



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

2016JAG0036-002038

Oct. 19, 2016

Ministry of Justice

Verdict is in: B.C. justice services more affordable, less complex, foster early resolution

VICTORIA – British Columbia has become a leader in justice-system innovation and performance, says D. Geoffrey Cowper in the fourth-anniversary update to the 2012 report, *A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century*.

Marking Access to Justice Week, Cowper's update highlights B.C.'s progress in improving early resolution rates, achieving better timeliness in criminal justice cases and improving the handling of complex prosecutions. His conclusions echo those of Murray Segal, a former Ontario deputy attorney general, in his recent report on the B.C. Prosecution Service. Segal's report recognized B.C. as a leading jurisdiction in Canada for innovation, collaboration and major case management.

With targeted investments and innovation, government has improved access and efficiency to meet timelines to trial for criminal cases set by the Supreme Court of Canada, in a justice system that better serves British Columbians. For example, in the year-to-date, there have only been 13 criminal cases discontinued due to unreasonable delay, down from 122 for the year prior to Cowper delivering his initial report. The reports from Cowper and Segal will help inform B.C.'s Criminal Justice Branch as the branch continues to monitor cases in light of the Supreme Court's timelines.

Cowper also reported a "sea change" in attitudes toward collaboration and innovation in the justice and public safety sector. Results include adaptation of technology and information systems to inform management and reform initiatives across the system. Cowper also ranked Justice Summits – forums for frank discussion among justice-sector leaders to set a course for the system – and the Justice and Public Safety Council high for fostering innovation and collaboration across the sector.

Recommendations for further improvement include a refreshed mandate for the Justice and Public Safety Council, a focus on restorative justice and improved system-wide evaluation and reporting.

Quotes:

Attorney General and Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton –

"For more than a decade, the Ministry of Justice has made transparency, early resolution and technological innovation key priorities. It is British Columbians who benefit from increased access to a justice system that is more efficient. The Cowper Report turbo-charged our efforts and helped to build a justice and public safety sector that is the envy of Canada and a demonstrated leader in transforming justice services."

Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Morris –

“This report helps frame the conversation about our criminal justice system and points out efforts that have been very successful in B.C. We continually review evolving needs and support policing that is responsive to the diverse and ever-changing needs of our communities to keep British Columbians safe.”

D. Geoffrey Cowper, partner, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP –

“In the past four years there has been real progress in reducing back logs, implementing modern systems and working together to find innovative solutions. What impressed me the most was the determination to continue with making the system work better over-all and to achieve lasting improvements. There is a good deal that needs to be done but British Columbia is proving a leader in modernising criminal justice.”

Quick Facts:

- The provincial court’s “Time to Trial” report shows that there has generally been a steady decrease in delays since 2005 for criminal, family and small claims cases.
- Today, the time to trial for provincial adult criminal half-day trial, which account for almost 40% of all cases before the provincial court, is one of the shortest it’s been in almost a decade.
- The wait for half day and two-or-more-day adult criminal trials has improved considerably from 2010 and remains below the Office of the Chief Judge standard.

Learn More:

Cowper Report Update October 2016: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/about-bc-justice-system/justice-reform-initiatives/cowper-report-4-anniversary-update.pdf>

Segal Report 2016: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/reports-publications/cjb-segalreport-2016.pdf>

Government White Paper Part One 2012: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/about-bc-justice-system/justice-reform-initiatives/whitepaperone.pdf>

Government White Paper Part Two 2013: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/about-bc-justice-system/justice-reform-initiatives/whitepapertwo.pdf>

Cowper Report August 2012: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/about-bc-justice-system/justice-reform-initiatives/cowperfinalreport.pdf>

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

Key Messages

- Our government has been improving access, timeliness and efficiency in a justice system that better serves British Columbians.
- With targeted investments and innovation, we have diverted less serious matters from court, freeing up courtrooms to deal with more complex, serious matters.
- We have led the way with:
 - The Civil Resolution Tribunal, which allows the 1.5 million British Columbians who own, live or work in strata units to resolve their strata disputes online and out of court.
 - Our investment in twenty-one Family Justice Centres and three Justice Access centres that help families access mediation to resolve family law disputes.
 - A \$6 million investment in legal aid pilot projects, including an Expanded Criminal Duty Counsel pilot that is showing positive results in reducing the number of court appearances.
 - Investments in courts – including a \$33.5M expansion of the Surrey Courthouse and planned replacement of the Abbotsford courthouse.
 - Use of new technology that allows the courts to immediately produce and share court documents.
- These investments and the work my Ministry has been doing to reduce times to trial and enhance access to justice are working.
- The Provincial Court’s “Time to Trial” reports show that we are making progress in reducing trials times across the province.
- A rigorous review of criminal prosecution services conducted by Murray Segal, former Deputy Attorney General of Ontario, concluded that BC is at the top when it comes to case management, facilitating early resolution of cases, innovation and efficiency.
- While we are always willing to improve further – and will review this report for what it may teach us – British Columbians can have confidence that their criminal justice system is at the top in Canada.

Supporting Messages

- Mr. Segal notes that, *“British Columbia is **a champion of change**. There are few new ideas out there and few new opportunities that British Columbia has not already embraced.”*
- The Ministry and Government have made significant changes and reforms to improve the criminal justice system since Geoff Cowper’s report a little over four years ago.
- One indicator that these changes are working is the reports by the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court which show times to trial in B.C. are trending in the right direction.
- Mr. Segal also commends the BC Prosecution Service for its efficient management of caseloads.
- And the Criminal Justice Branch confirms that the majority of criminal cases in B.C. fall within trial timelines set out by the Supreme Court of Canada.

1. Paul Doroshenko says that delays in time to trial could lead to the stays in hundreds of prosecutions. How many B.C. cases are at risk of falling outside of the Supreme Court’s framework and being stayed as a result?

- It is important to keep in perspective that in the year to date there have only been 12 cases that were discontinued due to unreasonable delay.
- The Criminal Justice Branch handles over 58,000 cases a year.
- The Branch is confident that the impact of the SCC decision on criminal prosecutions in B.C. will be low.
- They inform me that the vast majority of cases are within the timelines set out by the Supreme Court of Canada.
- The Branch is analyzing prosecution files and its work processes to ensure case are managed to meet or exceed the time limits set out in the Jordan decision.
- British Columbians are well-served by proactive policies and principles the Branch put in place in recent years to address delay.

2. What happens to cases that are seriously delayed?

- The ruling sets a hard cap for determining what constitutes unreasonable delay.
- In some instances it is entirely likely that this ruling will result in stays of proceedings being entered for otherwise viable criminal prosecutions.
- The Branch’s review indicates only a small portion of files are at risk of reaching an unreasonable delay, and a closer review of files close to the line indicate that some of the delays are a result of requests by the accused.
- The main reason we expect the vast majority of cases in B.C. will be unaffected by this ruling is the Branch’s efforts in the recent past to make a more efficient Prosecution Service

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 9:43 AM
To: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Subject: FYI: CKNW KMs
Attachments: CKNW KMs.docx

From: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 9:36 AM
To: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: CKNW KMs

Here is a consolidated note for the AG's media call to CKNW.

She should find the messaging familiar. This note draws from (and streamlines) the note we had prepared for a previous occasion where the same issues were raised.

Key Messages

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- We have led the way with:
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 - A \$6 million investment in legal aid pilot projects, including an Expanded Criminal Duty Counsel pilot that is showing positive results in reducing the number of court appearances.
 - Investments in courts – including a \$33.5M expansion of the Surrey Courthouse and planned replacement of the Abbotsford courthouse.
 - Use of new technology that allows the courts to immediately produce and share court documents.
- These investments and the work my Ministry has been doing to reduce times to trial and enhance access to justice are working.
- The Provincial Court’s “Time to Trial” reports show that we are making progress in reducing trials times across the province.
- A rigorous review of criminal prosecution services conducted by Murray Segal, former Deputy Attorney General of Ontario, concluded that BC is at the top when it comes to case management, facilitating early resolution of cases, innovation and efficiency.
- While we are always willing to improve further – and will review this report for what it may teach us – British Columbians can have confidence that their criminal justice system is at the top in Canada.

Supporting Messages

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Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Fourth Anniversary Update:
A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century

Fasken Martineau
 Bentall V 550 Burrard St. Suite 2900
 Vancouver, B.C.

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Time	Event Itinerary
9:30 a.m.	Ministerial Briefing with JAG and GCPE (Jason)
10:30 a.m.	Issue NR (link to Report) + Media Advisory
11 a.m-1:30 p.m.	Media Call-arounds (GCPE)
2:15 p.m.	Minister Anton arrives for pre-brief, including issues scan
2:15 p.m.	<p>Guest speakers dial into TELUS line for pre-brief, led by Jason Kuzminski Dial in: s.15,s.17 Passcode: s.15,s. #</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice • Geoffrey Cowper, Author of "A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century – Fourth Anniversary Update", Partner, Fasken Martineau • Murray Segal, former Ontario Deputy Attorney General (<i>on the line</i>)
2:30 p.m.	TELUS moderator begins teleconference by welcoming all to the call, explaining how to submit a question, and turning it over to Minister Anton for opening statement.
2:30 p.m.	Minister Anton provides opening statement, then turns it over to Geoffrey Cowper.
2:32 p.m.	Geoffrey Cowper provides 1-2 minute statement.
2:34 p.m.	Minister Anton invites Murray Segal to say a few words.
2:35 p.m.	Murray Segal provides 1-2 minute statement.
2:37 p.m.	Minister Anton wraps up remarks and invites moderator to begin Q&A
2:38 p.m.	TELUS moderator opens the lines to questions.
2:48 p.m.	Q&A
2:49 p.m.	Minister Anton thanks everyone for participating.
2:50 p.m.	Event concludes

Questions and Answers: Cowper Report

Oct. 19, 2016

Key messages:

- Mr. Cowper's update looks at progress that has been made since his report of four years ago.
- He concludes that *"British Columbia has become a leader in justice system innovation and performance in many of the areas addressed in the report."*
- Particular highlights for our government are:
 - Improving early resolution rates,
 - Achieving better timelines, and
 - Improving the handling of complex prosecutions.
- Cowper's conclusions echo those of Murray Segal, a former Ontario Deputy Attorney General, in his recent report on the B.C. Prosecution Service.
- Mr. Segal compared our Criminal Justice Branch to prosecution services across the Commonwealth and found B.C. to be leaders in innovation, collaboration and continuous improvement.
- British Columbians can have confidence that B.C. has one of the best justice systems in Canada.

1. How much was Mr. Cowper paid for this update?

- Mr. Cowper volunteered his time and service to provide this follow-up to his initial 2012 report, which provided an extensive review of B.C.'s criminal justice system.

2. Will you accept all of his recommendations?

- We are delighted by the progress he saw we had made in implementing his initial report.
- Having just received this update, we will review his latest recommendations and have more to say later.

3. **This report speaks to only a fraction of the original Cowper recommendations. Where are the others?**
 - Mr. Cowper can elaborate on the focus of this four-year update.
4. **The first recommendation is to improve internal warning systems for exceptional cases – what are “exceptional cases”?**
 - While each case is unique for the individual who is accessing the courts, most cases are a routine part of the justice system.
 - From time to time, there are outliers – cases where an issue in that specific case gets extrapolated in the public’s eyes.
5. **What does a warning system look like, and how will your Ministry implement one?**
 - As Mr. Cowper notes, a cultural shift has taken place with the Ministry, courts, and organizations like the Legal Services Society improving collaboration.
 - We will work with the courts and our justice partners to continue this collaboration, specifically for addressing cases that are exceptions.
6. **Is this just like the Oppal report – in the end we won’t know how government is doing on the recommendations?**
 - Mr. Cowper’s update speaks to how government is doing on the recommendations.
 - This report highlights progress our government has made to improve early resolution rates, achieve better timeliness, and improve the handling of complex prosecutions.
7. **Cowper’s report points to the need for establishing shared performance indicators, as did his initial report in 2012. What progress has government made in establishing this?**
 - British Columbia’s Justice and Public Safety Council has committed to develop an evidence-based, broadly accepted set of performance measures.
 - With support from a cross-sector Working Group and Review Committee, the Council approved an initial set of metrics, presented in November 2015.
 - Work towards building key performance indicators is ongoing.

8. What areas need more attention?

- While our government has made tremendous progress and are leaders in improving access to justice and reducing delays, we strive to improve further.
- The update draws attention to the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice system.
- We are working on this complex question right now – in both the criminal and child protection systems.

9. How?

- We have invested \$6 million over the past three years for five legal aid pilot projects, in addition to the over \$70M we invest each year in the Legal Services Society.
- One of these pilots is the Parents Legal Centre, which has potential to make a real difference in helping overcome the disproportionate number of Aboriginal children in care.
- The centre helps clients with early, collaborative resolution of child protection issues and addresses child protection issues before they escalate.
- In addition to a lawyer, there's an advocate who supports parents in resolving the underlying issues that led to the protection concern in the first place.

10. Which of Cowper's recommendations haven't been completed from the white papers?

- We are working toward "Tribunal Transformation" that will improve efficiency and access through consolidation of tribunal expertise/services and integrate tribunals into clusters that share staff, services and facilities, and a common technology platform.
- We are also working on completing court services technology projects to decrease non-productive court time, increase real time information access and optimize efficiencies through integrated business processes.
- This transformation means faster citizen service, better-connected business process and document flow and a measureable decrease in court appearances.

11. Are there any recommendations that you have abandoned completely?

- Mr. Cowper's initial report formed the starting point of the transformation agenda for the justice and public safety sector.
- Many of the white paper commitments are complete or in progress, none have been abandoned. We will address these as funding permits.
- I look forward to ongoing engagement and collaboration with all justice system participants as we move forward with making the justice system in B.C. even more fair, timely and transparent.

Justice timeliness

12. The initial report received a lot of attention for what it said about timeliness. How many prosecutions are at risk of being stayed?

- The majority of British Columbians do not interact with the justice system, and may not be aware of the tremendous progress we have made over the past several years.
- Propelled by reports like Mr. Cowper's report from four years ago, we have been innovating and improving the justice system to be more efficient in resolving disputes earlier.
- It is important to note that in B.C. there have only been 13 cases discontinued in the year-to-date, down from over 122 in 2011.
- While this is not to say that there will not be more cases in the future, it is important to keep these number in perspective.
- In the past year more than 58,000 persons had criminal cases concluded by the B.C. Prosecution Service alone.
- The Criminal Justice Branch is better positioned to monitor cases as a result of the advice and recommendations of Mr. Cowper and Mr. Segal.

13. What has government done to improve access to timely trials and to justice?

- Our government has been improving access, timeliness and efficiency in a justice system to better serve British Columbians.
- With targeted investments and innovation, we have diverted less serious matters from court, freeing up courtrooms to deal with more complex and serious matters.

- The Civil Resolution Tribunal – Canada’s first online tribunal –allows the 1.5 million British Columbians who own, live or work in strata units to resolve their strata disputes online and out of court.
- Justice Access Centre in Victoria to help families to resolve disputes outside the courtroom.
- We have invested in courts – including a \$33.5M expansion of the Surrey Courthouse and a planned replacement of the Abbotsford courthouse.
- These investments and the work my Ministry has been doing to reduce times to trial and enhance access to justice are working.

14. What indicators point to how things are improving?

- The Provincial Court’s “Time to Trial” report shows we are making progress and that times to trial in B.C. are trending in the right direction.
- With the exception of some increases in this latest report, there has generally been a steady decrease in delays since 2005 for criminal, family and small claims cases. Half-day criminal trials continue to decline.

PSSG content

15. What would system-wide key performance measures look like for policing?

- My colleague, Minister Morris, would be best to answer this.
- But I understand that the Ministry’s policing and security branch is currently working with police agencies to develop a performance measurement framework for their agencies.

16. Does “the cross-platform use of the BI database” may present any issues?

- While a culture shift is underway, police services have their own data.
- Government would have to take a much more detailed look at this recommendation to understand its impacts and see how it may be implemented.

17. Will government explore the “development of a system-wide approach to administrative offences”?

- This update concludes that we have made tremendous progress on the recommendations that were made four years ago.
- Having just received this update, we will have to review the recommendations and will have more to say about them later.
- In the meantime, as Cowper points out, there are many diverse opinions around Administrative offences – and Corrections is welcome to contribute to the discussion – with it being left to police to enforce the law and determine the level of enforcement at the end of the day.

18. Can you say more about what is involved in “Focused Policing Initiatives”?

- Perhaps Mr. Cowper can explain further.
- But from my reading of the report, it helps frame the conversation about our criminal justice system and we agree that initiatives such as those pointed out in the report have been very successful in British Columbia.
- There is continuous examination of evolving police needs and we work hard to continually modernize policing.
- The Province supports policing that is responsive to the diverse and ever-changing needs of our communities to keep British Columbians safe.

Other initiatives related to Cowper Report

Justice and Public Safety Council

- For far too long, different parts of the justice system operated without being integrated or aware of the impact the decisions of one justice stakeholder had on another.
- This is why we created the Justice and Public Safety Council (in April 2013).
- It has responsibility for setting the vision and strategic direction for the provincial justice system.

Justice Summits

- The JPSC established collaborative Justice Summits that focus on reform, changes in direction or new initiatives.
- Summits so far have focused on family justice, domestic and sexual violence, information-sharing across multiple proceedings and the development of a province-wide curriculum for the justice system on “trauma-informed” practice.

Legal aid

- Our government recognizes the important role legal aid plays in ensuring access to justice for British Columbians.
- It is why we have increased our support in the Legal Services Society to \$74.7M this year.
- Our government has invested \$6 million over the past three years in pilot projects that are aimed at serving British Columbians even better.
- While legal aid is an important part of access to justice, our focus on mediation and collaboration outside of court processes is serving more low-income British Columbians with increased solutions to their justice issues.
- For example, we fund 21 Family Justice Centres and three Justice Access Centres to help families find out-of-court solutions.

First Nations Courts

Key messages:

- First Nations Courts are judicially-led initiatives and any decision to add a new court is made by the Office of the Chief Judge.
- In making this decision, however, the Chief Judge consults the Ministry of Justice to ensure resource impacts are addressed.
- For the Ministry to make its resourcing assessment, we consult other justice partners to ensure we are aware of all potential impacts and how these could be addressed.

Specialized Courts Strategy

Key Messages:

- One of my top priorities is to work with our justice partners to create a justice system that's timely and accessible to British Columbians in their daily lives.
- Our Specialized Court Strategy – released earlier this year – is an evidence-based approach that was developed in consultation with the judiciary and justice system stakeholders.
- While not a commitment to create more, the strategy identifies a process in response to requests for the establishment of new specialized courts.
- Our government recognizes the need to move beyond the traditional justice system to address unique criminal justice issues, and we need to ensure we're doing so in the most effective way possible.

Will you commit to creating more specialized courts?

- We are committed to working with our justice system partners to ensure everyone in B.C. can access the justice system in ways that are flexible, responsive and effective.
- The strategy we've developed provides an overview of existing specialized courts and identifies a process in response to requests for the establishment of new specialized courts.
- We are working closely with the Judiciary as we review requests for additional courts.

Civil Resolution Tribunal

Key messages:

- British Columbia is becoming recognized as a world leader in improving access to a justice system that is more affordable, less complex, and where disputes are resolved earlier.
- The Civil Resolution Tribunal is Canada's first online tribunal, to resolve strata disputes and small claims.
- It will have a significant, positive impact for individuals and businesses who want disputes resolved earlier and affordably.

What are you trying to fix with the CRT?

- 1.5 million British Columbians reside, rent or invest in stratas.
- Currently, the only forum for strata disputes is BC Supreme Court, where a one day trial can cost between \$20,000 and \$35,000.
- Clearly, that cost is out of reach for most people – which means resolving their disputes is out of reach, too.
- The CRT provides access to resources and services that help resolve strata disputes affordably.

When will it fully launch?

- We are taking a phased-in approach to ensure get it right for the British Columbians the CRT will serve.
- The CRT began taking in strata disputes in July.

What will it cost to use the CRT?

- Use of the Solution Explorer at the point of intake will be free.
- The CRT fees were approved in June, with the filing fee being set at \$150 and a \$25 discount for those who file online.

What if someone can't afford the fees?

- The CRT legislation provides for fees to be waived if the claimants are unable to pay due to financial hardship.

What has it cost to develop the CRT?

- We are unable to attribute start-up costs specifically to the Civil Resolution Tribunal as this technology is being developed to support multiple programs.
- The estimated capital cost to complete the technology platform to support the CRT and other tribunals is approximately \$10.8 million.
- The financial benefits to government as a result of implementing the CRT are expected to be about \$25 million over 10 years, primarily from diverting cases from the Provincial Court

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 4:41 PM
To: Duncan, Nikki JAG:EX
Subject: Call in for RED FM

Date: Monday (Oct 24th)

Time: 8:35am

Outlet: RED FM on Mr. Thind show

Topic: to discuss B.C.'s Criminal Justice System that have earned it the reputation as the most innovative in Canada.

Minister Anton to call studio at 604-591-9311

K

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Public Safety & Solicitor General

Ministry of Justice

250 356-6391

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 9:53 AM
To: Bains, Parm GCPE:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Minister Anton
Attachments: MSA Statement - Justice System - 11OCT16.docx

Tomorrow also good.

K

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 9:50 AM
To: Bains, Parm GCPE:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: Minister Anton

Hi Parm

Minister Anton is interested in Red FM to talk about recent changes in the justice system that have earned it the reputation as the most innovative in Canada.

These innovations have made it possible for people to deal with family law disputes without going to court, and speedier resolutions for other types of cases.

The attached statement is an overview of some of the changes.

Minister is available next week on Monday, Thursday or Friday morning.

Possible you could facilitate?

Thank you
Kate

Senior Public Affairs Officer
Public Safety & Solicitor General
Ministry of Justice
250 356-6538

STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
[release number]
Oct. 11, 2016

Ministry of Justice

Statement on British Columbia's Justice System

VICTORIA – Attorney General and Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton has issued the following statement:

"Canadian justice ministers will meet this week to discuss matters including restorative justice, justice efficiency and recent concerns expressed about the impact of a Supreme Court of Canada decision on unreasonable delay in criminal prosecutions.

"At this meeting I will be sharing the tremendous progress British Columbia has made in reforming our justice system to reduce delay. The Supreme Court of Canada recently set limits for the length of criminal court cases, from charge to the conclusion of the trial. While every case that results in a delay or a stay is concerning, it is important to keep in perspective that in the year to date only 12 cases have been discontinued in B.C. due to delay. Last year, B.C.'s criminal justice branch concluded 58,000 prosecutions.

"British Columbia is recognized nationally as a 'champion of change' for its leadership in criminal justice reform. Recently, Murray Segal, former Ontario Deputy Attorney General and legal expert, compared the B.C. Prosecution Service to its counterparts in the Commonwealth and concluded: 'There are few new ideas out there and few new opportunities that British Columbia has not already embraced.'

"Our reputation as leaders in innovation and improvement has been earned through reforming the way criminal cases are managed, working to resolve cases early in the process, and pioneering new ways to improve court efficiency to reduce stress on people who find need to use the justice system.

"Justice reform is being achieved through criminal case management reforms such as the way we prosecute criminal gangs, by focusing on the offender not the crime in specialized courts like the Downtown Community Court, and by helping parents and families access mediation or counselling to resolve family law disputes.

"British Columbians can have confidence that B.C. has one of the best justice systems in Canada, if not the world. We will not falter in our ambition to continue to be a world leader and transform our justice system to be more accessible, more efficient and less complex."

Contact:
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2016 7:49 AM
To: darshan@redfm.ca
Subject: Fw: Verdict is in: B.C. justice services more affordable, less complex, foster early resolution

Apologies, Darshan, I did not see your request on Friday.
Here is a current NR about improvements to the justice system.
Regards
Kate
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2016 7:45 AM
To: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Subject: Verdict is in: B.C. justice services more affordable, less complex, foster early resolution

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016JAG0036-002038>

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 4:43 PM
To: Glover, Hannah GCPE:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: Late-breaking radio interview - RED FM MSA

Minister Suzanne Anton

Date: Monday (Oct 24th)

Time: 8:35am

Outlet: RED FM on Mr. Thind show

Topic: to discuss B.C.'s Criminal Justice System that have earned it the reputation as the most innovative in Canada.

Minister Anton to call studio at 604-591-9311

K

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 9:50 AM
To: Bains, Parm GCPE:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: Minister Anton
Attachments: MSA Statement - Justice System - 11OCT16.docx

Hi Parm

Minister Anton is interested in Red FM to talk about recent changes in the justice system that have earned it the reputation as the most innovative in Canada.

These innovations have made it possible for people to deal with family law disputes without going to court, and speedier resolutions for other types of cases.

The attached statement is an overview of some of the changes.

Minister is available next week on Monday, Thursday or Friday morning.

Possible you could facilitate?

Thank you
Kate

Senior Public Affairs Officer
Public Safety & Solicitor General
Ministry of Justice
250 356-6538

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 4:44 PM
To: Duncan, Nikki JAG:EX
Subject: RE: Call in for RED FM

It's Parm. Parm is Amazing.

From: Duncan, Nikki JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 4:43 PM
To: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Call in for RED FM

This so beautiful and organized it makes me want to cry. Thank you!!!

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 4:41 PM
To: Duncan, Nikki JAG:EX
Subject: Call in for RED FM

Date: Monday (Oct 24th)
Time: 8:35am
Outlet: RED FM on Mr. Thind show
Topic: to discuss B.C.'s Criminal Justice System that have earned it the reputation as the most innovative in Canada.
Minister Anton to call studio at 604-591-9311

K
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Public Safety & Solicitor General
Ministry of Justice
250 356-6391

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 3:32 PM
To: Bains, Parm GCPE:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Minister Anton

Thank you Parm – Appreciate.
K

From: Bains, Parm GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 2:20 PM
To: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; van Marum, Karen GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Minister Anton

Trying to confirm Monday, 24th @ 8:35am w/ Harjinder Thind – will know tomorrow....

Thx, Parm

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 9:53 AM
To: Bains, Parm GCPE:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Minister Anton

Tomorrow also good.
K

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 9:50 AM
To: Bains, Parm GCPE:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: Minister Anton

Hi Parm

Minister Anton is interested in Red FM to talk about recent changes in the justice system that have earned it the reputation as the most innovative in Canada.

These innovations have made it possible for people to deal with family law disputes without going to court, and speedier resolutions for other types of cases.

The attached statement is an overview of some of the changes.

Minister is available next week on Monday, Thursday or Friday morning.

Possible you could facilitate?

Thank you
Kate

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2016 7:57 AM
To: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Question about Red FM interview

Yes, but it may still come up.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2016 7:54 AM
To: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Question about Red FM interview

Yes. It is a federal corrections story, though.

Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2016, at 7:51 AM, Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX <Kate.Trotter@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Sorry I missed this on Friday. Sent a link to latest NR to red fm.
Because it's so sensational, the Kelly Ellard topic may come up.
K

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2016 7:09 AM
To: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX; Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Subject: Question about Red FM interview

Hi - sorry to write so early. Just wanted to check to see if Red FM received the added info they were looking for to help guide the interview (ex link to Cowper NR)?

Thx

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX" <Kate.Trotter@gov.bc.ca>
Date: October 21, 2016 at 4:42:03 PM PDT
To: "Bains, Parm GCPE:EX" <Parm.Bains@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX" <Tiffany.Nelson@gov.bc.ca>, "Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX" <Jason.Kuzminski@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: ReD FM Interview - Justice Minister, Suzanne Anton on Monday (Oct 24th) @ 8:35am - Confirmed

Apologies for not getting back sooner. This is confirmed on our end as well.

K

From: Bains, Parm GCPE:EX

Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 2:58 PM

To: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

Subject: Fw: ReD FM Interview - Justice Minister, Suzanne Anton on Monday (Oct 24th) @ 8:35am - Confirmed

Hi Kate,

See confirmation below.

Call-in # is 604-591-9311

Thx

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Darshan <darshan@redfm.ca>

Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 2:33 PM

To: Bains, Parm GCPE:EX

Subject: ReD FM Interview - Justice Minister, Suzanne Anton on Monday (Oct 24th) @ 8:35am - Confirmed

Hello Parm,

Yes, we can confirm Justice Minister, Suzanne Anton on Mr. Thind show to discuss the Criminal Justice System on Monday (Oct 24th) @ 8:35am.

And, I take it Minister Anton will be calling in to the ReD FM Studio.

Briefly, if you could let us know what she will be announcing/saying...it will help Mr.

Thind to formulate - follow-up - questions.

Thanks.

Regards,

DARSHAN KAUR

CKYE 93.1 RED FM

Talk Show Producer

South Asian Broadcasting Corporation Inc.

#201 8383a 128th Street, Surrey, British Columbia, V3W 4G1

T: 1.604.598.9311 F: 1.604.599.6063 W: www.redfm.ca

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 2:59 PM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: ReD FM Interview - Justice Minister, Suzanne Anton on Monday (Oct 24th) @ 8:35am - Confirmed

Can u send this to the MO?

From: Bains, Parm GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 2:58 PM
To: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Subject: Fw: ReD FM Interview - Justice Minister, Suzanne Anton on Monday (Oct 24th) @ 8:35am - Confirmed

Hi Kate,

See confirmation below.

Call-in # is 604-591-9311

Thx

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Darshan <darshan@redfm.ca>
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 2:33 PM
To: Bains, Parm GCPE:EX
Subject: ReD FM Interview - Justice Minister, Suzanne Anton on Monday (Oct 24th) @ 8:35am - Confirmed

Hello Parm,

Yes, we can confirm Justice Minister, Suzanne Anton on Mr. Thind show to discuss the Criminal Justice System on Monday (Oct 24th) @ 8:35am.

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Regards,




DARSHAN KAUR

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#201 8383a 128th Street, Surrey, British Columbia, V3W 4G1

 1.604.598.9311  1.604.599.6063  www.redfm.ca

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 11:55 AM
To: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX; Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Figure from Dan - 2011 stays

Hi Catherine – do you have the email from Dan Chiddell when he'd let you know the number of stays from 2011? I have it as 122 but wanted to confirm as Jason's adding it in Cowper material.

Thanks

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 10:18 AM
To: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: For review: Cowper MA
Attachments: JAG - Cowper Update - MA - 17OCT16 DRAFT.DOCX

Hi – another piece for tomorrow’s event, the MA. Once you approve, and Dan confirms Segal would like to take part, we can line this up to go out today at 2:30 p.m. (the HQ standard is to release 24 hours in advance).

Thanks,

Tiffany Nelson | Communications Manager
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice | **Cell: 250 858-4680**

October 18, 2016

MEDIA ADVISORY – Ministry of Justice

VANCOUVER – Members of the media are invited to join Attorney General and Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton on a teleconference call as Geoffrey Cowper releases his four-year update to the report, *A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century*.

Cowper will participate on the call along with former Ontario Deputy Attorney General Murray Segal, who recently reviewed B.C.'s Prosecution Service.

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Call in instructions:

Dial-in: 1-877-353-9184

Participant pass code: 47826#

Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Justice

250 213-3602

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 2:29 PM
To: McLaughlin, Daniel JAG:EX
Cc: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: For review: Cowper NR, QA
Attachments: JAG - Cowper Update - NR - 17OCT16 DRAFT.docx; JAG - Cowper Report - QA - 17OCT16 DRAFT.docx

Importance: High

Hi Dan – attached are the draft materials for the Cowper media avail tomorrow. Are you able to please give a review for any concerns? JSB is also reviewing and the Minister is looking for a briefing on this this afternoon.

Also checking if we have confirmation of Segal's participation. The media advisory is ready to go out anytime and we can remove mention of his participation if not confirmed.

Thank you,

Tiffany Nelson | Communications Manager
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice | **Cell: 250 858-4680**

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
Oct. 19, 2016

Ministry of Justice

Verdict is in: B.C. justice services more affordable, less complex, foster early resolution

VICTORIA – British Columbia has become a leader in justice system innovation and performance, says D. Geoffrey Cowper, QC in the fourth anniversary update to the 2012 report, *A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century*.

Marking Access to Justice Week, Cowper's update highlights B.C.'s progress in improving early resolution rates, achieving better timelines in criminal justice cases and improving the handling of complex prosecutions. His conclusions echo those of Murray Segal, a former Ontario Deputy Attorney General, in his recent report on the B.C. Prosecution Service. Segal's report recognized B.C. as Canada's leading jurisdiction for innovation, collaboration and major case management.

With targeted investments and innovation, government has improved access and efficiency to meet timelines to trial for criminal cases set by the Supreme Court of Canada, in a justice system that better serves British Columbians. For example, in the year-to-date there have only been 13 criminal cases discontinued due to unreasonable delay, down from 122 for the year prior to Cowper delivering his initial report. The reports from Cowper and Segal will help inform B.C.'s Criminal Justice Branch as the branch continues to monitor cases in light of the Supreme Court's timelines.

Cowper also reported a "sea change" in attitudes toward collaboration and innovation in the justice and public safety sector. Results include adaptation of technology and information system to inform management and reform initiatives across the system. Cowper also ranked Justice Summits – forums for frank discussion among justice sector leaders to set a course for the system – and the Justice and Public Safety Council high for fostering innovation and collaboration across the sector.

Recommendations for further improvement include a refreshed mandate for the Justice and Public Safety Council, a focus on restorative justice and improved system-wide evaluation and reporting.

Quotes:

Attorney General and Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton – NOT APPROVED

"For more than a decade, the Ministry of Justice has made transparency, early resolution and technological innovation key priorities. It is British Columbians who benefit from increased access to a justice system that is more efficient. The Cowper Report turbocharged our efforts and helped to build a justice and public safety sector that is the envy of Canada and a demonstrated world leader in transforming justice services."

D. Geoffrey Cowper – NOT APPROVED

Quick Facts:

- The Provincial Court's "Time to Trial" report shows that there has generally been a steady decrease in delays since 2005 for criminal, family and small claims cases.
- Today, the time to trial for provincial adult criminal half-day trial, which account for more than 33% of all cases before the Provincial Court, is the shortest it's been in almost a decade.
- The wait for half day and two-or-more-day adult criminal trials has improved considerably from 2010 and remains below the Office of the Chief Judge standard.

Learn More:

Cowper Update October 2016 [to be added by JSB]

Segal Report 2016 <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/reports-publications/cjb-segalreport-2016.pdf>

Government White Paper Part One 2012 <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/about-bc-justice-system/justice-reform-initiatives/whitepaperone.pdf>

Government White Paper Part Two 201 <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/about-bc-justice-system/justice-reform-initiatives/whitepapertwo.pdf>

Cowper Report August 2012 <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/about-bc-justice-system/justice-reform-initiatives/cowperfinalreport.pdf>

Contact:

Media Relations

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Justice

250 213-3602

Questions and Answers: Cowper Report

Oct. 17, 2016

Key messages:

- Mr. Cowper's update looks at progress that has been made since his report of four years ago.
- He concludes that *"British Columbia has become a leader in justice system innovation and performance in many of the areas addressed in the report."*
- Particular highlights for our government are:
 - Improving early resolution rates,
 - Achieving better timelines, and
 - Improving the handling of complex prosecutions.
- Cowper's conclusions echo those of Murray Segal, a former Ontario Deputy Attorney General, in his recent report on the B.C. Prosecution Service.
- Mr. Segal compared our Criminal Justice Branch to prosecution services across the Commonwealth and found B.C. to be leaders in innovation, collaboration and continuous improvement.
- British Columbians can have confidence that B.C. has one of the best justice systems in Canada, if not the world.

Cowper Report

1. How much was Mr. Cowper paid for this update?

- Mr. Cowper volunteered his time and service to provide this follow-up to his initial 2012 report, which provided an extensive review of B.C.'s criminal justice system.

2. Will you accept all of his recommendations?

- We are delighted by the progress he saw we had made in implementing his initial report.

- Having just received this update, we will review his latest recommendations and have more to say later.
- 3. This report speaks to only a fraction of the original Cowper recommendations. Where are the others?**
- Mr. Cowper can elaborate on the focus of this four-year update.
- 4. Is this just like the Oppal report – in the end we won't know how government is doing on the recommendations?**
- Mr. Cowper's update speaks to how government is doing on the recommendations.
 - This report highlights progress our government has made to improve early resolution rates, achieve better timeliness, and improve the handling of complex prosecutions.
- 5. Cowper's report points to the need for establishing shared performance indicators, as did his initial report in 2012. What progress has government made in establishing this?**
- Program to advise
- 6. What areas need more attention?**
- While our government has made tremendous progress and are leaders in improving access to justice and reducing delays, we strive to improve further.
 - The update draws attention to the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice system.
 - We are working on this complex question right now – in both criminal and family justice.
- 7. How?**
- We have invested \$6million for five legal aid pilot projects, on top of the over \$70M we invest each year in the Legal Services Society.

- One of these is the Parents Legal Centre, which has potential to make a real difference in helping overcome the current reality that there are too many Aboriginal children in care.
- The centre helps clients with early, collaborative resolution of child protection issues and address child protection issues before they escalate.
- In addition to a lawyer, there's an advocate who supports parents in resolving the underlying issues that led to the protection concern in the first place.

8. Which of Cowper's recommendations haven't been completed from the white papers?

- We are working toward "Tribunal Transformation" that will improve efficiency and access through consolidation of tribunal expertise/services and integrate many of 29 tribunals into clusters that share staff, services and facilities, common technology platform.
- We are also still working on completing court administration computer systems projects to decrease non-productive court time, increase real time information access and optimize efficiencies through integrated business processes.
- This transformation means faster citizen service, better-connected business process and document flow and a measureable decrease in court appearances.

9. Are there any recommendations that you have abandoned completely?

PSSG content

10. Discussion of system-wide key performance measures in the 2017 strategic plan may present some issues for policing (not sure what system-wide key performance measures would actually look like for policing).

- The Ministry's policing and security branch is currently working with police agencies to develop a performance measurement framework for their agencies and we are happy to continue that conversation.

11. There is a recommendation that “the cross-platform use of the BI database be given a high priority in the identification of priorities and evaluation of outcomes” which may present some issues for PSB.

- We don't own police data, so we would have to take a much more detailed look at this recommendation and its intent.

12. In this latest update, there is discussion about Administrative Offences and the diverse opinions around these charges. Cowper wants Corrections to get involved in the “development of a system-wide approach to administrative offences”. Will you explore this?

- This update concludes that we have made tremendous progress on the recommendations that were made four years ago.
- Having just received this update, we will have to review the recommendations and will have more to say about them later.
- In the meantime, as Cowper points out, there are many diverse opinions around Administrative offences – and Corrections is welcome to contribute to the discussion – with it being left to police to enforce the law and determine the level of enforcement at the end of the day.

13. Can you say more about what is involved in “Focused Policing Initiatives”?

- Perhaps Mr. Cowper can explain further.
- But from my reading of the report, it helps frame the conversation about our criminal justice system and we agree that initiatives such as those pointed out in the report have been very successful in British Columbia.
- There is continuous examination of evolving police needs and we work hard to continually modernize policing.
- The Province supports policing that is responsive to the diverse and ever-changing needs of our communities to keep British Columbians safe.

Justice timeliness

14. The initial report received a lot of attention for what it said about timeliness. This week, another case in B.C. was stayed due to delay. How many more prosecutions are at risk of being stayed?

- The majority of British Columbians do not interact with the justice system, and may not be aware of the tremendous progress we have made over the past several years.
- Aided, in part, by reports like Mr. Cowper's report from four years ago, we have been innovating and improving the justice system to be more efficient in resolving disputes earlier.
- Recent media reports about criminal cases that were discontinued due to unreasonable delay are concerning.
- It is important perspective, though, to note that in B.C. there have only been 13 cases discontinued in the year-to-date, down from over 120 in the year we received Mr. Cowper's initial report.
- While this is not to say that there will not be more cases in the future, it is important to keep these number in perspective.
- In the past year more than 58,000 persons had criminal cases concluded by the B.C. Prosecution Service alone.
- The Criminal Justice Branch is better positioned to monitor cases as a result of the advice and recommendations of Mr. Cowper and Mr. Segal.

15. What has government done to improve access to timely trials and to justice?

- Our government has been improving access, timeliness and efficiency in a justice system that better serves British Columbians.
- With targeted investments and innovation, we have diverted less serious matters from court, freeing up courtrooms to deal with more complex, serious matters.
- For instance, our Civil Resolution Tribunal – Canada's first online tribunal – allows the 1.5 million British Columbians who own, live or work in strata units to resolve their strata disputes online and out of court.
- In the family justice sector, we've expanded Justice Access Centres and Family Justice Centres to help families to resolve disputes outside the courtroom.
- We have invested in courts – including a \$33.5M expansion of the Surrey Courthouse and a planned replacement of the Abbotsford courthouse.

- These investments and the work my Ministry has been doing to reduce times to trial and enhance access to justice are working.

16. What indicators point to how things are improving?

- The Provincial Court's "Time to Trial" report shows we are making progress and that times to trial in B.C. are trending in the right direction.
- With the exception of some increases in this latest report, there has generally been a steady decrease in delays since 2005 for criminal, family and small claims cases. Half-day criminal trials continue to decline.

11. What about the MacDonald-Laurier report that gave B.C.'s criminal justice system barely a passing grade?

- This report draws conclusions from Statistics Canada data that does not tell the full story.
- For example, the report draws conclusions from the percentage of cases where charges are stayed or withdrawn, but does not factor for people who are charged with an offence, but the case is resolved by peace bond, alternative measures, or a guilty plea on another file.
- A more rigorous review of criminal prosecution services conducted by Murray Segal, who can tell you more about his conclusions.
- While we are always willing to improve further – and will review this report for what it may tell us – British Columbians can have confidence that their criminal justice system is at the top in Canada.

Other initiatives related to Cowper Report

Justice and Public Safety Council

- For far too long, different parts of the justice system operated without being integrated or aware of the impact the decisions of one justice stakeholder had on another.
- This is why we created the Justice and Public Safety Council (in April 2013).
- It has responsibility for setting the vision and strategic direction for the provincial justice system.

Justice Summits

- The JPSC established collaborative Justice Summits that focus on reform, changes in direction or new initiatives.
- Summits so far have focused on family justice, domestic and sexual violence, information-sharing across multiple proceedings and the development of a province-wide curriculum for the justice system on “trauma-informed” practice.

Legal aid

- Our government recognizes the important role legal aid plays in ensuring access to justice for British Columbians.
- It is why we have increased our support in the Legal Services Society to \$74.7M this year – even as the number of criminal cases is dropping.
- Our government is investing \$6 million in pilot projects that are aimed at serving British Columbians even better.
- While legal aid is an important part of access to justice, our focus on mediation and collaboration outside of court processes is serving more low-income British Columbians with increased solutions to their justice issues.
- For example, we fund 21 Family Justice Centres and three Justice Access Centres to help families find out-of-court solutions.

First Nations Courts

Key messages:

- First Nations Courts are judicially-led initiatives and any decision to add a new court is made by the Office of the Chief Judge.
- In making this decision, however, the Chief Judge consults the Ministry of Justice to ensure resource impacts are addressed.
- For the Ministry to make its resourcing assessment, we consult other justice partners to ensure we are aware of all potential impacts and how these could be addressed.

Specialized Courts Strategy

Key Messages:

- One of my top priorities is to work with our justice partners to create a justice system that's timely and accessible to British Columbians in their daily lives.
- Our Specialized Court Strategy – released earlier this year – is an evidence-based approach that was developed in consultation with the judiciary and justice system stakeholders.
- While not a commitment to create more, the strategy identifies a process in response to requests for the establishment of new specialized courts.
- Our government recognizes the need to move beyond the traditional justice system to address unique criminal justice issues, and we need to ensure we're doing so in the most effective way possible.

Will you commit to creating more specialized courts?

- We are committed to working with our justice system partners to ensure everyone in B.C. can access the justice system in ways that are flexible, responsive and effective.
- The strategy we've developed provides an overview of existing specialized courts and identifies a process in response to requests for the establishment of new specialized courts.
- We are working closely with the Judiciary as we review requests for additional courts.

Civil Resolution Tribunal

Key messages:

- British Columbia is becoming recognized as a world leader in improving access to a justice system that is more affordable, less complex, and where disputes are resolved earlier.
- The Civil Resolution Tribunal will be Canada's first online tribunal, to resolve strata disputes and small claims.
- It will have a significant, positive impact for individuals and businesses who want disputes resolved earlier and affordably.

What are you trying to fix with the CRT?

- 1.5 million British Columbians reside, rent, invest in stratas.
- Currently, the only forum for strata disputes is BC Supreme Court, where a one day trial can cost between \$20,000 and \$35,000.
- Clearly, that cost is out of reach for most people – which means resolving their disputes is out of reach, too.
- The CRT provides access to resources and services that help resolve strata disputes affordably.

When will it fully launch?

- We are taking a phased-in approach to ensure get it right for the British Columbians the CRT will serve.
- The CRT began taking in strata disputes in July.

What will it cost to use the CRT?

- Use of the Solution Explorer at the point of intake will be free.
- The CRT fees were approved in June, with the filing fee being set at \$150 and a \$25 discount for those who file online.

What if someone can't afford the fees?

- The CRT legislation provides for fees to be waived if the claimants are unable to pay due to financial hardship.

What has it cost to develop the CRT?

- We are unable to attribute start-up costs specifically to the Civil Resolution Tribunal as this technology is being developed to support multiple programs.
- The estimated capital cost to complete the technology platform to support the CRT and other tribunals is approximately \$10.8 million.
- The financial benefits to government as a result of implementing the CRT are expected to be about \$25 million over 10 years, primarily from diverting cases from the Provincial Court

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2016 3:22 PM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: For your review - Cowper Q&A
Attachments: JAG - Cowper Report - QA - 05OCT16 DRAFT.docx

Hi – forgot to mention – I’ve updated the Cowper Q&A – can you review?

Q about what we’re not doing is at the end – and there’s no PSSG content.

CB

Questions and Answers: Cowper Report

Oct. 5, 2016

Key messages:

- The Cowper Report challenged B.C. to create a timely, balanced justice system.
- Our government accepted that challenge.
- Our goal is to make a system where disputes are resolved earlier using processes that are less complex and more affordable.
- The White Papers that followed the Cowper Report created our roadmap for innovation and transformation.
- We are well on our way to a justice system for the 21st century.
- We are doing so within our financial means.
- I am optimistic about future improvements as we address our citizens' needs and their experiences with the justice system.

Justice System Timeliness

Key messages:

- This government is committed to innovation that improves access, timeliness and efficiency in a justice system that serves all British Columbians.
- That's why we welcome key performance indicators like time to trial reports of the Provincial Court and the dashboard created by the Criminal Justice Branch.
- In fact, the Criminal Justice Branch advises that the vast majority of its cases are within the timelines set by the recent decision by the Supreme Court of Canada.
- Reports by the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court show times to trial are trending in the right direction.

- Our investment in the Legal Services Society's Expanded Criminal Duty Counsel pilot is showing positive results in reducing the number of court appearances.
- In June, we broke ground on a \$33.5M expansion of the Surrey Courthouse to increase capacity in our fastest growing region and are in the initial stages of planning to replace the Abbotsford courthouse.
- And our government continues to innovate with viable alternatives to court, such as the Civil Resolution Tribunal for strata and small claims, as well as with access to mediation or counselling to resolve family law disputes.

What happens to cases that are seriously delayed?

- The ruling sets a hard cap for determining what constitutes unreasonable delay.
- In some instances it is entirely likely that this ruling will result in stays of proceedings being entered for otherwise viable criminal prosecutions.
- The Branch's review indicates only a small portion of files are at risk of reaching an unreasonable delay, and a closer review of files close to the line indicate that some of the delays are a result of requests by the accused.
- The main reason we expect the vast majority of cases in B.C. will be unaffected by this ruling is the Branch's efforts in the recent past to make a more efficient Prosecution Service.

What about delays in Provincial Court?

- The Provincial Court's "Time to Trial" report shows we are making progress and that times to trial in B.C. are trending in the right direction.

- With the exception of some increases in this latest report, there has generally been a steady decrease in delays since 2005 for criminal, family and small claims cases. Half-day criminal trials continue to decline.

MacDonald Laurier Report

Key messages:

- This report draws conclusions from Statistics Canada data that does not tell the full story.
- For example, the report draws conclusions from the percentage of cases where charges are stayed or withdrawn, but it does not factor for people who are charged with an offence, but the case is resolved by peace bond, alternative measures, or a guilty plea on another file.
- A more rigorous review on criminal prosecution services was conducted by Murray Segal, a former Ontario Deputy Attorney General, who released his report last week.
- Mr. Segal reviewed criminal prosecution services across Canada and concluded that BC is at the top when it comes to case management, facilitating early resolution of cases, innovation and efficiency.
- While we are always willing to improve further – and will review this report for what it may teach us – British Columbians can have confidence that their criminal justice system is at the top in Canada.

Justice and Public Safety Council

- For far too long, different parts of the justice system operated without being integrated or aware of the impact the decisions of one justice stakeholder had on another.

- This is why we created the Justice and Public Safety Council (in April 2013).
- It has responsibility for setting the vision and strategic direction for the provincial justice system.
- It focuses on criminal, civil, family and administrative law.
- The council is committed to four pillars: a justice and public safety system that is:
 1. fair
 2. protects people
 3. is sustainable and
 4. has the public's confidence.
- The JPSC includes a commitment to begin publication of performance measurements.
 1. The initial set of measures released last fall was modest
 2. It's another step in a dialogue about sector progress.

Justice Summits

- The JPSC established collaborative Justice Summits that focus on reform, changes in direction or new initiatives.
- Summits are held at least annually and include senior justice and public safety leaders.
- Six summits have been held, conducted at arm's length from government and held in camera, with no media present.
- The sixth summit in June this year focussed on Justice, Mental Health and Substance Use.
- Candid dialogue geared to action plans related to the theme is expected at the summits.

- Summits have strong support from the NGO sector and Aboriginal community.
- Summits focused on family justice, domestic and sexual violence, information-sharing across multiple proceedings and the development of a province-wide curriculum for the justice system on “trauma-informed” practice.
- Proceedings of the summits, minutes of meetings, the strategic plan are all available to the public at <https://www.justicebc.ca/>

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- I am proud that more British Columbians can access more justice services than they could a decade ago.
- Government is committed to help B.C.’s most vulnerable.
- The JPSC works closely with reps of the National Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters, including the Access to Justice Committee in B.C.
- We have transformed legal aid services and developed new programs and services that match the priorities of British Columbians to resolve disputes earlier.
- This includes a \$6 million increase over three for five legal aid pilots:
 - Expansion of the provincial Family LawLINE telephone service
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 - The Parents Legal Centre has potential to make a real difference in helping overcome the current reality that there are too many Aboriginal children in care.
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- New, expanded duty counsel at the Justice Access Centre in Victoria
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First Nations Courts

Key messages:

- First Nations Courts are judicially-led initiatives and any decision to add a new court is made by the Office of the Chief Judge.
- In making this decision, however, the Chief Judge consults the Ministry of Justice to ensure resource impacts are addressed.
- For the Ministry to make its resourcing assessment, we consult other justice partners to ensure we are aware of all potential impacts and how these could be addressed.

How effective are First Nations courts?

- Empirical evaluations of the effectiveness of First Nations Courts have not been conducted to date.
- However, the courts provide a meaningful impact for the communities they serve.
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Specialized Courts

Key messages:

- Our government recognizes the need to move beyond the traditional justice system to address unique criminal justice issues, and we need to ensure we're doing so in the most effective way possible.
- Our government worked with the judiciary and justice system stakeholders to develop an evidence-based approach for specialized court initiatives.
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- Specialized courts are First Nations courts, domestic violence courts, the Victoria Integrated Court and the Downtown Community Court and Drug Treatment Court in Vancouver.

Civil Resolution Tribunal

Key messages:

- British Columbia is becoming recognized as a world leader in improving access to a justice system that is more affordable, less complex, and where disputes are resolved earlier.
- Lord Justice Briggs visited to learn more about our Civil Resolution Tribunal.
- The Civil Resolution Tribunal will be Canada's first online tribunal, to resolve strata disputes and small claims.
- It will have a significant, positive impact for individuals and businesses who want disputes resolved earlier and affordably.

What are we trying to fix with the CRT?

- 1.5 million British Columbians reside, rent, invest in stratas.

- Only forum for disputes is BC Supreme Court; a one-day trial can cost \$20,000 to \$35,000.
- In Small Claims Court, cases take 7 to 10 months to get a ½ day trial, with waits being longer for more lengthy trials.
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- The CRT has made great strides and continues consultation with stakeholders and testing.
- The CRT is expected to begin resolving strata disputes later this year.
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- Anyone interested in participating can visit www.civilresolutionbc.ca for more information.

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- We anticipate fees will be comparable to the fees for small claims court, where it costs up to \$156 to file a claim in small claims court and \$50 to file a reply.

What if someone can't afford the fees?

- The CRT legislation provides for fees to be waived if the claimants are unable to pay due to financial hardship.
- The CRT has rules and processes to deal with requests for fee waivers.

Lower Fraser Valley Justice Initiatives

Key messages:

- We and our five municipal partners in the Lower Fraser Valley identified effective ways to address courtroom pressures and ensure timely access to justice.
- Our vision is based on demographic and court demand analysis over the next 20 years.
- Priority projects:
 - Expansion of the Surrey Courthouse
 - Construction of a new courthouse in Abbotsford
- Longer-term projects considered include:
 - A new five-courtroom provincial courthouse in Langley.
 - Further expansion of Surrey's courthouse by three provincial courtrooms.
 - Expansion of Chilliwack's courthouse by two provincial courtrooms.
- We are committed to increasing court capacity in one of the fastest growing regions of the province.

What's happening in Surrey (JAG perspective) to reduce crime?

- We are working with our justice partners to ensure British Columbians have timely, appropriate and accessible justice services.
- In 2014, we worked with the City of Surrey to establish the Surrey Criminal Justice Task Force that was tasked with finding community solutions to persistent, local crime problems.

- The Task Force recommended a coordinated, collaborative approach to reduce crime with an integrated network of social, health and justice service providers in one location.
- The Task Force determined increased communication and collaboration among justice, health and social service providers promised to be an effective response.
- Surrey is developing the Surrey Integrated Services Network to provide supports to clients who are hard to reach and reduce the likelihood clients would be redirected to other services.

Is there an update on the Surrey Courthouse expansion?

- The construction contract has been awarded.
- Work is expected to begin soon.
- When complete, the courthouse will provide an important hub for essential justice services.

Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders:

Key messages:

- Parents in different provinces can apply to a court in the other province to establish or vary child or spousal support through respective ISO Acts.
- This process has historically been difficult and lengthy, and has been criticized by the judiciary. B.C. has worked with the Provincial Court, under the leadership of the chief judge, to make improvements.
- The applications are vetted for completeness of applicant information by a case worker:
 - Our case workers engage with the BC respondent to ensure that they understand what the process requires of them.

- We seek agreement between the parties if there is opportunity.
- If the matter goes to hearing, government-appointed lawyer offered as amicus to highlight facts of case and issues of law.
- Promising results – decision-time has moved from 22 months to 7 months, a single hearing is typical, and all of our cases in provincial court have been successfully resolved.
- This process has resulted in better outcomes: Cases resolved within eight months – down from an average of 20 months..

Can you give me an update about what's been implemented by B.C.'s prosecution service?

- The Prosecution Service has substantially completed proposals for reform. Highlights include:
 - Enhanced file ownership by Crown Counsel to reduce file churn and support a provincial Court redesign of scheduling criminal cases.
 - Province-wide quality standards for proactive case management, including front-end completion of prosecution disclosure obligations and online charge assessment.
 - Technology improvements to information flow among police, Prosecution Service and defence.
 - Electronic file closing survey to gather business intelligence on material process and file developments.
 - Introduction of a major case management model for the largest cases.
 - Work with other system participants to establish a framework for ongoing, cross-sector dialogue on best practices in this area.

- Establishment of a monitoring/evaluation to track the number of court appearances made per case, rates of early file resolution, time to case disposition and number of Crown counsel on a file.

Technological Innovation

Key messages:

- This government is committed to innovation that improves access, timeliness and efficiency in a justice system that serves British Columbians.
- Results include faster citizen service, better-connected business process and document flow and a measureable decrease in court appearances.
- We welcome service-focused technology to improve efficiency of court matters – as well as service to the public.

Are there any new services available now for the public?

- There are several services being used by our Family Justice Services Division:
 - Online Parenting after Separation: available to anyone in the province
 - Distance mediation: Clients can engage in mediation from anywhere in the province without travel or other expenses.
 - Benefits families where one parent lives in another part of Canada.
 - Clients calling 13 smaller/remote offices are connected to intake staff through enhanced computer and telephone

system for virtual service. This results in minimal wait time for clients.

Tell me about what's been happening with court scheduling.

- The Provincial Court Scheduling System and the Court Clerk desktop are new components to improve efficiency.
- This suite of computer system projects means information can be entered, accessed and shared quickly and accurately inside the courtroom and among justice system participants.

Cowper actions remaining

What hasn't been completed from the white papers?

- Consolidation of tribunal expertise/services by integration of many of 29 tribunals into clusters that share staff, services and facilities, common technology platform.
- We are working to complete court administration computer systems projects to decrease non-productive court time, increase real time information access and optimize efficiencies through integrated business processes.
 - This transformation means faster citizen service, better-connected business process and document flow and a measureable decrease in court appearances.
- We are considering expanding mandatory early assessment in family disputes to other court locations.
- Evaluation of the Justice Access Centres has begun to determine the best model for service delivery for different communities.

Background about the Cowper Report

- Geoffrey Cowper, Q.C. set the stage for change in 2012 with a comprehensive report that launched a conversation on how our justice system can best serve the people of British Columbia.
- The report was clear that -- even with work already underway -- more remained to be done to ensure British Columbians could navigate the justice system more quickly, easily and affordably.
- Following the Cowper Report two White Papers created an action plan:
 1. White Paper on Justice Reform Part 1: A Modern, Transparent Justice System released October 2012 established a new model for transparent governance of the
 2. White Paper on Justice Report Part 2: A Timely, Balanced Justice System released February 2013 outlined a plan for reforming justice services to the public.

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Ustina, Barb GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:00 AM
To: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: ! QUESTION: do you want MMMM quote in JAG Cowper rpt? FW: Latest NR

For FOI request.... Kate are you bundling JAG responses?

Can you add this???

Didn't realize the FOI request was regarding Cowper report....because Cowper didn't appear in the request...

From: Ustina, Barb GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 9:57 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: ! QUESTION: do you want MMMM quote in JAG Cowper rpt? FW: Latest NR

Tiff, here is draft quote, just need sign off from Clayton...
(we combined two bullets from QA so hopefully no edits...)

Mike Morris, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

"This report helps frame the conversation about our criminal justice system and points out efforts that have been very successful in B.C. We continually review evolving needs and support policing that is responsive to the diverse and ever-changing needs of our communities to keep British Columbians safe."

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 9:03 AM
To: Ustina, Barb GCPE:EX
Subject: Latest NR

Needing still to add the final report link once we receive it.

The plan is to issue the NR and MA at 10:30 am., make call-arounds with the media teleconference to start at 2:30 p.m.

<JAG - Cowper Update - NR - 19OCT16.docx>

<Saturday, October 15, 2016.docx>

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 11:26 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: JAG - Cowper Report - QA - 13OCT16 DRAFT
Attachments: JAG - Cowper Report - QA - 13OCT16 DRAFT.docx

Hi Tiffany – here's the Q&A for Cowper – have added a prompt for PSSG input on page 14. Have added questions about costs for Cowper Report and Segal Report.

The Q&A captures the main areas of Cowper as related to Justice. Until we get the actual report, I don't yet know what else should be addressed.

Let me know if you want to discuss.

CB

Questions and Answers: Cowper Report

Oct. 13, 2016

Key messages:

- The Cowper Report challenged B.C. to create a timely, balanced justice system.
- Our government accepted that challenge.
- Our goal is to make a system where disputes are resolved earlier, and the process is less complex and more affordable.
- The White Papers that followed created our roadmap for innovation and transformation.
- We are well on our way to a justice system for the 21st century.
- We are doing so within our financial means.
- I am optimistic about future improvements as we address our citizens' needs and their experiences with the justice system.

How much has Cowper charged for his original review and for this update?

Justice System Timeliness

Key messages:

- Our government has been improving access, timeliness and efficiency in a justice system that better serves British Columbians.
- With targeted investments and innovation, we have diverted less serious matters from court, freeing up courtrooms to deal with more complex, serious matters.
- We have led the way with:

- The Civil Resolution Tribunal, which allows the 1.5 million British Columbians who own, live or work in strata units to resolve their strata disputes online and out of court.
 - Our investment in twenty-one Family Justice Centres and three Justice Access centres that help families access mediation to resolve family law disputes.
 - A \$6 million investment in legal aid pilot projects, including an Expanded Criminal Duty Counsel pilot that is showing positive results in reducing the number of court appearances.
 - Investments in courts – including a \$33.5M expansion of the Surrey Courthouse and planned replacement of the Abbotsford courthouse.
 - Use of new technology that allows the courts to immediately produce and share court documents.
- These investments and the work my Ministry has been doing to reduce times to trial and enhance access to justice are working.
 - The Provincial Court’s “Time to Trial” reports show that we are making progress in reducing trials times across the province.
 - A rigorous review of criminal prosecution services conducted by Murray Segal, former Deputy Attorney General of Ontario, concluded that BC is at the top when it comes to case management, facilitating early resolution of cases, innovation and efficiency.
 - While we are always willing to improve further – and will review this report for what it may teach us – British Columbians can have confidence that their criminal justice system is at the top in Canada.

What happens to cases that are seriously delayed?

- The ruling sets a hard cap for determining what constitutes unreasonable delay.

- In some instances it is entirely likely that this ruling will result in stays of proceedings being entered for otherwise viable criminal prosecutions.
- The Branch's review indicates only a small portion of files are at risk of reaching an unreasonable delay, and a closer review of files close to the line indicate that some of the delays are a result of requests by the accused.
- The main reason we expect the vast majority of cases in B.C. will be unaffected by this ruling is the Branch's efforts in the recent past to make a more efficient Prosecution Service.

What about delays in Provincial Court?

- The Provincial Court's "Time to Trial" report shows we are making progress and that times to trial in B.C. are trending in the right direction.
- With the exception of some increases in this latest report, there has generally been a steady decrease in delays since 2005 for criminal, family and small claims cases. Half-day criminal trials continue to decline.

MacDonald Laurier Report

Key messages:

- This report draws conclusions from Statistics Canada data that does not tell the full story.
- For example, the report draws conclusions from the percentage of cases where charges are stayed or withdrawn, but it does not factor for people who are charged with an offence, but the case is resolved by peace bond, alternative measures, or a guilty plea on another file.

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Insert PSSG Q&A/Key messages

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Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: JAG - Cowper Report - SN - 17OCT16 DRAFT
Attachments: JAG - Cowper Report - SN - 17OCT16 DRAFT.docx

Hi – I've updated the SN to reflect that MSA will thank Cowper and then ask Segal to speak. Added/updated two lines in the attached:

Minister Anton thanks Mr. Cowper and invites Mr. Segal to speak.

And

Minister Anton thanks Mr. Segal

This is aligned with the itinerary

CB

P.S. Nadia is ready to post the report online as soon as it's final

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 12:33 PM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: JAG - Cowper Report - QA - 17OCT16 DRAFT

Will do

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 12:32 PM
To: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: JAG - Cowper Report - QA - 17OCT16 DRAFT

Hi – I need to take a break from these. Can you pls review and add in the \$750,000 development out of the justice summit? I'll also flip over some PSSG content they've just sent for MSA's response. Thanks

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 10:46 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: JAG - Cowper Update - NR - 17OCT16 DRAFT
Attachments: JAG - Cowper Update - NR - 17OCT16 DRAFT.docx

Hi – have added some language from the statements (updated Askov to 13) and added references to A2J week

CB

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Justice

[release number]

Oct. 19, 2016

Verdict is in: B.C. justice services more affordable, less complex, foster early resolution

VICTORIA – British Columbia has become a leader in justice system innovation and performance, says D. Geoffrey Cowper, QC in the fourth anniversary update to the 2012 report, *A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century*.

Marking *Access to Justice Week*, Cowper's update highlights progress in improving early resolution rates, achieving better timelines and improving the handling of complex prosecutions. His conclusions echo those of Murray Segal, a former Ontario Deputy Attorney General, in his recent report on the B.C. Prosecution Service. Segal's report recognized the government as Canada's leading jurisdiction for innovation, collaboration and major case management.

With the Supreme Court of Canada's recent limits for the length of criminal court cases, only 13 cases in the year to date have been discontinued in B.C. due to delay

He also ranked Justice Summits – forums for frank discussion among justice sector leaders to set a course for the system – high as an innovation and collaboration for the justice and public safety sector.

Adaptation of technology has improved access to justice and justice-related services, which puts B.C. ahead of many jurisdictions in Canada. This includes filing assistant for small claims, e-filing for civil courts and the implementation of the Civil Resolution Tribunal, Canada's first online tribunal with 24/7 to resolve strata and small claims disputes out of court as well as helping parents and families access mediation or counselling to resolve family law disputes.

Recommendations for further improvement include a refreshed mandate for the Justice and Public Safety Council, a focus on restorative justice and improved system-wide evaluation and reporting.

Quotes:

Attorney General and Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton – NOT APPROVED

"For more than a decade the Ministry of Justice has made transparency, early resolution and technological innovation key priorities. The beneficiaries are the people of this province who have increased access to a more affordable, less complex justice system. The Cowper Report turbocharged our efforts and helped to build a Justice and Public Safety sector that is the envy of Canada and a demonstrated world leader in transforming justice services. Kudos to all involved."

Quick Facts:

- Today, the time to trial for provincial adult criminal half-day trial, which account for more than 33% of all cases before the Provincial Court, is the shortest it's been in almost a decade.
- The wait for half day and two-or-more-day adult criminal trials has improved considerably from 2010 and remains below the Office of the Chief Judge standard.

Learn More:

[Link to Cowper Update of September 2016](#)

[Link to Segal Report 2016](#)

[Link to report card for White Paper Part One 2012 and White Paper Part Two 2013](#)

[Link to Cowper Report of August 2012](#)

Contact:

Media Relations

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Justice

250 213-3602

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 11:58 AM
To: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Figure from Dan - 2011 stays

No, I can look it up.

From: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 11:58 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Figure from Dan - 2011 stays

Hi – I haven't saved it – I will call to confirm that number.

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 11:55 AM
To: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX; Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Figure from Dan - 2011 stays

Hi Catherine – do you have the email from Dan Chiddell when he'd let you know the number of stays from 2011? I have it as 122 but wanted to confirm as Jason's adding it in Cowper material.

Thanks

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Richardson, Robert C JAG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 9:41 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Cc: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: For review: Cowper materials

Hi Tiffany:

I didn't have time to incorporate these change into the document. Could you make the following changes?

Lynda has approved.

Thanks

Rob

...In the year-to-date there have only been 43 12 criminal cases discontinued due to unreasonable delay, down from 122 for the year prior to Cowper delivering his initial report.

Quick Facts

- The Provincial Court's "Time to Trial" report shows that there has generally been a steady decrease in delays since 2005 for criminal, family and small claims cases.
- Today, the time to trial for provincial adult criminal half-day trial, which account for ~~more than~~ 33% almost 40% of all cases before the Provincial Court, is one of the shortest it's been in almost a decade. (March 2015 was actually the lowest, March 2016 was the second lowest) If we exclude tickets from the mix, adult criminal cases account for approximately 72% of cases that are heard by Provincial Court judges.
- The wait for half day and two-or-more-day adult criminal trials has improved considerably from 2010 and remains below the Office of the Chief Judge standard.

Robert Richardson

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Where ideas work



From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 7:50 AM

To: Richardson, Robert C JAG:EX
Cc: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: For review: Cowper materials
Importance: High

Hi Rob,

Today at 2:30 p.m. we're holding a media teleconference as Geoffrey Cowper releases his four-year anniversary report to "A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century".

The news release is set to go out at 10:30 a.m. this morning.

Is CSB able to please review the NR and QA first thing for any concerns?

Thank you,

Tiffany
250 858-4680

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 10:15 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: JAG - Cowper Update - MA - 17OCT16 DRAFT

Yes – clear. I think we should use his title and law firm only if they were involved in the update – but I somehow thought he was doing this on his own.

That said – do we know if he'd like to have the info included?

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 10:13 AM
To: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: JAG - Cowper Update - MA - 17OCT16 DRAFT

Clear? Tried to spell out more about the report. Think we need Cowper's current title at the law firm?

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 9:51 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: SN_MSA_Cowper Update - 17OCT16 DRAFT

Saved clean on LAN

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 9:42 AM
To: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: SN_MSA_Cowper Update - 17OCT16 DRAFT

Hi – few edits here for your review and to save clean. Did you catch if Jason wanted info or stats added on # of stayed cases and how BC's doing? I would think that'll be one of the first questions. Thanks

Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX

From: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 9:17 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: SN_MSA_Cowper Update - 17OCT16 DRAFT
Attachments: SN_MSA_Cowper Update - 17OCT16 DRAFT.docx

Hi again – updated SN for the Cowper call – tracks as Jason asked for.

CB

Speaking Notes
for the
Hon. Suzanne Anton
Attorney General and Minister of Justice
MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview

Cowper Report Update

Wednesday, October 19, 2016
2:00 p.m.

KEY MESSAGES:

- Four years after the Cowper Report, Mr. Cowper has reviewed the work that has been done, and progress that has been made, on the priorities and initiatives he recommended.
- He concludes that “British Columbia has become a leader in justice system innovation and performance in many of the areas addressed in the Report.”
- He highlights progress our government has made in:
 - Improving early resolution rates
 - Achieving better timelines, and
 - Improving the handling of complex prosecutions.
- His conclusions echo those of Murray Segal, a former Ontario Deputy Attorney General, in his recent report on the B.C. Prosecution Service.
- Mr. Segal recognized our Criminal Justice Branch as Canada’s leading jurisdiction for innovation, collaboration and continuous improvement.
- British Columbians can have confidence that B.C. has one of the best justice systems in Canada, if not the world.
- And they should also know that our government will continue to strive to be a world leader in transforming our justice system to be more accessible, more efficient, and less complex.

Intro

- Good afternoon everyone...and thank you for joining the conference call during Access to Justice Week.
- It's appropriate that this week the Ministry of Justice receives an update to the 2012 Cowper Report from Geoffrey Cowper, Q.C., who is on the call to answer your questions.
- I'm also joined by Murray Segal, consultant and former Ontario Deputy Attorney General, who recently complete a report on the Ministry's Criminal Justice Branch.

Cowper Update 2017

- Four years ago, Mr. Cowper delivered the final report of the BC Justice Reform Initiative.
- Today, Mr. Cowper highlights progress our government has made in:

- Improving early resolution rates
- Achieving better timelines, and
- Improving the handling of complex prosecutions.
- British Columbians can have confidence that B.C. has one of the best justice systems in Canada, if not the world.

Geoffrey Cowper speaks.

Murray Segal speaks.

Minister Anton continues

- Before we move to questions, I'll just add that while Mr. Cowper's report was focused on the criminal justice system, we've done much more to increase access to justice in our province.
- In the family justice sector, we've expanded Justice Access Centres and

Family Justice Centres, which encourage families to resolve disputes outside the courtroom to settle property disputes.

- Our Civil Resolution Tribunal – Canada’s first online tribunal – is in its first stage of operation.
- BCers should also know that our government will continue to strive to be a world leader in transforming our justice system to be more accessible, more efficient, and less complex.
- Operator, we’re ready to take questions now.

(Operator moderates questions from those on the call.)

Minister Anton continues

- Thanks to everyone for joining today’s conference call.
- Goodbye.

-30-