



NOVA SCOTIA  
PUBLIC  
PROSECUTION  
SERVICE

# **Annual Accountability Report**

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

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## Accountability Statement

The accountability report of the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service for the year ended March 31, 2025, is prepared pursuant to the Finance Act and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Public Prosecution Service's Business Plan for the fiscal year just ended. The reporting of the Public Prosecution Service outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments, and opinions by the Public Prosecution Service.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service. This report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Public Prosecution Service 2024-2025 Business Plan.

In terms of accountability, it should be noted that the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service was established in 1990 as the first statutorily based independent prosecution service in Canada. All prosecutions within the jurisdiction of the Attorney General of Nova Scotia are the responsibility of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Crown Attorneys responsible to the Director conduct prosecutions independently of the Minister. The only limitation on the operational independence of the Director permitted by the Public Prosecutions Act arises when the Attorney General issues written instructions to the Director of Public Prosecutions. These instructions are binding and must be made public. This procedure preserves the ultimate prosecutorial authority of the Attorney General. It is a means of ensuring accountability to the electorate for the manner in which public prosecutions are conducted.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ER Wood", is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

**Rick (Eric) Woodburn, KC**  
**Acting Director of Public Prosecutions**

## Message from the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions

Over the past fiscal year, the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service (PPS) has made strides in advancing its mandate of ensuring fair and equitable prosecution of criminal and provincial offences. The service has successfully navigated complex challenges and has emerged stronger and more resilient. These gains can be directly attributed to the dedication and efforts of our exceptional team, as well as the investments and funding dedicated to:

- Recruitment and retention of qualified Crown Attorneys
- Prioritizing major criminal justice issues affecting our communities
- Modernizing PPS's operations

### RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF QUALIFIED CROWN ATTORNEYS

Over the past year, there has been considerable progress in recruitment and onboarding. While the departure of seasoned prosecutors has inevitably led to the loss of valuable institutional knowledge, I am inspired by the diverse perspectives and enthusiasm brought by our newly hired employees. This situation naturally presents a trade-off, as a less experienced workforce places greater demands on senior Crown Attorneys, who continue to play a critical role in mentoring new colleagues, providing expertise on complex cases, and managing the most challenging prosecution files.

To address these demands, we have expanded support mechanisms, including comprehensive training programs, professional development opportunities, and enhanced management strategies. These measures reflect our steadfast commitment to equipping all employees with the tools they need to excel in their roles and uphold the values of justice that remain at the heart of our mission. My focus remains on building a resilient organization prepared to meet both present and future challenges.

In addition to addressing staffing pressures, I am proud of the meaningful progress we have made in advancing Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) throughout the 2024–2025 fiscal year. The PPS has created and filled a new executive position for EDIA Lead. Work has focused on removing systemic barriers in hiring and promotion while fostering a respectful and inclusive workplace culture. Training and education have been central to these efforts. Notably, our 2024 Fall Conference held in Membertou in November offered employees a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding and appreciation of Mi'kmaq culture. This event underscored our commitment to cultural competency, reconciliation, and the broader objectives of EDIA within the PPS.

### PRIORITIZING MAJOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Recognizing the urgency of enhancing efficiency and addressing systemic pressures, the persistent backlog of cases within the court system continues to raise concern—particularly considering the 2016 Supreme Court of Canada decision in *R. v. Jordan*. This legal framework underscores the constitutional right of an accused to be tried within a reasonable time, making timely case resolution not only a matter of operational performance but of fundamental justice.

Although the number of 11(b) applications filed by defence counsel decreased in 2024 compared to 2023, the volume of prosecution files in Jordan jeopardy remains high. Resolving this backlog will take several more years of concerted effort. To mitigate these risks, we have implemented targeted measures designed to alleviate widespread pressures and reduce the number of cases in Jordan jeopardy. These measures

include streamlining case management processes, prioritizing high-risk files, and enhancing collaboration with justice stakeholders. I am encouraged by the promising results we have already seen, including a noticeable reduction in the number of 11(b) applications filed by defence counsel.

Additionally, we established a dedicated Guns and Gangs Unit this fiscal year to tackle the rising incidence of gun-related and gang-related crimes, funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice through Public Safety Canada's Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund. This specialized unit is equipped with experienced prosecutors who focus on these complex cases, ensuring a more coordinated and effective approach to prosecution. The creation of this unit underscores our commitment to addressing serious criminal activities and enhancing public safety.

Our service has furthered its commitment to addressing domestic violence, family violence, intimate partner violence, and gender-based violence. To enhance our capacity in handling these sensitive and complex cases, we have dedicated specialized teams to areas such as human trafficking, sexual violence, and child exploitation. These teams are extensively trained to adopt victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches, ensuring survivors receive the comprehensive support and justice they deserve.

A pilot project launched this year introduced a Witness Coordinator role to offer tailored support to vulnerable witnesses and survivors in cases involving violent crime, including those related to intimate partner violence and sexual violence. This initiative represents a thoughtful and deliberate shift toward more compassionate and responsive measures within the justice system, ensuring individuals receive the necessary resources and support throughout the prosecution process. Early feedback from the pilot project has been overwhelmingly positive, reinforcing the importance of victim support roles in the justice system. We remain committed to exploring the potential to expand this initiative province-wide, as part of our ongoing efforts to meet the essential needs of the communities within our province.

### **MODERNIZING PPS'S OPERATIONS**

The rollout of the Digital Evidence Management Project marked a significant step forward in modernizing how we handle, store, and share digital evidence. While the system is anticipated to enhance efficiency and improve collaboration with justice partners, its implementation has involved considerable change management. Adoption across the service has presented some challenges, including the need for ongoing training, workflow adaptations, and support to ensure consistent use. As this transformation continues, we remain focused on supporting our employees through the transition and embedding the system into daily operations.

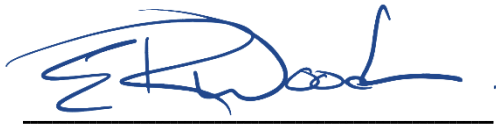
As part of our comprehensive digital transformation initiative, we have also made significant progress toward readiness for dealing with evidence from police agencies in Nova Scotia adopting the use of body-worn cameras. While this represents a positive advancement in policing, the financial implications of fully adopting and maintaining technology to address evidence management is expected to be substantial. These costs will create future budgetary pressures that will need to be managed as these initiatives move forward.

### **FINAL REMARKS**

As I reflect on the 2024–2025 fiscal year, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to every member of the NS Public Prosecution Service Team. Their unwavering dedication to justice, adaptability in the face of change, and continued pursuit of excellence have driven significant progress throughout the year. From managing

complex cases to supporting victims, mentoring colleagues, and advancing key initiatives, their contributions have been impactful and deeply valued. I thank team members for their tireless efforts to uphold the values of this service, and the trust placed in us by the communities we serve. I am confident that, together, we will continue to build on this momentum and achieve even greater strides in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



**Rick (Eric) Woodburn, KC**  
**Acting Director of Public Prosecutions**

## Financial Table and Variance Explanation

	2024-2025 Estimate	2024-2025 Actuals	2024-2025 Variance
<b>Program &amp; Service Area</b>	(\$thousands)		
<b>Departmental Expenses:</b>			
Head Office	4,410	4,379	(31)
Cape Breton Region	4,511	4,627	116
Central Region	4,157	4,324	167
Halifax Region	10,621	10,573	(48)
Western Region	4,136	3,785	(351)
Appeals	1,318	2,929	1,611 *
Special Prosecutions	2,922	1,338	(1,584) *
<b>Total: Departmental Expenses</b>	<b>32,075</b>	<b>31,955</b>	<b>(120)</b>
<b>Additional Information:</b>			
Ordinary Revenue	0	0	0
Fees and Other Charges	0	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	403	329	(74)
<b>Total: Revenue, Fees and Recoveries</b>			
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	208.8	188.3	(20.5)
<p><i>*Appeals and Special Prosecutions were joined together as one division halfway through the 2024-25 Fiscal Year.</i></p> <p><b>Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:</b> Actual expenses were \$120 thousand lower than Estimate due to salary savings from staff vacancies.</p> <p><b>Revenues, Fees, and Recoveries Variance Explanation:</b> Actual recoveries were \$40 thousand lower than Estimate, due to lower than anticipated recoveries from Municipalities for Prosecution of Summary Offence Tickets.</p> <p><b>Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:</b> FTE variance due to staff vacancies.</p>			

## Measuring Our Performance

OUTCOME DESCRIPTION	WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?	WHERE ARE WE NOW?	WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?
High-quality trial work	That the PPS ensures all our Crown Attorneys prosecute cases with high ethical standards and a commitment to excellence to seek justice for Nova Scotians. Crown Attorneys are supervised by Chief Crowns who have extensive experience in the management of prosecution files. We strive to ensure the delivery of high-quality trial work in presenting the evidence thoroughly and fairly to ensure the proper verdict is reached.	<p>Having a complement of relatively new Crown Attorneys, we have increased our mentoring program and provide continuing legal education.</p> <p>The PPS has introduced its new digital evidence and file management system to every office across the province, which has improved efficiencies as Crowns prepare for and deliver their cases in court.</p>	<p>Continue to develop more robust mentorship for new Crown Attorneys and continue high standards of prosecution.</p> <p>Full operational integration of the Digital Evidence Management System across all PPS offices, with 100% of digital evidence submissions and case file management occurring through the platform for criminal offences.</p> <p>We aim to ensure that all Crown Attorneys and support staff are proficient in its use and supported by a standardized training and support framework. This will include the elimination of paper-based file handling, seamless interagency digital disclosure, and improved file accessibility, trial readiness, and collaboration with justice partners.</p>
High-quality appeal work	That the PPS is delivering high-quality appeals work by Crown Attorneys who present the evidence thoroughly and fairly to ensure the proper decision is reached, with a commitment to professional excellence.	<p>All Appeals Crown Attorneys are provided with continuing legal education.</p> <p>The volume of work within appeals means the Chief Crown also has a full caseload, equal to frontline Appeals Crowns.</p> <p>Our Appeals Crowns appear regularly at the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal and have appeared at the Supreme Court of Canada.</p>	<p>Through legal education and working with justice partners, we continue high-quality appeal work in Nova Scotia and at the Supreme Court of Canada.</p>



<p><b>Provide police with high-quality legal advice and assistance</b></p>	<p>That the PPS is providing police with high-quality legal advice and assistance when requested during the course of police investigations. This helps police in collecting evidence and laying appropriate charges. Ultimately, high-quality legal advice to police helps to ensure quality trial work when the case goes to court.</p>	<p>The PPS continues to provide timely responses to requests from police and enforcement officers for the Province who are seeking legal advice on particular cases or direction on matters of criminal law.</p> <p>A 24-hour phoneline is available for police to obtain advice at any time of day.</p> <p>Training is provided to police in specialized areas such as sexual assault, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, gun and gang violence, and hate crime.</p> <p>Specific Crown Attorneys have received specialized training as wiretap agents to assist police with ongoing investigations.</p>	<p>Continue to provide high-level legal advice and assistance in both complex cases and frontline policing matters. Identify opportunities to provide additional training.</p>
<p><b>Provide Crown representation in the development of criminal law and criminal prosecution policy</b></p>	<p>That the PPS provides input into the development of criminal law and criminal prosecution policy from both an administrative and a frontline perspective.</p>	<p>The PPS participates in joint meetings, including Coordinating Committee of Senior Justice Officials and FPT Heads of Prosecutions, and meetings of the provincial Criminal Justice Transformation Group. Crown Attorneys also participate in provincial policy initiatives. The PPS continues to liaise with other prosecution services to maintain awareness of best practices for delivery of prosecution services. The PPS has a dedicated policy development position with responsibilities in this area.</p>	<p>To ensure we continue to have a positive impact on the justice system in Nova Scotia through participation on multiple committees, and the development of new PPS policies.</p>

## **APPENDICES**

*All statistics are sourced through the  
Justice Enterprise Information Network (JEIN).*

*The kind cooperation of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is appreciated.*

## Appendix A

### NEW Criminal Code Charges 2024-2025 by Offence Category and Justice Centre

Offence Category	Justice Centre			
	Halifax	Dartmouth	Amherst	Kentville
homicide	16	3		2
attempted murder	16	6	5	
robbery	87	41		9
sexual assault	112	87	40	63
other sexual offences	154	141	24	73
major assault	608	438	80	190
common assault	745	614	111	300
uttering threats	460	379	68	161
criminal harassment	92	55	4	26
other crimes against the person	129	62	26	48
offences in relation to sexual services	11	5		1
theft of motor vehicle	44	21	12	9
theft	1,326	987	88	161
break and entering	153	76	33	53
fraud	452	140	43	54
mischief	471	247	92	157
possession of stolen property	1,457	1,057	116	111
other property crimes	95	63	6	16
failure to attend court	190	105	20	8
breach of probation	1,255	608	64	247
unlawfully at large	7	18	4	
failure to comply with order	1,484	1,289	430	594
other administration of justice offence	259	192	51	52
weapons offence	1,147	988	474	307
prostitution	1	3		
disturbing the peace	64	29	14	1
residual CC	149	130	9	25
CC impaired driving	573	680	90	253
other CC traffic offence	157	167	61	96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,714</b>	<b>8,631</b>	<b>1,965</b>	<b>3,017</b>

Continued...

Data includes all Criminal Code charges laid on an Information or Summary Offence Ticket (SOT) between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025.

## NEW Criminal Code Charges 2024-2025 by Offence Category and Justice Centre *CONTINUED*

Offence Category	Justice Centre			
	Bridgewater	Pictou	Sydney	Truro
homicide	1		8	4
attempted murder	9	4		10
robbery	11	6	18	16
sexual assault	30	25	39	68
other sexual offences	13	31	51	83
major assault	95	142	275	210
common assault	164	208	345	295
uttering threats	84	125	263	153
criminal harassment	9	23	13	15
other crimes against the person	23	33	34	27
offences in relation to sexual services			3	2
theft of motor vehicle	8	12	9	25
theft	120	149	283	198
break and entering	25	48	51	75
fraud	14	18	21	67
mischief	65	101	259	179
possession of stolen property	46	78	138	158
other property crimes	6	13	15	21
failure to attend court	6	27	163	42
breach of probation	71	199	496	175
unlawfully at large	2	3	2	3
failure to comply with order	265	564	2,519	735
other administration of justice offence	47	57	143	95
weapons offence	169	265	291	439
prostitution				
disturbing the peace	2	10	8	18
residual CC	15	19	60	58
CC impaired driving	138	121	210	356
other CC traffic offence	47	71	108	139
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>5,825</b>	<b>3,666</b>

Continued...

## NEW Criminal Code Charges 2024-2025 by Offence Category and Justice Centre *CONTINUED*

Offence Category	Justice Centre				TOTAL
	Antigonish	Port Hawkesbury	Yarmouth	Digby	
homicide			2	12	48
attempted murder	2	1	4		57
robbery	2	10	9	12	221
sexual assault	14	21	45	54	598
other sexual offences	30	26	48	57	731
major assault	42	73	142	105	2,400
common assault	55	98	180	160	3,275
uttering threats	40	91	200	146	2,170
criminal harassment	4	8	16	34	299
other crimes against the person	9	13	51	51	506
offences in relation to sexual services			1	4	27
theft of motor vehicle	4	15	25	9	193
theft	55	76	114	55	3,612
break and entering	15	38	29	33	629
fraud	10	14	14	24	871
mischief	33	79	105	76	1,864
possession of stolen property	19	23	13	50	3,266
other property crimes		13	6	7	261
failure to attend court	2	6	6	3	578
breach of probation	41	108	80	133	3,477
unlawfully at large	2	1		2	44
failure to comply with order	108	335	390	464	9,177
other administration of justice offence	19	33	53	60	1,061
weapons offence	30	168	343	255	4,876
prostitution					4
disturbing the peace	3	2	6	1	158
residual CC	25	15	57	15	577
CC impaired driving	93	131	140	116	2,901
other CC traffic offence	30	44	53	61	1,034
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>1,442</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>1,999</b>	<b>44,915</b>

Data includes all Criminal Code charges laid on an Information or Summary Offence Ticket (SOT) between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025.

## Appendix B

### Active Criminal Code Charges CARRIED OVER to 2024-2025 From Prior Years by Offence Category and Justice Centre

Offence Category	Justice Centre			
	Halifax	Dartmouth	Amherst	Kentville
homicide	38			1
attempted murder	20	6	1	1
robbery	127	64	5	12
sexual assault	223	88	12	133
other sexual offences	238	111	22	132
major assault	789	500	88	151
common assault	978	568	156	271
uttering threats	584	399	114	181
criminal harassment	72	47	8	76
other crimes against the person	195	60	29	45
offences in relation to sexual services	29	1		1
theft of motor vehicle	70	46	28	18
theft	996	670	148	166
break and entering	259	151	44	44
fraud	338	202	66	49
mischief	553	313	148	155
possession of stolen property	1,077	692	134	119
other property crimes	72	47	28	6
failure to attend court	136	108	32	21
breach of probation	598	414	84	82
unlawfully at large	13	12		4
failure to comply with order	1,477	1,008	383	349
other administration of justice offence	282	180	44	47
weapons offence	1,285	1,171	205	248
prostitution	2	1		1
disturbing the peace	65	27	13	6
residual CC	229	162	17	80
CC impaired driving	571	543	102	201
other CC traffic offence	218	218	46	68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,534</b>	<b>7,809</b>	<b>1,957</b>	<b>2,668</b>

Continued...

Data includes all criminal code charges laid on an Information or Summary Offence Ticket (SOT) on or before March 31, 2024, that had at least one appearance between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025.

**Active Criminal Code Charges CARRIED OVER to 2024-2025**  
**From Prior Years by Offence Category and Justice Centre** *CONTINUED*

Offence Category	Justice Centre			
	Bridgewater	Pictou	Sydney	Truro
homicide	3	2	12	3
attempted murder		10	9	6
robbery	11	13	32	10
sexual assault	61	77	95	100
other sexual offences	58	85	86	108
major assault	124	97	412	249
common assault	167	177	486	249
uttering threats	114	116	316	173
criminal harassment	14	27	25	12
other crimes against the person	26	23	57	41
offences in relation to sexual services	4		13	1
theft of motor vehicle	15	13	17	32
theft	188	158	235	183
break and entering	35	51	71	90
fraud	24	75	49	110
mischief	97	134	310	168
possession of stolen property	46	63	121	135
other property crimes	11	8	41	8
failure to attend court	7	30	167	79
breach of probation	30	118	428	110
unlawfully at large		4	17	2
failure to comply with order	180	336	1,817	596
other administration of justice offence	40	43	149	90
weapons offence	129	168	252	341
prostitution				
disturbing the peace	8	9	14	7
residual CC	21	18	130	33
CC impaired driving	150	107	231	303
other CC traffic offence	59	59	152	125
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>5,744</b>	<b>3,364</b>

Continued...

Data includes all Criminal Code charges laid on an Information or Summary Offence Ticket (SOT) on or before March 31, 2024, that had at least one appearance between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025.

**Active Criminal Code Charges CARRIED OVER to 2024-2025**  
**From Prior Years by Offence Category and Justice Centre *CONTINUED***

Offence Category	Justice Centre				TOTAL
	Antigonish	Port Hawkesbury	Yarmouth	Digby	
homicide	1			3	63
attempted murder	1	1	1		56
robbery	1	3	3	3	284
sexual assault	36	24	93	93	1,035
other sexual offences	12	57	83	115	1,107
major assault	28	76	134	157	2,805
common assault	56	94	211	242	3,655
uttering threats	33	69	142	142	2,383
criminal harassment	5	1	14	39	340
other crimes against the person	11	14	51	42	594
offences in relation to sexual services			13		62
theft of motor vehicle	2	2	11	16	270
theft	39	64	114	113	3,074
break and entering	12	28	45	70	900
fraud	28	10	18	53	1,022
mischievous	28	63	183	112	2,264
possession of stolen property	13	22	17	83	2,522
other property crimes	1	6	16	7	251
failure to attend court	5	13	4	10	612
breach of probation	21	57	66	113	2,121
unlawfully at large			2	1	55
failure to comply with order	62	175	190	380	6,953
other administration of justice offence	21	36	52	48	1,032
weapons offence	36	67	178	215	4,295
prostitution					4
disturbing the peace	2	3	1	6	161
residual CC	9	33	59	38	829
CC impaired driving	47	95	154	128	2,632
other CC traffic offence	22	21	45	81	1,114
TOTAL	532	1,034	1,900	2,310	42,495

Data includes all Criminal Code charges laid on an Information or Summary Offence Ticket (SOT) on or before March 31, 2024, that had at least one appearance between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025.



## Appendix C

### NEW Provincial Statute Charges by Justice Centre 2024-2025 (includes cases with prosecutor assigned)

Justice Centre	Provincial Statutes						Total
	Motor Vehicle Act	Liquor Control Act	Occupational Health and Safety Act	Emergency Management Act	Health Protection Act	Other Provincial Statutes	
Halifax	2433	61	8			160	2662
Dartmouth	182	1	8			75	266
Amherst	163	4				57	224
Kentville	271	5				117	393
Bridgewater	120	3	9			46	178
Pictou	85	2				25	112
Sydney	209	3				33	245
Truro	476	9		1		59	545
Antigonish	111	6				24	141
Port Hawkesbury	91	1				13	105
Yarmouth	189	5				65	259
Digby	244	9				49	302
Total	4574	109	25	1	0	723	5432

Data includes all charges laid on an Information or Summary Offence Ticket (SOT) between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025, that had a prosecutor assigned.

The count for provincial statute offences includes those which were handled by the summary offence court.

## Appendix D

### Active Provincial Statute Charges CARRIED OVER in 2024-2025 From Prior Years by Justice Centre (includes cases with prosecutor assigned)

Justice Centre	Provincial Statutes						Total
	Motor Vehicle Act	Liquor Control Act	Occupational Health and Safety Act	Emergency Management Act	Health Protection Act	Other Provincial Statutes	
Halifax	1398	39	59	1	7	190	1694
Dartmouth	1331	7	20		5	184	1547
Amherst	123	4				49	176
Kentville	254	3	5			42	304
Bridgewater	118	1	4			119	242
Pictou	60	2	8			10	80
Sydney	374	9		1		124	508
Truro	583	23		1	1	62	670
Antigonish	64	6				31	101
Port Hawkesbury	97	2				20	119
Yarmouth	123	8	1			81	213
Digby	221	11				53	285
TOTAL	4746	115	97	3	13	965	5,939

Data includes all charges laid on an Information or Summary Offence Ticket (SOT) on or before March 31, 2024, that had a prosecutor assigned and at least one appearance between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025.

The count for provincial statute offences includes those which were handled by the summary offence court.

## Appendix E

### Median Case Processing Times (in days) Completed Cases, by Offence Category, 2015-2016 to 2024-2025

Most Serious Offence	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
homicide	369	504	389	585	701
attempted murder	222	48	119	139	55
robbery	105	113	97	141	131
sexual assault	151	241	243	230	224
other sexual offences	211	281	266	270	278
major assault	199	168	162	155	184
common assault	170	167	154	168	180
uttering threats	163	139	162	151	171
criminal harassment	205	170	128	189	167
other crimes against the person	195	125	155	148	155
offences in relation to sexual services	19	349	171	14	298
theft of motor vehicle	85	101	143	121	106
theft	113	95	83	77	101
break and entering	148	129	134	150	143
fraud	142	125	107	149	122
mischief	148	141	126	148	144
possession of stolen property	141	114	88	78	104
other property crimes	96	127	98	95	87
failure to attend court	44	73	53	58	61
breach of probation	73	80	65	73	101
unlawfully at large	66	69	35	37	72
failure to comply with order	71	72	70	77	85
other administration of justice offence	141	108	86	99	93
weapons offence	165	133	138	138	172
prostitution offences	163	344	16	219	17
disturbing the peace	122	108	113	187	134
residual CC	153	98	143	103	122
CC impaired driving	50	67	65	49	49
other CC traffic offence	114	127	139	132	129
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>119</b>

Continued...

Data includes all cases represented by a Criminal Code charge, with a final disposition date between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2025.

Each case is represented by the most serious offence, based on the type of decision, sentence and the national Crime Severity Index (CSI).

Case Processing Time is calculated from the first appearance date to the final disposition date.

A case is defined as one or more charges against a person on the same Information or Summary Offence Ticket.

Data excludes cases that have had a bench warrant issued or held and any case that was referred to restorative justice.

**Median Case Processing Times (in days) Completed Cases,  
by Offence Category, 2014-2015 to 2024-2025** *CONTINUED*

<b>Most Serious Offence</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
homicide	4	908	375	678	120
attempted murder	58	111	19	43	68
robbery	127	61	123	111	149
sexual assault	407	364	414	422	407
other sexual offences	230	254	275	351	347
major assault	196	205	227	252	246
common assault	239	239	211	218	224
uttering threats	217	226	207	216	211
criminal harassment	168	213	248	240	295
other crimes against the person	117	193	250	149	237
offences in relation to sexual services	194	373	71	236	229
theft of motor vehicle	168	142	161	161	119
theft	179	137	153	134	129
break and entering	175	204	199	201	188
fraud	142	162	190	164	116
mischief	163	170	227	197	195
possession of stolen property	149	71	92	131	99
other property crimes	96	83	190	160	226
failure to attend court	70	82	86	120	96
breach of probation	124	176	151	129	92
unlawfully at large	135	120	94	132	107
failure to comply with order	120	131	154	139	113
other administration of justice offence	194	134	169	178	180
weapons offence	124	156	149	228	181
prostitution offences				1	
disturbing the peace	292	76	181	218	118
residual CC	175	157	228	51	71
CC impaired driving	78	71	72	96	92
other CC traffic offence	147	148	233	192	185
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>153</b>

Data includes all cases represented by a Criminal Code charge, with a final disposition date between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2025.

Each case is represented by the most serious offence, based on the type of decision, sentence and the national Crime Severity Index (CSI).

Case Processing Time is calculated from the first appearance date to the final disposition date.

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Data excludes cases that have had a bench warrant issued or held and any case that was referred to restorative justice.

## Appendix F

### Average Number of Court Appearances for Completed Cases, by Offence Category, 2014-2015 to 2024-2025

Most Serious Offence	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
homicide	8.1	10.4	9.6	9.8	17.6	28.6
attempted murder	7.9	7.4	9.9	8.5	8.4	4.8
robbery	7.2	6.9	8.6	7.5	7.8	10.5
sexual assault	6.6	5.5	7.4	6.7	6.7	7.1
other sexual offences	7.1	7	8.8	8.4	8.6	8.2
major assault	6.8	6.8	6.9	7	7.0	7.4
common assault	5.1	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.6	6.3
uttering threats	5.5	5.9	5.8	6.5	6.1	6.7
criminal harassment	6.9	6.9	6.4	6	6.6	6.4
other crimes against the person	6.9	7.1	6.8	7.5	6.7	7.2
offences in relation to sexual services		3.6	7.5	6.8	2.1	7.3
theft of motor vehicle	6.3	5.3	6.4	7.6	6.6	5.7
theft	5.1	5.7	5.5	5.9	6.2	6.5
break and entering	7.9	7.4	7.1	6.8	8.3	8.2
fraud	5.7	6.4	6.2	5.9	6.9	7.5
mischief	5	5.4	5.5	5.6	6.2	6
possession of stolen property	5	4.8	4.8	5.3	5.6	6.1
other property crimes	6.8	7	8.4	7.4	6.4	6.3
failure to attend court	5.1	4.4	5.6	5	5.2	5.3
breach of probation	4.7	5	5.1	4.8	4.8	6
unlawfully at large	4.6	5.4	4.7	4.3	4.4	6.1
failure to comply with order	5.2	5.1	5.5	5.6	5.9	6.6
other administration of justice offence	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.2	6.5	6.3
weapons offence	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.5	7.0	7.5
prostitution offences	3.9	9	7.5	1.5	6.7	2
disturbing the peace	4.3	4.7	5.2	5.2	9.2	5.2
residual CC	5.8	8	5.8	5.7	6.0	6.4
CC impaired driving	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.7
other CC traffic offence	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.8	5.8	5.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.3</b>

Continued...

Data includes all cases represented by a Criminal Code charge, with a final disposition date between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2025.

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A case is defined as one or more charges against a person on the same Information or Summary Offence Ticket.

Data excludes cases that have had a bench warrant issued or held and any case that was referred to restorative justice.

**Average Number of Court Appearances for Completed Cases,  
by Offence Category, 2014-2015 to 2024-2025** *CONTINUED*

<b>Most Serious Offence</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
homicide	10.5	17.6	16.9	14.1	12.6
attempted murder	10.8	12.2	5.1	7.1	8.6
robbery	9.5	7	9.7	8.6	10.4
sexual assault	9.8	10.3	9.6	10.3	10.6
other sexual offences	7.8	8.4	8.4	9.8	9.8
major assault	7.8	7.8	8.7	8.5	9.1
common assault	7	7	6.4	6.7	6.7
uttering threats	7.7	7.1	7.3	7.8	8.6
criminal harassment	7.6	7.1	7.8	7.7	8.3
other crimes against the person	7.1	7.6	8.1	7.8	8.7
offences in relation to sexual services	9.4	12.7	3.5	11.7	5.3
theft of motor vehicle	9.2	8	7.9	9.1	7.3
theft	8.5	8.7	9	8.2	8.1
break and entering	8.9	7	9.4	9.9	11.4
fraud	7.7	9	9.6	8.6	7.3
mischief	6.8	6.8	7.7	7.6	8.0
possession of stolen property	7.5	6.1	6.9	7.1	6.8
other property crimes	7.4	8	10.7	9.0	10.4
failure to attend court	5.9	6.1	7.1	7.6	7.6
breach of probation	7.8	8.3	7.3	7.8	7.6
unlawfully at large	6	9.5	7.3	6.6	6.5
failure to comply with order	7.3	7.5	8.1	8.4	7.8
other administration of justice offence	8.1	8.5	7.9	9.1	8.6
weapons offence	7.3	7.7	7.9	8.9	8.7
prostitution offences				1.0	
disturbing the peace	8.9	6.9	5	6.9	7.0
residual CC	7.9	8.4	8.5	5.5	6.2
CC impaired driving	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4
other CC traffic offence	6.8	7.5	8.6	8.0	8.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.7</b>

Data includes all cases represented by a Criminal Code charge, with a final disposition date between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2025.

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## Appendix G

### Appeals Statistics 2024-2025

The following are statistics related to the operations of the Appeals section covering the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

The section participated in 39 appeals heard by the Court of Appeal. Of this number:

- 5 were initiated by the Crown
- 34 were initiated by offenders

Of the 5 appeals initiated by the Crown:

- 2 dealt with acquittals
- 1 dealt with a summary conviction appeal decision
- 2 dealt with sentence

Of the 34 appeals initiated by offenders:

- 9 dealt with conviction
- 7 dealt with sentence
- 17 dealt with conviction and sentence
- 1 dealt with a “Not Criminally Responsible” finding

The Appeals section participated in 182 Chambers motions heard by a single Judge of the Court of Appeal. Chambers motions include motions for a hearing date and the filing of appeal books and factums, adjournments, bail pending appeal, extension of time to appeal, directions and status updates in appeals, appointment of counsel in prisoners’ appeals and striking appeals from the Court’s docket. Uncontested motions are usually conducted over the telephone (teleconference Chambers), and both contested and uncontested motions are heard in open court (regular Chambers).

In the Supreme Court of Canada, the Appeals section received a successful decision where the Court overturned an acquittal and ordered a new trial for a matter involving human trafficking. The Appeals section participated as an Intervenor on 1 occasion, sought leave to appeal on 1 matter and contested 2 leave applications that were brought by the offender.

Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing

The Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011.

The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith.

The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labor Board.

A Wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

- a) a contravention of provincial or federal laws or regulations
- b) a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets
- c) an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment, or
- d) directing or counselling someone to commit a wrongdoing

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service.

Information Required Under Section 18 of the Act	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing	N/A