

**Department of Justice**  
**2011-12 Statement of Mandate**  
March 25, 2011

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## 1. Message from the Minister and Deputy Minister

We are pleased to present the 2011-2012 Statement of Mandate for the Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

This statement outlines the department's mandate and vision, and demonstrates how our upcoming plans closely align with government's priorities to better serve all Nova Scotians.

This year, our focus will be to carry out the administration of justice in a sustainable way, and enhancing public confidence in our justice system. To do this, we will continue to work with our justice partners across government and within communities to ensure justice policies, programs and services are responsive to the diverse and complex needs of Nova Scotians.

We will work to improve community safety by updating our crime prevention and reduction approach by focusing our efforts where they will have the most impact.

In 2011-2012, with our many partners, we will be implementing the province's first comprehensive action plan to address domestic violence. We will take action on recommendations from the *Report of the Fatality Inquiry into the Death of Howard Hyde*. We are dedicated to working in partnership with the Department of Health and Wellness to improve how the justice and health care systems respond to and care for those living with mental illness in Nova Scotia.

This year also marks the beginning of an update to our family law legislation so that our laws better reflect the realities and diversity of Nova Scotia families today.

The work ahead will be challenging, however better use of technology and continuous improvements to programs and services are but two ways our dedicated staff will rise to these challenges. We welcome your feedback on our plan for 2011-2012 and extend a sincere thanks to all who helped develop it and all who will contribute to its implementation in the upcoming year.

Ross Landry  
Minister

Marian F. Tyson  
Deputy Minister

## 2. **Mandate**

The Department of Justice is responsible for the administration of justice-related programs, services and initiatives. To accomplish its mandate, the department provides services through six divisions: Public Safety and Security; Court Services; Correctional Services; Legal Services; Policy & Information Management; and Finance & Administration.

## 3. **Vision**

Nova Scotia is a place where people and their rights are respected. The Department of Justice will provide leadership in partnership with others to build a province where:

### **The justice system is properly administered and cost effective**

We want our justice system to be recognized as the most properly administered and cost effective in Canada.

### **There is public confidence in the justice system**

We want the public to value the rule of law and trust our system by being open and accountable for our actions. We know that confidence in the system will make a significant impact on the social and economic well being of Nova Scotians.

### **People are and feel safe and secure**

We will strengthen our relationships with our community based partners to collectively develop and promote safer community strategies so that people are and feel safe.

### **People make constructive choices**

We want Nova Scotia to be known as a place where rights are respected and protected and where disputes find resolution in a principled and timely manner.

## 4. **Mission**

The Department of Justice is committed to the fair and effective administration of justice and to excellence in service to the people of Nova Scotia.

## 5. Government Priorities

The Department of Justice's priorities for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, as well as its on-going activities, are well-aligned with and supportive of the government's core priorities.

### **Make health care better for you and your family:**

To feel and be safe and secure is integral to the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians. In 2011-2012, the Department of Justice will continue its efforts to ensure that Nova Scotians feel safe and secure through various initiatives.

In order to build stronger and safer communities, the department is updating its approach to crime prevention and reduction. This will bring stakeholders from government together with a focus on investing in children and youth; decreasing the frequency and severity of offending; addressing victimization by improving supports; and supporting groups with distinct needs.

Also, in 2011-2012, we will see the Province implement its first comprehensive action plan to address domestic violence. The *Domestic Violence Action Plan* was led by the Deputy Ministers' Leadership Committee on Family and Intimate Partner Violence and includes partners from 16 government entities. The Action Plan shows how government will work differently to sustain a focus on addressing domestic violence and to ensure that programs and services are responsive to the needs of those most closely affected by domestic violence. The Plan outlines new government actions in ten broad areas, which focus on people who have experienced abuse, perpetrators of abuse, at-risk families, and includes the launch of a Domestic Violence Court Program pilot in Sydney.

In collaboration with the Department of Health and Wellness, the Nova Scotia Department of Justice will take action on recommendations from the *Report of the Fatality Inquiry into the Death of Howard Hyde*, with the goal of promoting understanding and respect as well as improving how the criminal justice and health systems respond to the needs of persons living with mental illness.

There are also a number of initiatives being undertaken by the Department to improve security within the province's courthouses and to enhance justice services for vulnerable witnesses.

## **Create good jobs and grow the economy**

### Links to workforce strategy

The Department of Justice is committed to supporting youth and adults in the justice system by helping them develop the skills needed to facilitate successful reintegration into the community. Programs offered through our Correctional Services division include substance abuse management, literacy and education, vocational programs and programs to promote life and social skills.

In collaboration with government partners and community organizations, Correctional Services supports literacy development through purposeful initiatives in both facilities and community-based sites. Also, Correctional Services provides educational programming to offenders during periods of custody and works with schools to engage youth in the community on court orders. To promote labour market engagement and continued learning of inmates post-release, Correctional Services provides opportunities for the development of essential skills and increased linkages with community employment supports.

As part of its Crime Prevention efforts, the Department of Justice, through its Lighthouse Grants Program, supports community crime prevention efforts that have a focus on recreational, educational, cultural, life-skills, or after-school programming for youth throughout Nova Scotia.

### Energy efficient and environmentally sound building design

The Department of Justice has a long-term capital construction plan to renovate or build new court and correctional facilities, and to construct a building for the medical examiner service. All of the construction and operation of the Department of Justice tangible capital asset projects are managed by the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal - mandated to construct buildings to criteria identified in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. The LEED program outlines 70 potential points that cover criteria under categories such as sustainable site development, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation. The government targets a Silver status in LEED, which equates to achieving 33 to 38 of the 70 points.

## **Get back to balance and ensure government lives within its means**

Many of the department's priorities for 2011-2012 are aimed at improving efficiencies and cost effectiveness of justice programs and services. Ensuring that justice is properly and effectively administered in a fiscally responsible way in Nova Scotia has been a strategic direction of the department for a number of years and now forms part of our vision. Fiscal responsibility is something that is taken seriously.

In 2011-2012, the Department of Justice will focus on the continued implementation of recommendations arising from the Deloitte review, which aim to improve operational effectiveness and safety in correctional facilities. To date, 41 of the 51 Deloitte recommendations have been implemented. The Department will also implement a new direct supervision model for adult offenders which is consistent with proper inmate control and will facilitate correctional programming.

The Department of Justice will expand its use of technology and innovation in the coming year to improve efficiencies and access to the court system which will include the implementation of electronic summary offence tickets (E-SOT). The Department will continue working closely with its justice partners in the coming year to shorten criminal court processing times for both youth and adults.

## **6. Performance Measures**



Strategic Direction: A justice system that is properly administered and cost effective					
Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target
Effective legal services	(1) Client <sup>1</sup> satisfaction with legal services.	<b>Base year: 2006</b> Very satisfied: 67% Satisfied: 33%	<b>Annual target: 2011-12</b>  Maintain client satisfaction at same or higher level than 2010.	<b>Subsequent year data:</b>  2010: Very satisfied: 55% Satisfied: 36%	Legal Services continues to explore areas where improvement can be made in the provision of legal services to its clients. Another client survey is being conducted with results available in spring 2011.
Fair and accessible criminal, civil and family court justice system	(2 a) Case processing times in adult criminal courts, ie., the average number of days it takes to process <b>adult</b> cases <sup>2</sup> in criminal court from first to last appearance.	<b>Base year: 2000-01</b>  Nova Scotia: 219 days Canada: 174 days	<b>Annual target: 2011-12</b> To meet and/or fall below the Canadian average elapsed time to complete an adult case in criminal court.  Since 2005-06 we have consistently met our target	<b>Subsequent year data:</b>  <b>Average # of days</b> <b>NS Canada</b> 2001-02: 226 197 2002-03: 211 195 2003-04: 211 224 2004-05: 228 234 2005-06: 233 221 2006-07: 199 250 2007-08: 195 246 2008-09: 209 229 2009-10: 221 <sup>3</sup>	The Department continues its work with justice partners to determine the causes of delay and implement local solutions. An evaluation framework will be developed to measure the effectiveness of the various changes so that adjustments can be made accordingly.
	(2 b) Case processing times in youth criminal courts – average amount of time it takes to process <b>youth</b> cases <sup>2</sup> in criminal court from first to last appearance.	<b>Base year: 2006-07</b>  120 <sup>4</sup> days	<b>Annual target: 2011-12</b>  For youth cases, we have set a target of 98 days elapsed time to complete a youth case in criminal court in any given year.	<b>Subsequent year data:</b>  2007-08: 112 days 2008-09: 122 days 2009-10: 126 days	The department continues to work with justice partners to determine what is causing delays in case processing and how this can best be addressed, e.g. the development of policy recommendations, procedural changes, etc. <sup>5</sup>

Strategic Direction: There is public confidence in the justice system					
Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target
Improved knowledge of and confidence in the justice system.	(3) Public knowledge of the justice system <sup>6</sup>	<b>Base year: 2005</b> Very familiar 9% Somewhat familiar 45% Not very familiar 34% Not familiar at all 12%	<b>Annual target: 2011-12</b>  To maintain/increase public knowledge of the justice system.	<b>Subsequent year data: 2009</b> Very familiar 9% Somewhat familiar 48% Not very familiar 36% Not familiar at all 6%	Two examples of efforts that should enhance public confidence in the justice system include the formation of a Serious Incident Response Team to investigate serious incidents involving police officers and the implementation of the new Security and Investigative Services Act
	4) Public confidence in the justice system	<b>Base year: 2005</b> Great deal of confidence 12% Some confidence 62% Not much confidence 17% No confidence at all 9%	<b>Annual target: 2011-12</b>  To maintain/increase public confidence in the justice system.	<b>Subsequent year data: 2009</b> Great deal of confidence 8% Some confidence 68% Not much confidence 15% No confidence at all 5%	
	(5) Major incidents involving offenders/prisoners <sup>7</sup> .	<b>Base year: 2011-12</b>  This is a new measure with base-year data to be collected in 2011-12.  Please see note in Appendix A (page 19) pertaining to this new measure.	<b>Annual Target: 2011-12</b>  No major incidents	<b>Subsequent year data:</b>	

Strategic Direction: People are and feel safe and secure																																									
Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target																																				
Safer communities	(6 a) Volume of crime as measured by the crime rate <sup>8</sup> per 100,000 population	<b>Base year: 2001</b>  <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Canada</td> <td>NS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall:</td> <td>7587</td> <td>7725</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violent:</td> <td>1473</td> <td>1944</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Property:</td> <td>5124</td> <td>4711</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Criminal Code:</i></td> <td>989</td> <td>1070</td> </tr> </table>		Canada	NS	Overall:	7587	7725	Violent:	1473	1944	Property:	5124	4711	Other			<i>Criminal Code:</i>	989	1070	<b>Annual Target: 2011-12</b> Reduce the crime rate in Nova Scotia.  <b>Ultimate target:</b> Reduce the crime rate in Nova Scotia to below the national average.	<b>Subsequent year data: 2009</b>  <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Canada</td> <td>NS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall:</td> <td>6406</td> <td>6932</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violent:</td> <td>1314</td> <td>1654</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Property:</td> <td>4081</td> <td>4180</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Criminal Code:</i></td> <td>1011</td> <td>1099</td> </tr> </table> <p>Since 2001, there has been a 10% decline in Nova Scotia's overall crime rate, a 15% decline in the rate of violent crime and an 11% decline in the rate of property crime. In 2009, Nova Scotia's crime rate remains higher than the national rate.</p>		Canada	NS	Overall:	6406	6932	Violent:	1314	1654	Property:	4081	4180	Other			<i>Criminal Code:</i>	1011	1099	<b>Crime Prevention:</b> We will increase our focus on prevention through the re-profiling of the Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy.  <b>Policing:</b> We will continue efforts to promote the development of safer, stronger communities by supporting local policing initiatives such as Safer Communities and the Provincial Proceeds of Crime legislation as well as by implementing Civil Forfeiture legislation and the Road Safety Strategy.
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	(6b) Severity of crime as measured by the Crime Severity Index <sup>9</sup>	<b>Base year: 2001</b>  <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Canada</td> <td>NS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall:</td> <td>105</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violent:</td> <td>97</td> <td>94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-violent:</td> <td>108</td> <td>92</td> </tr> </table>		Canada	NS	Overall:	105	93	Violent:	97	94	Non-violent:	108	92	<b>Annual Target: 2011-12</b> Reduce crime severity in Nova Scotia.  <b>Ultimate target:</b> Maintain crime severity below the national average.	<b>Subsequent year data: 2009</b>  <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Canada</td> <td>NS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall:</td> <td>87</td> <td>84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violent:</td> <td>94</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-violent:</td> <td>85</td> <td>82</td> </tr> </table> <p>Nova Scotia's overall Crime Severity Index declined by 10% between 2001 and 2009, the violent crime severity index dropped by 4%, while the non-violent crime severity index declined by 11%. Nova Scotia remains below the national average on all three indices of crime severity.</p>		Canada	NS	Overall:	87	84	Violent:	94	90	Non-violent:	85	82	Continued on next page...												
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Strategic Direction: People are and feel safe and secure																																									
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<p>Safer communities (continued)</p>	<p>(7) Volume of youth crime as measured by the youth-accused crime rate<sup>10</sup> per 100,000 population aged 12 to 17 years</p>	<p><b>Base year: 2005</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Canada</td> <td>NS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall:</td> <td>6595</td> <td>9332</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violent:</td> <td>1868</td> <td>2842</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Property:</td> <td>3551</td> <td>5022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Criminal Code:</i></td> <td>1175</td> <td>1466</td> </tr> </table>		Canada	NS	Overall:	6595	9332	Violent:	1868	2842	Property:	3551	5022	Other			<i>Criminal Code:</i>	1175	1466	<p><b>Annual Target: 2011-12</b> Reduce the youth-accused crime rate in Nova Scotia.</p> <p><b>Ultimate target:</b> Reduce the youth-accused crime rate in Nova Scotia below the national average.</p>	<p><b>Subsequent year data: 2009</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Canada</td> <td>NS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall:</td> <td>6490</td> <td>9419</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violent:</td> <td>1864</td> <td>2659</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Property:</td> <td>3424</td> <td>5068</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Criminal Code:</i></td> <td>1201</td> <td>1692</td> </tr> </table> <p>While the youth-accused crime rate increased from 2005 to 2006 in both Nova Scotia and Canada, it has declined for the past three consecutive years (2007, 2008 and 2009). Since 2006, the overall youth-accused crime rate dropped 14% in Nova Scotia, compared to a 5% drop nationally. Similarly, the youth-accused violent crime rate in Nova Scotia declined by 15%, youth property crime dropped 10% and other Criminal Code violations by youth dropped 22%. While the youth-accused crime rate remains higher in Nova Scotia than the national average, the faster rate of decline in Nova Scotia's rate, compared to the national rate in recent years suggests that the gap between the two is narrowing.</p>		Canada	NS	Overall:	6490	9419	Violent:	1864	2659	Property:	3424	5068	Other			<i>Criminal Code:</i>	1201	1692	<p><b>Corrections:</b> We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- continue with the implementation of the recommendations of the external audit of adult offender correctional facilities</li> <li>- continue electronic supervision of select high-risk young offenders across Nova Scotia</li> <li>- train staff in Core Correctional Practices to enhance their understanding and use of cognitive behavioural models with offenders to promote pro-social skills</li> <li>- implement restorative practices at the Nova Scotia Youth Facility to promote accountability and teach effective interpersonal skills to high risk and serious violent offenders, and ultimately facilitate their successful community integration</li> </ul>
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Strategic Direction: People are and feel safe and secure					
Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target
Safer communities (continued)	(8) Public perception of safety in the home <sup>11</sup>	<b>Base year: 2005</b> Not at all worried 49% Not very worried 27% Somewhat worried 21% Very worried 2%	<b>Annual Target: 2011-12</b> to maintain/increase the public's perceptions of safety in the home.	<b>Subsequent year data: 2009</b> Not at all worried 54% Not very worried 32% Somewhat worried 12% Very worried 2%	<b>Domestic Violence Action Plan:</b> We will begin implementing the DV Action Plan, including developing campaigns to build awareness and help people address domestic violence; making it easier for victims to navigate and access services and pilot a Domestic Violence Court Program.  <b>Crime Prevention:</b> We will increase our focus on prevention through the re-profiling of the Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy.
	(9) Public perception of safety in the neighbourhood <sup>12</sup> .	<b>Base year: 2005</b> Feel very/reasonably safe 74% Feel somewhat unsafe 13% Feel very unsafe 5% Do not walk alone 7%	<b>Annual Target: 2011-12</b> to maintain/increase the public's perceptions of safety in the neighbourhood.	<b>Subsequent year data: 2009</b> Feel very/reasonably safe 75% Feel somewhat unsafe 14% Feel very unsafe 4% Do not walk alone 7%	<b>Policing:</b> We will continue efforts to promote the development of safer, stronger communities by supporting local policing initiatives such as Safer Communities and the Provincial Proceeds of Crime legislation as well as by implementing Civil Forfeiture legislation and the Road Safety Strategy.

**Strategic Direction: People make constructive choices**

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target
Reduction in youth and adults who re-offend. (recidivism)	(10a) Percent of incarcerated adult offenders who re-offend.	<p>Coming to an accurate and appropriate definition of recidivism is complex.</p> <p>As part of the Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy, Nova Scotia has committed to developing an operational definition of recidivism and establishing benchmark data on recidivism in Nova Scotia.</p>	To continue with the development of benchmark data on recidivism in Nova Scotia.		<p>We will continue to implement our project plan to produce benchmark recidivism statistics which will then allow us to set appropriate targets.</p> <p>In 2011-2012, the Department of Justice will continue working towards reducing recidivism by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- updating its approach to crime prevention, including a focus on reducing the frequency and severity of offending</li> <li>- Implementing a new case management model and direct supervision of adult offenders</li> <li>- training Corrections staff in core correctional practices to provide them with the skills/tools to more effectively deal with offenders</li> <li>- Developing and implementing the Restorative Practices program at the Nova Scotia Youth Facility.</li> <li>- continuing reintegration programming and planning through the Correctional Services Division</li> </ul>
	(10b) Percent of incarcerated young offenders who re-offend	To date, an operational definition of recidivism based on offender re-conviction has been developed.			

## 7. Budget Context

<b>Justice</b>			
	<b>2010-2011 Estimate</b>	<b>2010-11 Forecast</b>	<b>2011-12 Estimate</b>
<b>Program &amp; Service Area</b>	<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>(\$ thousands)</b>	<b>(\$ thousands)</b>
<b>Gross Departmental Expenses:</b>			
Administration	26,345	26,413	26,437
Nova Scotia Legal Aid	22,039	22,439	21,486
Court Services	61,802	61,414	63,839
Correctional Services	60,017	59,626	59,683
Public Trustee	2,174	2,157	2,213
Fatality Inquiry Act	3,621	3,975	3,360
EMO			7,183
Public Safety	113,489	106,005	117,835
<b>Total Gross Department Expenses</b>	<b>289,487</b>	<b>282,029</b>	<b>302,036</b>
<b>Additional Information:</b>			
Ordinary Revenue	(1,578)	(1,578)	(1,578)
Fees and Other Charges	(19,540)	(20,003)	(20,578)
Ordinary Recoveries	(95,573)	(94,460)	(100,324)
<b>TCA Purchase Requirements</b>			<b>2,165</b>
<b>Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>1,632</b>

## 8. Appendix A

### Notes pertaining to performance measures:

1) In this case, clients consist of government departments and agencies that rely on the department's legal services staff.

2) A new industry standard for case processing times was introduced by Statistics Canada in 2006-07. The definition of a court case now includes all charges against the same person having overlapping court dates.

3) The data on adult criminal court case processing times are from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics(CCJS), Adult Criminal Court Survey with the exception of the data for the 2009-10 fiscal year which is from the Justice Enterprise Information Network (JEIN), Nova Scotia Department of Justice. There are slight differences in the volume of cases (and consequently, the average case processing times) as calculated by the CCJS versus JEIN. In part, this is due to the fact that CCJS includes in its count of completed cases, any cases with no activity for 12 months. CCJS court volume data will be available in March, 2011.

4) For youth case processing times, Nova Scotia excludes restorative justice and bench warrants when calculating the time it takes to process a youth from first hearing to disposition. Restorative justice is excluded because on average it takes over 200 days for an offender to successfully complete the program and this can artificially inflate the overall processing times. Bench warrants are excluded because, once issued by the Court, the Court cannot control how long it takes to have that warrant executed.

5) Strategic Actions continued:

To meet our target of 98 days elapsed time in youth case processing, we will continue to dialogue with our local justice partners to help them identify and address causes of delay. This is expected to include the development of a case template within which local justice partners can effectively identify and address issues particular to their situation that adds to delay.

We will also ensure local police agencies continue to be aware of the serious and pending charges policy that requires young persons charged with offences meeting that criteria are required to appear in court within 7 days of arrest.

6) Since Spring -2005, the Atlantic Quarterly Survey has provided an indication of the public's knowledge of and confidence in the justice system in Nova Scotia on an annual basis.

7) The Nova Scotia Department of Justice has just finalized a new policy on the disclosure of information on major incidents involving persons in custody. As a result, the definition of "major incident" will now include the following:

- a lockdown of an entire correctional facility;



- a major disturbance at a correctional facility (a disturbance of four or more persons in custody, over a protracted period of 60 minutes or longer, and (a) necessitating the hold or call back of staff or (b) exceeding the resource capacity of the facility, and requiring emergency police services to respond to the identified threat);
- major disruptions of day-to-day activities in a correctional facility or Justice Centre/Court (including major power outages or loss of telephone service) where it has been determined that there is a threat to public safety;
- purposeful damage to a correctional facility, Justice Centre/Court, Department of Justice office or Department vehicle estimated to be in excess of \$5,000;
- a motor vehicle accident which occurs while transporting a person(s) in custody resulting in an emergency medical response at the scene or inpatient hospitalization;
- assault committed by a person in custody against another person within a correctional facility, while in the custody of Sheriff Services, or while in court resulting in serious injury that requires inpatient hospitalization;
- escape from custody including escape from Sheriff Services, escape from correctional facilities and escape from escorted temporary absences;
- wrongful release of a person from custody prior to the expiration of his or her sentence or remand;
- seizure of explosives or firearms at a correctional facility or Justice Centre/Court;
- a hostage taking;
- a bomb threat;
- major seizure of drugs at a correctional facility;
- closure of a correctional facility to the public as a result of a health concern (e.g., flu outbreak); and,
- the death of a person while in custody.

8) Overall crime rate is a key indicator of social and economic well-being within a society. It indicates how many criminal incidents (per 100,000 population) have been reported to the police for violent, property and other offences, excluding *Criminal Code* traffic offences.

In 2008, Statistics Canada expanded the violent crime rate to include a number of offences which were previously considered to be “other *Criminal Code*” offences, but target and impact individual victims.

Crime rate statistics are influenced by many factors such as reporting by the public to police and police practices. While the target is to reduce crime rates, increased police resources and public confidence could result in more crimes coming to the attention of police, which will impact the official crime rate.

9) The Crime Severity Index is a relatively new tool developed by Statistics Canada to complement the crime rate. While the crime rate measures the volume of crime coming to the attention of the police, the Crime Severity Index measures the severity of police-reported crime. It measures change in the overall seriousness of crime from one year to the next, as well as relative differences in the seriousness of crime across the country. The Index is standardized to “100” for Canada (a system similar to the Consumer Price Index), using 2006 as a base year. Three

severity indices have been created: one for overall police-reported crime (including all offences), one for violent crime (including only crimes against the person), and one for non-violent crime.

10) Crime rate statistics are influenced by many factors such as reporting by the public to police and police practices. While the target is to reduce crime rates, increased police resources and public confidence could result in more crimes coming to the attention of police, which will impact the official crime rate.

11) The Atlantic Quarterly Survey, conducted annually since Spring 2005 (base year), provides an indication of the public's perception of safety in the home. The percentage of Nova Scotians who feel safe in their homes when home alone at night increased between 2005 and 2009.

12) The Atlantic Quarterly Survey, conducted annually since Spring 2005 (base year), provides an indication of the public's perception of safety in the neighbourhood. The percentage of Nova Scotians who feel safe in their neighbourhoods when walking alone after dark is stable in 2009 compared with 2005.

### Changes to performance measures for 2011-2012

Please note that 8 performance measures used in our 2010-2011 Statement of Mandate and in previous business plans have been eliminated from our 2011-2012 Statement of Mandate. The list of measures and the rationale for their elimination appear below:

Performance Measure	Rationale for elimination
1) Annual cost of providing justice services 2) Per capita costs of providing justice services	Budget allocations are set by Treasury Board and are outside the control of the Department of Justice.
3) Federal funds leveraged by the Department of Justice	Federal funding allocations to the provinces are set by the federal government and outside the control of the Department of Justice
4) % of civil cases reaching final disposition within 12 months 5) % of family cases reaching final disposition within 12 months	The Department of Justice has limited control over civil and family court processes where the pace is largely set by judges and litigants.
6) % of family cases that reach consent through conciliation	Conciliation is generally not available outside of HRM and CBRM areas at this time and thus does not allow us to provide province- wide data.
7) Number of conditional sentence order breaches 8) Number of probation order breaches	These measures are no longer connected to the Department's priorities. There is also no reliable source of data for these measures.

## Changes to definition of “major incidents”:

The Nova Scotia Department of Justice has just finalized a new policy on the disclosure of information on major incidents involving persons in custody. As a result, the definition of “major incident” will change to include the following (please note that changes to the former definition appear in red font):

- a lockdown of an entire correctional facility;
- a major disturbance at a correctional facility (a disturbance of four or more persons in custody, over a protracted period of 60 minutes or longer, and (a) necessitating the hold or call back of staff or (b) exceeding the resource capacity of the facility, and requiring emergency police services to respond to the identified threat);
- major disruptions of day-to-day activities in a correctional facility or Justice Centre/Court (including major power outages or loss of telephone service) where it has been determined that there is a threat to public safety;
- purposeful damage to a correctional facility, Justice Centre/Court, Department of Justice office or Department vehicle estimated to be in excess of \$5,000;
- a motor vehicle accident which occurs while transporting a person(s) in custody resulting in an emergency medical response at the scene or inpatient hospitalization;
- assault committed by a person in custody against another person within a correctional facility, while in the custody of Sheriff Services, or while in court resulting in serious injury that requires inpatient hospitalization;
- escape from custody including escape from Sheriff Services, escape from correctional facilities and escape from escorted temporary absences;
- wrongful release of a person from custody prior to the expiration of his or her sentence or remand;
- seizure of explosives or firearms at a correctional facility or Justice Centre/Court;
- a hostage taking;
- a bomb threat;
- major seizure of drugs at a correctional facility;
- closure of a correctional facility to the public as a result of a health concern (e.g., flu outbreak); and,
- the death of a person while in custody (*this has been broadened from “an unnatural death” in the previous definition*).

The changes to the definition of “major incident” have affected three measures that were included in our 2010-2011 Statement of Mandate and in previous business plans:

- Major incidents within correctional facilities
- Escapes or wrongful releases from correctional facilities or staff, and
- Escapes from Sheriff’s custody.

The new measure, “Major incidents involving offenders/prisoners” (see measure #5 on page 10) will replace the three previous measures. The new measure will track all the types of major incidents listed above and report on each separately. We will track the number of incidents in 2011-2012 to establish our base-year data and targets for coming years.

Note that we will report on the three separate measures, as they appeared in our 2010-2011 Statement of Mandate, in our 2010-2011 Accountability Report.