to test expanded criminal duty counsel	April 1, 2014	s.13, s.17
Support existing Community Accountability Programs, including a training initiative that is currently underway	March 31, 2014	First phase of training completed May 2013; second phase scheduled for September 2013.
Expand the use of restorative justice	2015 and Beyond	s.13, s.17

ACTION ITEM 4: Undertake Public Safety Reform

WP2 Commitment	Deadline	Status
Work with stakeholders to define and clarify policing responsibilities and develop options for funding models at the federal, provincial, and municipal government levels	March 31, 2015	In the planning phase.
Engage in a process with stakeholders to consider models for police service delivery ranging from further integration to the regional delivery of services while retaining local community-focused policing	March 31, 2015	In the planning phase.
Establish an Inter-ministry Committee on Crime Prevention and develop a Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy	March 31, 2014	Membership of committee currently being explored.
Support the development of a province-wide Crime Reduction Initiative in consultation with the BC Association of Chiefs of Police and local governments	March 31, 2015	Underway.

ACTION ITEM 5: Protect Marginalized Women

WP2 Commitments	Deadline	Status
Act on a number of priority recommendations from the Missing Women Commission of Inquire based on advice received from the Advisory Committee on the Safety and Security of Vulnerable Women	March 31, 2014	Underway; Steven Point resigned as chair of the Advisory Committee on May 31, 2013. The government remains committed to improving the safety and security of vulnerable women.
Determine whether missing persons legislation should be enacted in BC	March 31, 2014	Underway.
Complete the development of policing standards governing the investigation of missing persons, Major Case Management, and inter-agency cooperation and coordination	March 31, 2015	In planning phase.
Work with the British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police to examine options to identify a single Major Case Management solution	2015 and Beyond	Pending completion of related Provincial Policing Standards
Conduct a study to examine practices and policies of police agencies related to bias-free policing and determine where audits are needed to ensure the equitable treatment of all persons	March 31, 2015	In planning phase.
Ensure that appropriate audits are completed and provincial standards developed related to bias-free policing and the equitable treatment of all persons	2015 and Beyond	s.13, s.17
Oversee the development of suite of cultural awareness and sensitivity training courses for all police officers in BC	2015 and Beyond	Pending completion of review of curriculum
Review the current police training curriculum to ensure it incorporates the key values inherent in culturally sensitive policing	March 31, 2014	In planning phase
Review policy that guides prosecutorial discretion on charge assessment	March 31, 2014	Policy is being reviewed s.13

ACTION ITEM 6: Respond to Domestic Violence

WP2 Commitment	Deadline	Status
Deliver a multi-year action plan on domestic violence	June 2013	Underway; to be released in 2013. Led by the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (MCFD).
Work with communities to expand the number of Domestic Violence Units in the province	2015 and Beyond	Underway; s.13, s.17
Connect with the judiciary and other justice system participants to explore a framework for domestic violence courts that ensures a coordinated, sustainable, and evidence-based approach	March 31, 2014	Working Group established and project charter being drafted.

ACTION ITEM 7: Require the Use of Evidence Based Approaches

WP2 Commitment	Deadline	Status
Initiate a reform project to understand the growth of administration of justice offences	March 31, 2014	s.13, s.17
Initiate a reform project to understand cost and resource containment of large criminal cases	March 31, 2014	Executive Committee and Sub-Committee established.
Connect with other justice system participants to consider an evidence-based, integrated, and strategic approach for specialized court initiatives in the province	March 31, 2015	Policy work underway. DCC Evaluation to be complete in Fall 2013. s.13, s.17
Initiate a study to determine the feasibility of a pre-trial risk assessment tool for criminal cases	March 31, 2014	Early discussions underway. s.13, s.17

2013/14 ESTIMATES NOTE

Justice Summits

Suggested Response:

- The inaugural Justice Summit brought justice leaders together to discuss ways to improve BC's criminal justice system.
- Summits are a key part of achieving our goal to encourage stronger collaboration and cooperation across the justice sector and will be a regular feature of the justice system.
- Planning is underway for a second justice summit to occur in the fall.

Background:

- The Justice Reform and Transparency Act, portions of which came into force April 11, 2013, sets the framework for a well-functioning, transparent justice system that is strengthened by greater collaboration among justice leaders.
- The Act requires a Justice Summit be held at least once a year to facilitate innovation in and collaboration across the justice and public safety sector.
- The inaugural Summit was held March 15 and 16, 2013, at the University of British Columbia law school. Close to 50 leaders attended from federal and provincial justice and public safety agencies, the judiciary, the legal profession, police, municipalities, related criminal justice agencies and the academic community.
- The focus of the inaugural Summit was narrowed to criminal justice. The goals of the Summit were twofold:
 - to create an initial atmosphere supportive of focused and enduring dialogue between key criminal justice system participants.
 - to begin discussion of justice system values, as a means of progressing to the "strategic vision" for the system required under the Act.
- Planning is underway for the next Justice Summit, which is currently targeted for fall 2013.
- Preparation for the fall Summit will include reaching out to key stakeholders over the summer months, such as the Aboriginal community, to make further progress on the criminal justice values dialogue.

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- A proposal for future Summits is being prepared. The proposal currently includes bi-annual Summits:
 - The spring Summit would bring civil, family, administrative and criminal justice and public safety stakeholders together to discuss aspirations for the system.
 - The fall Summit would bring the broad group together to review the draft Justice and Public Safety Plan and to discuss more refined versions of the spring Summit outcome document(s).

2013/14 ESTIMATES NOTE

Justice System Funding

Suggested Response:

- Our budget is a product of good fiscal management.
- Despite current fiscal challenges, the Ministry has been able to maintain stable funding.
- The overall budget for the Ministry is \$1.14 billion, which is up \$27.8 million or 2.5 per cent from last year. This includes:
 - s.16, s.17 and a
 - \$3.9-million increase for BC Corrections to reflect funding for operational base pressures.
- These funding increases clearly show our government's strong commitment to maintaining safe communities for BC families.
- We are working hard to find savings and efficiencies and continue our justice reform efforts – aimed at making the justice system more effective, timely and balanced.

If asked about budget for Solicitor General Operations

- The total budget for Solicitor General Operations has increased to \$639.5 million.
- This is a 4.5 per cent rise from last year's \$611.8-million budget for Solicitor General Operations.

If asked about budget for Attorney General Operations

- The total budget for Attorney General Operations is \$368.4 million. This is down only slightly, about 0.4 per cent, from last year's \$370-million budget to reflect savings in corporate services.
- I want to assure those who rely on the justice system that protection of front-line services has been a priority in dealing with our budget pressures.
- As well, we are maintaining our funding for the Legal Services Society. The Society will continue to receive more than \$72 million annually to provide legal aid to eligible lower-income British Columbians. This includes funding for other related initiatives, including major trials, the Downtown Community Court, and the Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver.

- We're aware that the Legal Services Society has proposed some innovative strategies as part of our justice reform agenda and those require additional resources to implement. We will revisit these proposals once more funding becomes available, as we remain firmly committed to justice reform initiatives.

Background:

- The Budget, net of recoveries, is \$1,139,891,000 which is a \$27.811 million increase over the prior year (2012/13 – Restated).
- The \$27.811 million increase is primarily due to budget lifts in the Policing and Security Branch, and the Corrections Branch:
 - s.16, s.17
 - \$9.600 million increase for Corrections Branch, Surrey Pretrial Services Centre;
 - \$3.900 million increase for Corrections Branch operational base pressures in salaries and benefits, and inmate supplies and services; and an
 - offset by other budget changes netting to a reduction of \$1.379 million.
- The Capital Budget is \$18.927 million, an increase of \$6.045 million from the previous year. The increase is primarily due to a notional budget to be available for s.12, s.17
For administrative purposes, most capital provided to the Ministry is centralized in Executive and Support Services, and Corporate Services, with the exception of capital held for the Judiciary, Public Guardian and Trustee, BC Utilities Commission and the Independent Investigations Office.

Budget Summary by Branch

- Executive and Support Services: Centralization of corporate services and the efficiencies gained, including efficiencies in the Minister's Office, are reflected in the budget reduction of \$1.304 million.
- Corrections Branch: Surrey Pretrial Services Centre is reflected in the budget increase in the amount of \$9.6 million for the partial year of operations. Additionally, another \$3.9 million has been provided for pressures in base operations. These lifts have been partially offset by corporate services savings.

- Policing and Security Programs: s.16, s.17
- Corporate Services: Centralization of corporate services and the efficiencies gained are reflected in the budget reduction of \$1.332 million.
- Judiciary: The budget has increased by \$1.068 million s.3

2013/14 ESTIMATES NOTE

Justice System Trends, Statistics and Performance Measures

Suggested Response:

- The justice system's key trends offer encouragement in terms of public safety, but suggest work must continue in terms of the efficiency of the system.
- BC is safer from crime than at any time since the early 1970s. Since 2004 crime in BC has declined consistently, and at a rate faster than any other province. Between 2004 and 2011, the last full year for which data is available, police-recorded crime incidents per 100,000 residents declined 37%.
- The criminal caseload in the Provincial Court has begun to decline. Combined new adult and youth cases are down 15% in the last two years.
- The volume of Reports to Crown Counsel (68,774) in 2012/13 declined by 2.9% over the previous year. As in 2011/12, the decline is primarily due to the introduction of the Immediate Roadside Prohibition program in fall 2010.
- The Ministry remains concerned over delays associated to criminal cases. Despite the decline in new criminal cases in Provincial Court, the average length of stay on bail rises.
- The Ministry is encouraged that average time awaiting trial for those remanded in custody (held without bail) has now begun to decline after a previous period of increase.
- The Ministry has undertaken active steps to address performance measurement and clarify return on investment in justice programs, including a statutory performance framework and work on establishing costing formulas for justice operations.

Background:

- **The crime rate continues its downward trend.** In 2011, BC experienced its lowest crime rate in nearly 35 years (79 offences per 1,000 population). This is a decline of 7% since the previous year, an eighth consecutive annual decrease. This one-year decline is also part of a drop of 37% since 2004.
- **The criminal case load for the courts has recently declined.** The number of new criminal cases in Provincial Court had been relatively stable from 2005 to 2010. In the last two

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calendar years, the number of new adult and youth criminal cases has declined by approximately 15%. The total number of new cases in 2012 was 89,538.

- **People on bail continue to wait longer for trial.** The number of accused persons granted bail annually has declined (from an average daily count of 8214 in 2011/12 to 7771 in 2012/13). However, they are spending longer and longer awaiting a court date.
- **Charges related to violations of court orders have grown in recent years.** Bail normally has conditions of behaviour attached. There is considerable growth in charges now before the courts which are unrelated to the original criminal activity, but stem instead from breaches of court-ordered conditions.
- **The Ministry continues to face significant cost pressures.** After a period of stability, expenditures on adult criminal justice processes and personnel have risen significantly in the past eight years, increasing by more than a third since 2005.
- **The Ministry is taking steps to measure performance, control costs and establish return on investment.**
 - The Justice Reform and Transparency Act provides for an annual justice system plan with clear, measurable performance targets. The first plan must be released by March 2014.
 - In each subsequent year, the Act provides for a public, retrospective performance report consistent with the reporting standards set by the Office of the Auditor General.
 - Draft elements of the plan and its objectives will be discussed with key stakeholders at the next Justice Summit in November.
 - The Act also provides for the establishment of a consistent methodology for determining the appropriate complement of judges for the provincial Court, through dialogue with the judiciary.
 - The Ministry has also initiated a ministry-wide project to establish costing data for key justice system processes.

2013/14 ESTIMATES NOTE

Court Case Delays

Suggested Response:

- Increasing complexity in criminal and civil matters means cases are often taking longer to make their way through the court system.
- Identifying and implementing justice system reforms is a priority for this government. The recent Justice Delayed report indicated a reduction in delays in many areas, particularly in the area of adult criminal matters.
- The Justice and Public Safety Council is tasked with working with stakeholders to further address issues in the justice system and identify actions that government, the judiciary, Crown Counsel, the legal profession, police and others can take to provide more timely and effective justice.

Background:

- Provincial Court Caseload volumes vary slightly from year to year; however, it is believed increasing criminal and civil case complexity as well as reduced judicial capacity are key drivers of hearing delay in the Provincial Court.
- Adult criminal, youth, family and small claims matters have all experienced increasing hearing and trial delays over the last several years, however, for the most recent period, as of March 2013, the time to schedule a hearing or trial has decreased.
- Fewer criminal cases at December 2012 compared to December 2011 are in Askov (e.g., systemic institutional delay) stay range. As well, the number of child protection family court cases not meeting statutory guidelines has been steadily decreasing over the last five years.
- Judge hearing capacity is reduced since 2005 due to fewer judges appointed compared to the number of judges retiring and opting for senior judge part-time status.
- Over the last 3 years, the average number of months needed to schedule a half day criminal trial in Provincial Court has decreased from 10.2 months at March 2011 to 6 months currently as at March 2013, a 41 per cent decrease.
- Over the same period, the average number of months needed to schedule a two day or more criminal trial in Provincial Court also decreased from almost 11.7 months down to 7.6 months, a 35 per cent decrease.

2013/14 ESTIMATES NOTE

Civil Resolution Tribunal and Tribunal Transformation

Suggested Response:

- To achieve our justice reform goals, we are developing a Civil Resolution Tribunal to help citizens solve common strata disputes and small claims outside the traditional courtroom.
- In 2014, through Canada's first-ever online tribunal, strata owners who are in disagreement with each other will be able to use online tools, if they wish, to work on settling their disagreement instead of going to court.
- Our work on the Civil Resolution Tribunal will also enable us to transform the administrative justice system, integrating BC's 29 tribunals into tribunal "pods" that share technology, staff, services and facilities.

Background:

- The Office of the Chief Information Officer has identified \$1.57 million from its Transformation Fund for the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT)/Tribunal Transformation project. The first \$500,000 of this amount is now being spent on systems architecture and business modelling, including work on a more detailed business case relating to further operating funds.
- Beyond that, we will be licensing a live intake system to enable citizens to resolve disputes before needing formal intervention. This will establish the foundation for the online tribunal and prepare the way for future investment next year. It is our plan to implement the tribunal in late 2014.
- That project will enable the Ministry of Justice to cut costs, complexity and delay in an \$80 million part BC's justice system, the administrative justice sector.
- The concept for CRT services, which includes online 24/7 service; overall average time from filing to disposition of 60 days; and a focus on user satisfaction and continuous improvement, will be applied across the administrative justice sector through our Tribunal Transformation project.

- The key, transformative feature of this project is the shift in services and resources away from the high cost, complexity and delay associated with courts (initially Small Claims Court and Traffic Court) by investing in new tribunal services (initially the CRT and Driving Notice Review Board). One option is to s.13, s.17

2013/14 ESTIMATES NOTE

s.12

Suggested Response:

s.12

Page 39 redacted for the following reason:

s.12

2013/14 ESTIMATES NOTE

Community Safety Act Overview

Suggested Response:

- In the “Families First” agenda, the Government committed to improving community safety by proposing legislation that would allow the government to target and respond to properties where unlawful activities impact communities and neighbourhoods - the Community Safety Act fulfills that commitment.

Background:

- Since 2008, the Province has enacted numerous pieces of legislation that employ a civil enforcement strategy approach to respond to significant public safety issues. Those pieces of legislation include the Body Armour Control Act, Gunshot and Stab Wound Disclosure Act, Armoured Vehicle and After-Market Compartment Control Act, and the Metal Dealers and Recyclers Act.
- On June 25, 2012, the Province released its “Families First” agenda that included a proposal to develop a Community Safety Act. This proposal further enhanced the Province’s commitment to safer communities as set out in the October 2011 Throne Speech.
- The Act builds upon the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods legislation enacted in six other Canadian jurisdictions (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the Yukon).
- The legislation uses civil remedies to hold property owners accountable for the adverse effects and threats to public safety resulting from the ongoing or habitual occurrence of specified illegal and disruptive activities on their properties, such as:
 - Use, sale and production of illegal drugs;
 - Prostitution;
 - Illegal sales or purchase of liquor;
 - Sale or consumption of intoxicating substances;
 - Child sexual abuse;
 - Unlawful possession or storage of prohibited firearms or restricted weapons; and
 - Gang or organized crime activities.

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- This legislation provides a complementary approach to traditional police efforts to cease the continuation of the harmful activities. While police focus on individuals engaged in criminal activities, the Act focuses on control of the property where these activities take place.

How It Works

- The legislation empowers citizens to submit confidential complaints about disturbing and dangerous activities in their communities and neighbourhoods to a designated provincial authority who may investigate and, depending on the evidence, pursue a range of remedies to hold property owners accountable for the ongoing illegal activities taking place on their property.
- The remedies available include: informal action or agreement with the property owner to cease the activities; or issuing a letter of warning to the property owner or occupants of the property. If the activity continues despite attempts at informal resolution, the designated authority may make an application under the Act for a court order (a community safety order), which may result, for example, in prohibiting a person from occupying a property, termination of a tenancy agreement or closing a property for up to 90 days.
- When a community safety order results in property closure, the designated authority is authorized to take any measures necessary to safely and effectively close the property, the cost of which is the responsibility of the property owner. In addition, the legislation authorizes the designated authority to register a notation on the title of properties subject to a community safety order.
- The experience in other jurisdictions with similar legislation has been that only a small number of complaints made to the designated authority result in application for a Court order. The designated authority is often successful in having activities cease through informal action or warning letters.

Next Steps

- The Community Safety Act was introduced and read a first time in the Legislative Assembly on February 21, 2013.
- On March 14, 2013, the Act received Royal Assent. The legislation is to be brought into force by regulation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
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2013/14 ESTIMATES NOTE

Corporate Services Restructuring Update

Suggested Response:

- We've been open with staff about the extraordinary budget pressures government is facing and the ongoing efforts across government to find back-office savings and efficiencies to help protect front-line programs and services.
- The reason we have to be down in positions is consistent with the internal audit and Treasury Board direction that precipitated the merger of corporate services in the two former ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General back in 2012/13.
- Additional work done from the audit identified that the number of Ministry of Justice corporate services positions was too high, compared to levels in the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- The Ministry was directed to consolidate its corporate service functions and reduce its full time equivalent complement by 99 positions.
- This consolidation is complete within the Corporate Management Services Branch and the reduction of 99 positions is complete without any workforce adjustment. Restructuring, attrition and talent mobility across government were used to achieve these targets.
- In order to assist in meeting the budget pressures related to Justice Reform and Public Safety initiatives we will use the resulting savings to offset the pressures.

Background:

- \$12 million in staff and budget was moved from core Ministry programs to the corporate service entities of the Corporate Management Services Branch (CMSB) and the Information Systems Branch (ISB).
- With the Corporate Services Restructuring, a total of \$12 million in budget was transferred from the program branches to CMSB and ISB for fiscal 13/14. This budget was primarily for salaries and benefits for the employees that were transferred to CMSB and ISB plus a small additional amount for overhead.

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- In 2012, the Corporate Services restructuring was initiated. A reduction of 99 full time equivalent (FTE) positions with a savings target of \$7.5 million for corporate service for 2013/14 was included in the Ministry budget. Corporate services restructure including splitting Management Services Branch into Information Service Branch for IT and Corporate Management Services for Finance and Administration, Facilities, Security and Risk Management, and Organization Development.
- There was a 3 year implementation plan starting in 2012/13 leading to a 99 FTE and \$10.7 million budget reduction to reflect efficiencies to be achieved by 2014/15.
- Treasury Board staff applied a graduated budget reduction to the Ministry beginning in fiscal 2012/13 for corporate service staff excess determined to exist as a result of the previously decentralized model in place. Full impact of the reduction is to be realized in fiscal 2014/15.
- The transfer of staff and 2013/14 budget is complete for CMSB and ISB.

**Ministry of Justice
Estimates 2013/14 Briefing Book**

**Cross Sector Issues
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2013/14 ESTIMATES NOTE

Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Response

Suggested Response:

- The government remains committed to creating a legacy of safety and security for vulnerable women, and progress is being made.
- I have been given a mandate to continue the work of considering the implementation of the recommendations in the report from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry.
- We are continuing to analyze how we will move forward on the Report recommendations to help ensure something like this doesn't happen again.
- In fact, a number of the commitments we've made in White Paper 2 align with the recommendations in the Report, so we certainly have been putting a lot of thought into how we can go about fulfilling the spirit of those.
- In the weeks ahead, we will announce our plans for carrying on the engagement work Mr. Point started.
- It is important to remember that necessary changes won't be easy and won't happen overnight – that said – this work is a key priority.
- In collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa, we will be sharing information and setting up meetings between senior officials and three International human rights bodies that are expected to visit BC in the next few months. We will engage in a dialogue and explain how we are addressing the issues relating to missing and murdered Aboriginal women in BC, and the recommendations flowing from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry's report.

Actions Taken

- We have a concrete work plan on how we're moving forward to fulfill the spirit of Mr. Oppal's recommendations, as part of our overarching justice reform initiative. We did not wait for the final inquiry report to begin our work.
- A number of commitments we've made in White Paper Two align with recommendations in the Commission's report.

- Part Two outlines our short- and long-term actions to address improvements to public safety and access to justice.
- Indigenous Cultural Competency Training, developed by the Provincial Health Services Authority, is being provided with the support of the federal government.
- Up to 540 staff members working in victim service and violence-against-women programs throughout BC will receive training.
- Government has provided \$1 million in grants for crime prevention and remediation community initiatives, including funding for projects that prevent violence against women, stop sexual exploitation, and combat human trafficking.
- In March, government released BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2013-16.
- It focuses on preventing and addressing trafficking of youth for sexual exploitation and preventing and addressing domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth.
- The focus will be on developing age-appropriate information alerting youth to the tactics of traffickers and on identifying culturally appropriate resources to prevent and address human trafficking in Aboriginal communities.
- BC continues to invest more than \$70 million a year in services to support victims of crime in the province. This includes outreach to vulnerable women who are at risk of victimization, and supports for women who have been victimized.

Enhancements to policing in BC since Pickton

- We've come a long way since the Pickton case.
- Police now work more closely together – we have 20 integrated teams, with annual investment of \$70 million, plus a recent investment of \$22 million a year in specialized teams like the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team and the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit.
- Policing standards have changed for training, use of force, places of detention, equipment and technology in response to the missing and murdered women.
- We funded ongoing missing women investigations including the task force into missing women by over \$80 million since 2005.
- We are leading discussions with federal, provincial and territorial officials to reduce the murders of marginalized women and improve the investigation of missing women.

- In 2005, we established a Missing Persons Centre, a resource for police in BC, and participated in developing a national strategy on missing persons.
- We have invested \$40 million into the PRIME data system that supports crime information sharing among all police.
- We are creating a Real Time Intelligence Centre to support police investigating serious crimes that cross jurisdictional boundaries.
- Developed the BC Policing and Community Safety Plan to set the direction, strategic framework, performance expectations and accountability mechanisms for policing.

Background:

Response to the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI) Report Recommendations

- The MWCI was established in 2010 to examine the police investigations conducted between January 1997 and February 2002 into women reported missing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.
- The Report was publicly released on December 17, 2012 and makes 63 recommendations related to: policing reforms; Crown policy and practices; missing persons response; services and supports for vulnerable women; and, healing and reconciliation.
- In immediate response to a key recommendation in the Report, the Honourable Steven Point was appointed as an advisor and to chair a new Advisory Committee on the Safety and Security of Vulnerable Women.
- On May 17, 2013, Mr. Point submitted his resignation as advisor effective May 30, 2013. He cited the legal action launched by four family members and the impact of this litigation on his role as advisor, as prompting his decision. For more information see Estimates Note "Steve Point Resignation".
- Within the Ministry of Justice, a structure for coordinating government's efforts to the MWCI's Report has been established, with links to other ministries, police agencies and external stakeholders.
- In February 2013 the Province released both the White Paper on Justice Reform Part Two and the draft BC Policing and Community Safety Plan. Both of these documents contain government's planned actions and timelines in response to many of the recommendations.

- Work within the Ministry continues to address many of the recommendations, particularly on policing reforms and Crown counsel policies.
- With the resignation of Mr. Point and the recent commencement of litigation related to the Pickton case, the Ministry is currently exploring options for how best to continue to move this important work forward in a manner that takes into consideration any constraints that litigation may place on the activities of an advisor or an advisory committee.

International Focus on the issue of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women

- International human rights bodies are planning to visit Canada and BC, possibly as early as August.
 - **The United Nations' Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SR)** visited Canada in 2004 and will likely review progress on recommendations made at that time. The SR is interested in health care, housing, education, welfare, social services, land claims, and self-government issues, as well as missing and murdered Aboriginal women.
 - **The Organization of American States' Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** will examine the situation of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls, as well as domestic violence initiatives being implemented in BC.
 - **The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** is launching an inquiry prompted by a complaint by the Feminist Canadian Alliance for International Action and the Native Women's Association of Canada. Sessions will be in camera and focused on the alleged failure by Canada and BC to address the issues associated with missing and murdered Aboriginal women. This committee has conducted one other inquiry in its history. Its mandate is to investigate grave human rights violations.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is coordinating the visits. It has asked BC to assist with: briefing materials for these bodies prior to their visits, setting up meetings with officials during the visits, and suggesting communities or stakeholder groups that might be of interest to these three organizations. Justice Services Branch is responsible for international human rights coordination for the BC government. The Branch will work closely with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, other ministries, and branches within the Ministry of Justice to coordinate BC's response.

Further Action Taken on Recommendations

- BC Housing - \$750,000 committed to the WISH drop-in centre.
- Ministry of Transportation –
 - has initiated preliminary discussions with municipalities to identify considerations and tangible solutions to enhance safety for travelers along Highway 16, and
 - has created an inventory of past public transit studies and services currently available along the Highway 16 corridor.
- Criminal Justice Branch – reviewing policy changes related to equality and vulnerable witnesses.

Union of BC Indian Chiefs July 10, 2013, Letter to Minister Anton

- On July 10, 2013, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs circulated a letter from an informal coalition of 20 community and advocacy groups in response to the recent announcement that civil litigation by children of Robert Pickton's victims may "constrain" its work in responding to the recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, and to the recent resignation of Steven Point as champion for the recommendations. The coalition is seeking engagement with newly appointed Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Suzanne Anton.
- Many of the coalition members have been meeting informally to discuss how to move forward in supporting the children and families, in pursuing justice for the missing and murdered women.
- The coalition's letter expresses concern that the Province has begun work on only two recommendations, while all work has stalled following Point's resignation. It calls on the government to prioritize the issue of missing and murdered women in B.C., and outlines actions it says the Province must take to be successful at making real change for vulnerable women.
- Among the actions are suggestions to focus on key, urgent recommendations, to be determined in cooperation with families and impacted community groups, and the appointment of a female Independent Advisor who could understand "the gender-based nature of this work". The coalition also asks the Province to:
 - Make the proposed Minister's Advisory Committee on the Safety and Security of Vulnerable Women large enough to allow for "representatives from the groups involved" and elder advisors as full members;

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- Commit to an annual independent report on missing and murdered women in B.C.;
 - Examine what it calls the extreme conditions of poverty;
 - Support a national public inquiry into murders and missing indigenous women in Canada. To support this request, the coalition cites the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Attachment: Full text of the Coalition of Community and Advocacy Groups' July 10, 2013, letter to Minister Anton.

**Attachment: Full Text of the Coalition of Community and Advisory Groups'
July 10, 2013, Letter to Minister Anton.**

Honourable Suzanne Anton
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
PO BOX 9044 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC, V8W 9E2
Via facsimile: 250 387-6411

July 10, 2013

Dear Attorney General:

Open Letter: Community and Advocacy Groups Strongly Object to Stalling by Province since Conclusion of Missing Women Commission of Inquiry and Set out Requirements for Participation

Congratulations on your appointment to Minister of Justice and Attorney General, we anticipate a strong working relationship with you to advance the critical file of missing and murdered women. We are a coalition of community and advocacy groups who were shut out of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (the "Inquiry"). We understand that your June 10 "Mandate Letter" from the Premier states that one of your priorities is to "consider implementation of the recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry." However, prior to your appointment and shortly after the election, your predecessor announced that civil litigation by children of Robert Pickton's victims may constrain the government's work in responding to the recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, and that Xwě lī qwě l tēl (the Honourable Steven Point) resigned as advocate for their implementation. We are frustrated and offended by the suggestion that civil litigation by families will constrain the government's response or stall the work that needs to be done to deal with the ongoing tragedy of violence against women, particularly Indigenous women. If the government truly wishes to make changes in good faith and in the spirit of reconciliation, it should not constrain its actions out of fear that those actions may have an impact on litigation. Such a tactic is not a legal requirement – contrary to the inference that your predecessor appears to have made in her statement that litigation must take precedence over any other process. Rather, it is a defensive move that has already shaken the hope that there might be constructive action taken by the government to protect vulnerable women.

As you know, the undersigned groups were not funded to participate in the Inquiry, and did not participate in the Policy Forums or Study Commission aspects of the Inquiry. We refused to lend the credibility of our respective organizations' names and expertise to the Inquiry, which could only be described as a deeply flawed and illegitimate process. For decades, family members of missing women, grassroots women's organizations in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver (DTES), community groups and Indigenous and public leaders, have incessantly called for a full

public inquiry into the missing women of the DTES and the Highway of Tears. We were forced to withdraw due to denial of a just process, uneven funding for applicants granted standing, discrimination against women and Indigenous groups, and violations of international human rights standards. We were deeply troubled by the extremely narrow and restrictive terms of reference and the imposed tight timelines, and continued to demand that all applicants who were given standing be provincially funded, as recommended by Commissioner Oppal. The Commission lost all credibility among Indigenous, sex work, human rights and women's organizations that work with and are comprised of the very women most affected by the issues this Inquiry was charged with investigating.

The litigation does not prevent the government from continuing essential work with impacted families and communities to create tangible solutions to the tragedy of violence against women that continues to unfold. Former Attorney General Shirley Bond's statement that the work may be "constrained" unfairly places the blame for the government's own inaction on the families involved in the litigation, who are seeking justice for the deaths of their loved ones. The families of the missing and murdered women must absolutely not be made into scapegoats for the government's lack of progress.

Since the conclusion of the deeply flawed Inquiry, and the release of a 1500-page report by Commissioner Wally Oppal in December, 2012, the Province has been extremely slow in taking action implementing recommendations from the report, despite the glaring urgency for real and substantial change to be made on the ground in order to prevent further violence and to pursue justice for the missing and murdered women. We acknowledge that the immediate undertaking of the government to open the WISH Drop-In Centre over night with annualized funding of \$750,000 was a critical and positive step; however, we cannot understand why, given the forced vulnerability to violence on the Highway of Tears, that the second immediate measure recommended by Commissioner Oppal to develop and implement an enhanced public transit system to provide a safer travel option connecting the Northern capital and Northern communities, particularly along Highway 16 (the Highway of Tears), was not implemented.

Members of the Coalition met with the Honourable Steven Point twice to discuss his role as "champion" to provide advice to the government as it implements the recommendations, and as Chair of a new Minister's Advisory Committee on the Safety and Security of Vulnerable Women. Mr. Point indicated to us that he would be stepping down after getting the process up and running, with the recommendation that a woman should chair the committee. He did not state that this was related to any litigation, even though the coalition met with him on the morning of May 14, just days before his resignation was announced. We feel extremely betrayed by this sudden shift, which was made without any consultation or engagement with the families or with impacted community and advocacy groups. Despite our skepticism about the Commission and our previous exclusion, summarized above, we participated in these meetings with Mr. Point in good faith, with a number of our members considering how to engage constructively in that process. The government's announcement has, once again, damaged the relationship between BC, the families of the victims (who spoke for themselves about their disappointment after the announcement), and stakeholder groups.

Recommendations Not Implemented: Upon review of the 63 formal recommendations in Commissioner Oppal's report, which was released approximately six months ago, we are extremely concerned that the Province has begun work on only two of the recommendations, now apparently stalled out with the resignation of Mr. Point:

- 12.1 That Provincial Government appoint an independent advisor to serve as champion for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. This appointment should take effect within 12 weeks of release of the report.
- 12.2 That the independent advisor work collaboratively with representatives of Aboriginal communities, the DTES, and the victims' families in the implementation process.

Given that Mr. Point was appointed in December 2012, we strongly object to the fact that none of the other recommendations have begun to be considered or implemented, and we are offended with the absence of justice for our missing and murdered women. Approximately six months after the release of the MWCI final report and recommendations, we ask whether the government thoroughly reviewed the report as committed on December 17.

We call on the newly re-elected government – as a whole – to prioritize the issue of missing and murdered women, and to work with the families and community organizations to make real change. We know that the Premier has spoken of a strong commitment to government serving the needs of families. We expect the Premier and the government to understand that it is impossible to focus on creating jobs and building a strong economy without equally attending to the pursuit of justice for the most marginalized people and families in the Province.

Necessary Conditions to Implement Recommendations: The Inquiry process was flawed from the beginning, and we were extremely concerned with, among other shortcomings: limitations of the terms of reference; no lawyers for organizations and community members who represent crucial perspectives; lack of witness protection; delayed, incomplete disclosure; impossible timelines; and limited witnesses. The failed Inquiry, far from assisting Indigenous women and women from the Downtown Eastside, ironically reinforced their marginalization. Gender and sexual violence against girls and women continues in Downtown Eastside Vancouver unabated. The Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry missed an opportunity to respond to this critical social issue through recommending funding for a range of gender and sexual violence support services and gender and sexual violence prevention activities. We advise that if the Province of British Columbia is going to be successful in implementing the recommendations of the Inquiry:

- The Province must work collaboratively and directly with families and impacted community groups to implement recommendations and genuinely take action to make real change on the ground for vulnerable women, and not make unilateral decisions.
- We suggest a focus on key recommendations, determined in cooperation with the families and impacted community groups, and giving urgent priority to those which would direct and provide assistance to the families and to seeking justice for the missing and murdered women.

- There must be adequate funding from the Province to implement the recommendations.
- The proposed Minister's Advisory Committee on the Safety and Security of Vulnerable Women, if established, must be large enough to allow for adequate representatives from the groups involved, and must include elder advisors as full members. The proposed Committee must allow the people most affected to appoint who sits on the Committee from their respective groups, rather than allowing the Minister with discretionary powers to make appointments. We are confident this will create a stronger and more effective committee.
- In addition to the fact that recommendations 12.1 and 12.2 are currently not even being implemented given the resignation of Mr. Point, the Province must take into consideration that the independent advisor would be most effective if it is a woman, given the extremely sensitive and gender-based nature of this work. Further, we object to the appointment of an independent advisor to serve as "champion" because we are concerned that this would mean the independent advisor would be bound to support all the recommendations even if s/he – or the Committee – did not agree with all of them, effectively taking away any independence.
- The Province must commit to a public, independent annual report on the situation of missing and murdered women in British Columbia, and on implementation of the Commissioner's recommendations. We strongly urge you to ensure that the recommendations do not get put aside and ignored, as the majority of the recommendations did coming out of the Frank Paul Inquiry.
- In order to address the gaps and eliminate the critical and devastating issues of violence against Indigenous girls and women, intersecting and deeply rooted factors including colonialism, racism, and extreme conditions of poverty must be examined. We remind you that in Canada, Indigenous women are five times more likely than other women to die as a result of violence, and that this problem is a national and international crisis. We absolutely refuse to accept the racist notion concerning the normativity of violence that many Indigenous girls and women experience on a regular basis.

Coalition Committed to Pursuing a National Inquiry and International Investigation: In December 2011, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women announced that it was initiating an investigation of Canada with respect to disappearances and murders of Indigenous women and girls. Given the failures of the British Columbian and Canadian governments to effectively address the human rights crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, including the social and economic conditions that make Indigenous women and girls more vulnerable to violence in the first place, our organizations will dedicate what limited resources we can offer to working with the United Nations to facilitate their investigations and fact-finding processes, in order to ensure that Canada is held internationally accountable for these ongoing human rights violations.

Canada has been criticized by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and, in 2012, by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination because of the inadequacies in its law and practice respecting the prevention,

investigation, prosecution and punishment of violence against women, particularly Aboriginal women. The high levels of violence experienced by Indigenous women, as well as the hundreds of missing and murdered Indigenous women across the country are evidence of Canada's failure to meet its international legal obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the fundamental human rights of women. To date, Canada has not made an effective response to these serious and significant findings by expert human rights bodies.

We remind you that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples clearly sets out a framework for states to effectively ensure the rights of Indigenous women:

- Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

We, the undersigned groups, continue to strongly advocate for a national public inquiry into the hundreds of murders and disappearances of Indigenous women and girls in Canada, to address the service, socio-economic and human rights gaps, and make concrete and specific recommendations to end violence against Indigenous girls and women at a national level.

Moving Forward

Although members of this coalition were shut out of the Inquiry process, we continue to meet regularly to discuss how to move forward in order to support the families, and to pursue justice for the missing and murdered women. We are not going anywhere, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important issue. We will be pursuing justice with or without you, and we certainly hope that you choose to work with us.

Minister Anton, it is absolutely imperative that you work collaboratively with the families and impacted communities to make the issue of justice for the missing and murdered women one of your top priorities as Minister of Justice and Attorney General. Given the urgency of this issue, we request a meeting at your earliest convenience so that we can discuss how to move forward in addressing the violence against disadvantaged and marginalized women and girls in British Columbia. Please contact Don Bain, Executive Director at the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, to set up a meeting time (604) 684-0231.

Yours truly,

Aboriginal Front Door Society
Amnesty International Canada
Atira Women's Resource Society
B.C. Assembly of First Nations

B.C. Civil Liberties Association
BC Native Women's Association
Battered Women's Support Services
Butterflies in Spirit
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
Ending Violence Association British Columbia
February 14th Women's Memorial March Committee
Lookout Emergency Aid Society
Justice for Girls
PACE: Providing Alternatives Counselling & Education Society
PHS Community Services Society
Pivot Legal Society
Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs
Union Gospel Mission
West Coast LEAF
WISH Drop-In Centre Society

2013/14 ESTIMATES NOTE

Steven Point Resignation

Suggested Response:

- The Government remains committed to creating a legacy for the safety and security of vulnerable women.
- Steven Point thoughtfully consulted with the families of the missing women and various stakeholders, leaving us well positioned to move forward.
- Work on the recommendations will continue. In the weeks ahead, we will announce our plans for carrying on the engagement work Mr. Point started.

Remuneration for Steven Point

- Steven Point was only reimbursed for the expenses he incurred during his time as an advisor.
- For the period of December 2012 to the end of May 2013, Mr. Point received \$95,965 in fees and expenses from government. (Fees = \$83,190 / Expenses = \$12,775).
- His remuneration has been a wise investment for this essential work which will go a long way toward keeping vulnerable women safe.
- Mr. Point was retained under a direct award contract, done under exceptional circumstances.
- Government required an impartial, well-respected community leader with considerable ability in engaging the aboriginal community, local government leaders, advocacy groups and stakeholders in general.
- A competitive bidding process would have compromised government's confidentiality of the commission's report at the time and our intent to respond in a timely way.

Background:

- The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI) report was publicly released on December 17, 2012.
- Upon release of the report, the Minister of Justice immediately appointed the Honourable Steven Point to serve as an independent advisor and to Chair a Committee on the Safety

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and Security of Vulnerable Women, which would provide advice to government on implementation of the inquiry recommendations.

- The terms of Mr. Point's appointment includes:
 - Providing counsel and advice to the Justice and Public Safety Council on an implementation strategy for the MWCI recommendations;
 - Establishing and chairing an advisory committee on safety and security of vulnerable women, including structure and membership; and
 - Consulting with representatives of Aboriginal Communities, the downtown east side community, and family members of the victims who participated in the MWCI.
- For about 5 months, Mr. Point consulted with representatives of Aboriginal communities, the Downtown East Side, and victims' families, as well as many other stakeholders including the Highway of Tears Governing Body. He focussed his discussions on how to move forward, specifically, but not exclusively, on reconciliation and healing.
- In May 2013, legal action was launched by four family members. On May 17, 2013, Mr. Point announced his resignation as advisor effective May 30, 2013. He cited the legal action and the impact of that on his role as advisor, as prompting his decision.
- The civil actions seek general damages against the Province, the RCMP and City of Vancouver for alleged negligence by provincial prosecutors and the police.
- Mr. Point was concerned that this action would expose him to personal liability and therefore felt he could no longer effectively fulfill his role of champion. Mr. Point believed his comments and remarks may become evidence in the course of the litigation. Consequently, Mr. Point concluded that it was impossible to continue in his role as special advisor to government.
- Mr. Point was retained under a direct-award contract, with a maximum of \$220,000 for work between December 12, 2012 and December 31, 2013. The monthly rate is \$16,000 (based on a daily rate of 8 hours/day for 250 days). The contract allows for a maximum of \$20,000 in expenses. The chair must provide written statements of accounts to obtain payment of fees and expenses.

**Attachment: Steven Point Resignation
Questions and Answers – July 12, 2013**

1. What is the pressing issue?

- The Hon. Steven Point has resigned from his position as chair of the advisory committee on the safety and security of vulnerable women. His last day was May 30, 2013.
- I want to thank Mr. Point for the work he did as a champion for implementation of the MWCI recommendations, and I know the foundation he has built over the past five months will serve us well as we move forward within the constraints of our ability, due to this active civil litigation.

2. Why is Steven point resigning?

- Four families of missing women have chosen to pursue civil suits related to the Pickton case, leading Mr. Point to conclude that he must step aside.
- In his letter of resignation, Mr. Point stated he had been served with documents that have put him on notice regarding the civil litigation.
- Mr. Point believed his comments and remarks, in his role as chair of the advisory committee, may become evidence in the course of the litigation. Consequently, Mr. Point concluded that the situation would have placed an impossible burden on him to avoid making statements that could be misinterpreted or be used in or influence the course of litigation.

3. When did he submit his resignation?

- Mr. Point submitted his resignation on May 15, 2013.

4. Did the Minister have any say in this decision?

- No, I had no involvement. This was a decision made by Mr. Point, and communicated to the Deputy Attorney General and the Deputy Minister of Justice on Wed. May 15.

5. Was it Steven Point's decision to resign, or was he forced?

- This decision was Mr. Point's, in consultation with legal counsel and the deputy ministers.

6. What has been accomplished so far?

- Mr. Point thoughtfully consulted with the families of the missing women, stakeholders on the Downtown Eastside, the RCMP, VPD, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and Assembly of First Nations, among others.
- He worked with ministry staff on the Terms of Reference and determining potential members for the Advisory Committee that would provide Government with advice on the implementation of the recommendations of the MWCI report.

7. Has an Advisory Committee been appointed? Why/why not?

- When we first created the 'champion' position we were hopeful that we'd have an Advisory Committee in place by now.
- Unfortunately the election writ period prevented this work from being completed, as these members must be appointed by a minister.
- I can assure you I am looking at how we can best move forward now that Mr. Point has stepped down.
- What that will look like has not been determined yet. I need to hear from key groups and individuals before making a decision on how we will proceed.

8. Has the government received any recommendations for Advisory Committee members from Steven Point?

- Yes, government received recommendations for Advisory Committee members from Mr. Point.
- Unfortunately the election writ period prevented this work from being completed.

9. How much compensation has Mr. Point received in salary and expenses?

- Steven Point was only reimbursed for the expenses he incurred during his time as an advisor.
- For the period of December 2012 to the end of May 2013, Mr. Point received \$95,965 in fees and expenses from government. (Fees = \$83,190 / Expenses = \$12,775).
- His salary has been a wise investment for this essential work which will go a long way toward keeping vulnerable women safe.

10. Will Mr. Point receive severance pay?

- As his appointment was by contract, Mr. Point is not eligible for severance.

11. Will you be appointing someone else to take his place?

- I can assure you I am looking at how we can best move forward now that Mr. Point has stepped down.
- What that will look like has not been determined yet. I need to hear from key groups and individuals before making a decision on how we will proceed.

12. What happens now?

- We are committed to creating a legacy of safety and security for vulnerable women – and progress is being made. Continuing work to consider implementation of the recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry is not only a commitment in our government's platform, it is also in my mandate letter from Premier Clark.
- I can tell you that Steven Point thoughtfully consulted with the families of the missing women and various stakeholders, and has left us well-positioned to move forward. We have a concrete work plan and my staff is working on making progress on the recommendations daily.
- Our government remains committed to creating a legacy of safety and security for vulnerable women. We have always known that necessary changes won't be easy and they wouldn't happen overnight.

13. What is the harm if he were to continue his work?

- When matters proceed to court, the litigation process takes precedent over all other related processes.
- The plaintiffs have put Mr. Point on notice that, in his role as chair of the advisory committee, his comments and remarks may well become evidence in the course of the litigation. This would have placed an impossible burden on Mr. Point to avoid making statements that could be misinterpreted or be used in or influence the course of litigation.

14. How long will we have to wait until government can resume consideration of the MWCI recommendations?

- We are committed to creating a legacy of safety and security for vulnerable women – and progress is being made. Continuing work to consider implementation of the recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry is not only a commitment in our government's platform, it is also in my mandate letter from Premier Clark.
- I can tell you that Steven Point thoughtfully consulted with the families of the missing women and various stakeholders, and has left us well-positioned to move forward. We have a concrete work plan and my staff is working on making progress on the recommendations daily.

15. How is the Province legally responding to the missing women civil lawsuits?

- Lawyers acting on behalf of the Province have filed an application to strike the claims against the Crown Counsel.



STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
2013JAG0158-000908
May 17, 2013

Ministry of Justice

Statement on Hon. Steven Point resignation

VICTORIA – Minister of Justice and Attorney General Shirley Bond released the following statement today following the resignation of the Honourable Steven Point as chair of the advisory committee on the safety and security of vulnerable women:

"I have accepted the resignation of the Honourable Steven Point from his position as chair of the advisory committee on the safety and security of vulnerable women. His last day will be May 30, 2013.

"I appreciate the decisions of the four families of missing women who have chosen to pursue civil suits related to the Pickton case, but I am disappointed that the no doubt unintended consequences of these claims have led Mr. Point to conclude that he must step aside.

"When matters proceed to court, the litigation process takes precedence over all other related processes. The plaintiffs have put Mr. Point on notice that, in his role as chair of the advisory committee, his comments and remarks may well become evidence in the course of the litigation. This would have placed an impossible burden on Mr. Point to avoid making statements that could be misinterpreted or be used in or influence the course of litigation.

"As well, this pursuit of litigation will impact the government's current process in responding to the recommendations from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI), and we now have to analyze how we will continue to move forward while the court case is underway.

"That said, I can tell you that our government remains committed to creating a legacy of safety and security for vulnerable women. We have always known that necessary changes won't be easy and they wouldn't happen overnight.

"I want to thank Mr. Point for the work he has done to date as a champion for implementation of the MWCI recommendations, and I know the foundation he has built in the past five months will serve us well as we move forward within the constraints of our ability due to these active civil suits.

"As Attorney General and due to the legal sensitivities of this situation, I am unable to make any further comment at this time."

Media Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice
250 356-6961

See backgrounder attached for the text of the Hon. Steven Point's resignation letter.

BACKGROUNDER

Text of the letter from the Honourable Steven Point to Minister of Justice and Attorney General Shirley Bond

May 15, 2013

Minister of Justice and Attorney General Shirley Bond

It is with regret that I find it necessary to advise you that litigation has been commenced by certain family members of the victims of Pickton, and I have been served with documents that have put me on notice regarding this litigation.

As a consequence of this development I have concluded that it is impossible to continue in my role as special advisor to government in relation to the recommendations by Commissioner Oppal in his report on Murdered and Missing Women.

I have consulted with the Ministry of Justice who have agreed that in light of the current litigation process it is not possible to proceed further and therefore we have jointly reached the conclusion that I must resign and I have done so, effective May 30, 2013.

I sincerely regret the events that have necessitated my reaching this decision however once litigation has been chosen, I cannot see a path that allows me to fulfil the role that I was asked to undertake.

Sincerely,
Steven Point

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect