

**Department of Justice
2013-14 Statement of Mandate**

April 4, 2013

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1. Message from the Minister and Deputy Minister

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, we are pleased to present the 2013-2014 Statement of Mandate. This statement outlines the steps we are taking to make life better for families across Nova Scotia.

The Department of Justice provides a broad spectrum of services. From working to ensure the safety and security of Nova Scotians, to the provision of quality legal services to the Government through our Legal Services Division; the cornerstone of all these efforts is collaboration, dedication and excellence.

Our plans for the year will see work continue to help Nova Scotians feel safe and secure and to ensure they have confidence in the justice system. We will also continue to work with government and community partners to ensure justice policies, programs and services are effectively delivered and meet the needs of our citizens.

As part of our continuing efforts to improve the safety and security of Nova Scotians, we are undertaking important work through the Emergency Management Office to enhance the Province's 911 service. We are also reviewing all Nova Scotia municipalities' emergency plans in cooperation with local emergency management officials, and engaging in emergency management capacity building activities with Mi'kmaq partners.

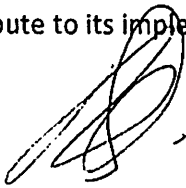
In the coming year, the department will focus on innovations in service delivery by improving the accessibility and effectiveness of services. Take the work we're doing in family justice as an example. By expanding family justice services across the province as well as ensuring that our family law statutes are up to date and easier to use, we will help Nova Scotians experiencing a family breakup, domestic violence or other legal issues to be better informed about the law and about the processes and services that make up family law in the province.

We're also working with partners across the justice system, judges, lawyers, police and others, to enhance access to justice by expanding the use of technology in areas such as e-probate and paying summary offence tickets on line

Crime prevention will continue to be the foundation for everything we do. A commitment to crime prevention is the most effective way to reduce crime and make our communities safer. With many partners, we will continue to lead the implementation of Nova Scotia's Domestic Violence Action Plan to address this pervasive issue in a way that better supports victims and families.

The work of this department is important and challenging. We will only be successful in our commitment to Nova Scotians with the support of a healthy, engaged and well-trained workforce. We will focus our efforts in the year ahead on further engaging our staff and in the

development of a strategic plan for the department. We welcome your feedback on our plan for 2013-2014 and extend sincere thanks to all who helped develop it and all who will contribute to its implementation.



Ross Landry
Minister



Judith Ferguson
Deputy Minister

2. **Mandate**

The Department of Justice is responsible for the administration of justice and for promoting the safety and security of Nova Scotians through justice-related programs, services and initiatives.

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 promoting public safety in Nova Scotia.

5. Government Priorities

Government's main objective and commitment to Nova Scotians, is to make life better for families. The Department of Justice's priorities for 2013-2014, as well as its on-going activities, support government in achieving this objective.

Provide better healthcare for you and your family

To feel and be safe and secure is integral to the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians. Ensuring our communities and homes are safe and peaceful is an important way to make life better for families in this province. In 2013-2014, the Department of Justice will focus efforts on creating safe communities and environments that promote a healthy lifestyle.

This year, the department will implement several new crime prevention initiatives that will strengthen its response to serious and organized crime including the development of a provincial response to marihuana and synthetic drug use and production. Collaborative approaches in responding to root causes of crime will also be a key area of crime prevention work in the upcoming year. Expanding the use of restorative approaches in schools and exploring creative multi-agency approaches to at risk youth such as the HUB model in Glasgow, Scotland are but two ways the department will work collaboratively to address the root causes of crime.

In collaboration with our many government and community partners, we will continue to implement the Nova Scotia's Domestic Violence Action Plan. Last year, the department launched the first Domestic Violence Court Pilot Program in Sydney. This year, the department will evaluate the program to ensure our efforts are enhancing outcomes for children and families experiencing domestic violence. The department will also move ahead with a province-wide launch of *Dialogue on Domestic Violence*, a project which will deepen our understanding of domestic violence through the first-voice accounts of those affected by this pervasive issue.

In 2013-14, the Department of Justice will strive to achieve better outcomes for offenders by implementing programs such as the direct supervision program at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility. Through this program, the department aims to increase the safety of offenders in custody and improve integration of offenders back into the community.

Ensuring the ongoing safety and security of Nova Scotians also means having a 911 system which is responsive to the needs of Nova Scotians and well-positioned to adjust to changing technology. This year, the Department of Justice will focus efforts on business improvements and enhancements to the 911 system.

Create good jobs and grow the economy

Ensuring that Nova Scotia is a peaceful and secure place is important to Nova Scotia families, the communities in which they live and the businesses that are an essential part of those communities.

Through its continued crime prevention efforts, the Department of Justice will aim to reduce crime and create the safer communities that have long been a vital social and economic asset in this province. Safe and peaceful communities contribute to a high quality of life that is attractive to both businesses and their employees and families.

Businesses also place a high value on environments that can support business continuity management in the event of an emergency. The Emergency Management Office (EMO) plays an important role in helping communities manage and recover from the impacts of an emergency and to resume normal operations as promptly and efficiently as possible. An area of focus this year will be to work with stakeholders to enhance emergency management. Part of this work will include a review of municipal emergency plans. EMO will also work towards developing an effective strategy for emergency management in First Nations' communities to help provide these communities with the training and expertise they require to develop and implement effective emergency management programs.

The Department of Justice supports the Jobs Here Strategy's focus on innovation and environmental stewardship. Several infrastructure renewal projects are underway which will increase both the energy efficiency of the department and the workplace safety of employees.

Across the province, there are opportunities to bring together services and to deal with aging infrastructure. The department continues to make strategic investments that will increase justice efficiencies and strengthen/support local economies. Upgrades to the Law Courts in Halifax and the continued construction of a new correctional facility are two areas of focus for 2013-14.

Renovations to the Law Courts are part of a multi-year project to upgrade the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and mechanical systems, which houses the Court of Appeal and the Nova Scotia Supreme Court. The province is also looking at possible locations for a new courthouse in Truro. The proposed new Truro Justice Centre will replace two aging courthouses. This work is in addition to ongoing improvements to courtrooms across the province.

The construction of the Northeast Nova Scotia Correctional Facility, a 200-bed institution in Priestville, Pictou County will also create about 100 jobs in the community, 70 of them new positions. Construction of the facility is expected to be complete in 2014.

In the upcoming year, Correctional Services, in partnership with the Office of Aboriginal Affairs will provide increased correctional employment opportunities, for candidates from Nova Scotia's First Nations community.

Make life more affordable and break the cycle of poverty

The Department of Justice will focus on improving the accessibility and effectiveness of justice services by implementing an array of innovations in service delivery in the upcoming year.

Improved access to justice is being facilitated through increased use of technology. Technology is being used to design, develop and implement e-Probate services, e-Disclosure in Provincial and Supreme Courts, and the on-line payment of Summary Offence Tickets. The Department will also continue to work closely with its colleagues in the justice system to find innovative ways to shorten criminal court processing times for both youth and adults.

Understanding that a family breakup is a challenging and emotional time, the department has made a commitment to improve Nova Scotian families' access to the justice system through the expansion of family justice services across the province as well by ensuring that our family law statutes are up-to-date and easier to use. Much of our work in this area revolves around having a differential response to conflict assessment in a way that is innovative, efficient and provides improved outcomes for clients, so that clients are directed to the appropriate level of service at the right time.

Some of the initiatives Justice will be working on in the upcoming year include the promotion and evaluation of the Family Law website and the expansion of assisted dispute resolution in the Family Court sites. The purpose of this project is to keep people out of court by promoting assisted dispute resolution and to effectively case manage cases so that court time is used more effectively and efficiently.

Get back to balance and ensure government lives within its means

Many of the department's priorities for 2013-2014 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. The Department will continue to explore new and innovative ways to deliver services in pursuit of improved access to justice and greater efficiency.

The Department of Justice will focus on transforming service delivery by expanding its use of e-disclosure and video-conferencing. Innovations in the delivery of e-Probate will increase access to justice for many Nova Scotians. The Department will continue working closely with other

members of the justice system to shorten criminal court processing times for both youth and adults.

Another way the department is working to enhance innovation and efficiency is in the development of a 5-year strategic plan. The strategic plan will provide the department with a renewed vision, mission, objectives and action plans to carry us forward for the next five years. In our plan, we will be looking at how our work can be conducted innovatively, efficiently and with a view to the benefits of technological enhancements. Staff engagement is a critical piece of this work. We will focus our efforts in the year ahead on strengthening staff engagement as this work cannot be achieved without a healthy, engaged and well-trained workforce.

6. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Strategic Direction: A system that is properly administered and cost-effective

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target																		
Improve access to justice system by transforming service delivery	(1 a) Case processing times ¹ in <u>adult</u> criminal courts	Base year: 2006-07 Nova Scotia: 199 days Canada: 250 days	Annual target: 2013-14 To meet or fall below the Canadian average elapsed time to complete an adult case in criminal court.	Subsequent year data: Average # of days <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>NS</th> <th>Canada</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007-08:</td> <td>195</td> <td>246</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008-09:</td> <td>210</td> <td>230</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009-10:</td> <td>223^r</td> <td>224</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-11:</td> <td>228</td> <td>238</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-12:</td> <td>239²</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		NS	Canada	2007-08:	195	246	2008-09:	210	230	2009-10:	223 ^r	224	2010-11:	228	238	2011-12:	239 ²		Court Services is collaborating on several initiatives to reduce case processing times in youth and adult criminal courts. These initiatives include adopting and implementing the recommendations of the <i>Report on Adult Court Case Wait Times</i> . Some of the initiatives being undertaken include the Crown File Ownership Initiative in Sydney, the Provincial Court Arraignment Project in Dartmouth Provincial Court and the Court Contacting Clients in Advance of Court Hearings Project at Halifax Provincial Court.
		NS	Canada																				
	2007-08:	195	246																				
2008-09:	210	230																					
2009-10:	223 ^r	224																					
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2011-12:	239 ²																						
(1 b) Case processing times in <u>youth</u> criminal courts ³	Base year: 2006-07 120 days	Annual target: 2013-14 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.	Subsequent year data: 2007-08: 112 days 2008-09: 122 days 2009-10: 125 days 2010-11: 125 days 2011-12: 101 days	In Youth Court best practices Committees have been established at each Justice Centre to co-ordinate efforts between stakeholders to reduce case processing times. Improved access to Justice is being facilitated through increased use of technology. Technology is being used to design, develop and implement e-disclosure in Provincial and Supreme Courts, the e-Probate Project, on-line payment of Summary Offence Ticket (SOT) Project and integrated one-stop access to family law through the Family Law website.																			
(1c) % of <u>youth</u> criminal court cases completed within the 98-day target	Base year: 2007-08 53%	Annual target: 2013-14 To increase the percentage of youth cases being completed within the 98-day target.	Subsequent year data: 2008-09: 52% 2009-10: 51% 2010-11: 49% 2011-12: 59%	The multi-year Court Services' Client Service Re-Design Project, supported by Working Groups focused on technology, judicial engagement, business processing improvement, staff training, communications and best practices research, has the objective of developing a long term human resources strategy to enable Justice Centres to operate most efficiently and effectively.																			

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target																					
Improve access to justice system by transforming service delivery	(2) Percentage of active Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) cases that are in full compliance ⁴	Base year: 2005-06 Nova Scotia: 56% Canada: 54%	Annual target: 2013-14 To remain above the national compliance rate	Subsequent year data: % in full compliance <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>NS</th> <th>Canada</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2006-07:</td> <td>58%</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007-08:</td> <td>59%</td> <td>52%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008-09:</td> <td>66%</td> <td>56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009-10:</td> <td>70%</td> <td>57%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-11:</td> <td>72%</td> <td>59%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-12:</td> <td>69%</td> <td>58%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		NS	Canada	2006-07:	58%	51%	2007-08:	59%	52%	2008-09:	66%	56%	2009-10:	70%	57%	2010-11:	72%	59%	2011-12:	69%	58%	The Maintenance Enforcement Program will strive to maintain compliance at a stable rate through the transition of the program to New Waterford. To achieve this, the MEP will provide intensive training to new staff to focus systematic enforcement efforts.
	NS	Canada																								
2006-07:	58%	51%																								
2007-08:	59%	52%																								
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Strategic Direction: There is public confidence in the justice system					
Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target
Improve accessibility and effectiveness of family justice services	(3) Public's confidence in the justice system ⁵ (data from <i>Atlantic Quarterly Survey</i>)	<p>Base year: 2005</p> <p>74%</p>	<p>Annual target: 2013-14</p> <p>To maintain/increase public confidence in the justice system.</p>	<p>Subsequent year data:</p> <p>2006: 76%</p> <p>2007: 70%</p> <p>2008: 72%</p> <p>2009: 76%</p> <p>2010: 74%</p> <p>2011: 75%</p> <p>2012: 74%</p>	<p>Court Services is working collaboratively with other Justice Stakeholders to improve access and effectiveness of family justice services. This collaboration includes a pilot project to provide summary advice counsel to South-West Nova Scotia and the roll-out of an integrated one-stop access to family law through the Family Law website. Other related initiatives include a thorough re-design of Family Division and Family Court Service Delivery to implement the use of a conflict assessment tool, making better use of staff conciliation services, and improved case management so that court time is used most effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>In Bridgewater a pilot project is underway to provide early referral to Legal Aid for child protection cases. This project takes an alternative dispute resolution and restorative justice approach to child protection litigation. This project aims to provide additional resolution mechanisms outside of court proceedings.</p>

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target
Increased awareness of Justice initiatives	(4) Public's awareness of Dept of Justice initiatives Specific DoJ initiatives being tracked will vary from year to year.	Base year: 2012 14% of Nova Scotians surveyed indicated being aware of the Neighbours Friends and Families Campaign. 96% of Nova Scotians surveyed indicated being aware that the 911 system should only be used for emergency situations.	Annual target: 2013-14 To increase the public's awareness of various Dept of Justice Initiatives.	This is a new measure. Baseline data will be collected via the May, 2012 Atlantic Quarterly Survey with follow-up in May of 2013.	DoJ will continue to raise awareness of domestic violence programs and services. The Emergency Management Office (EMO) will launch a campaign to improve public awareness related to appropriate use of the 911 system with a particular focus on reducing unintended "pocket dialing" calls to 911 in 2013-14.

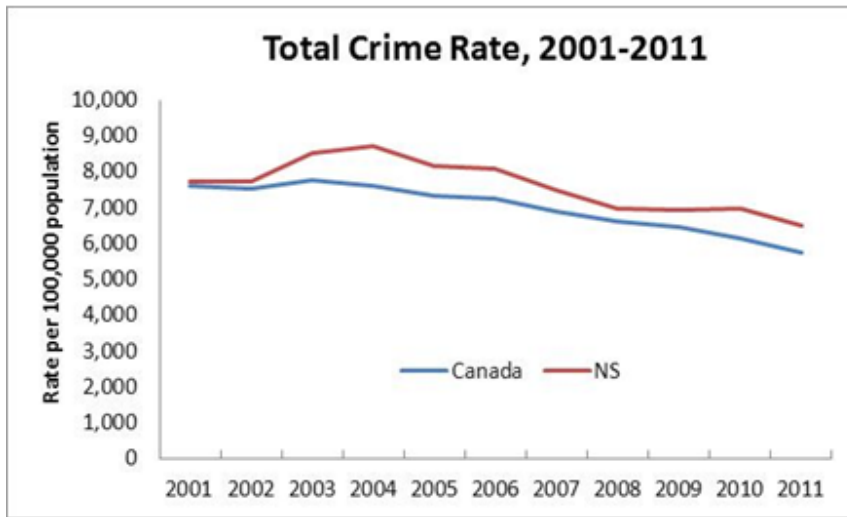
Strategic Direction: People are and feel safe and secure					
Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target
Create safe communities and environments that promote a healthy lifestyle	(5 a) Volume of crime as measured by the crime rate per 100,000 population ⁶ See also Figures 1 and 2, following this table	Base year: 2001 Canada NS 7,587 7,725	Annual Target: 2013-14 Reduce the crime rate in Nova Scotia. Ultimate target: Reduce the crime rate in Nova Scotia to below the national average.	Subsequent year data: Overall crime rate trend data: Canada NS 2002: 7512 7738 2003: 7770 8531 2004: 7600 8705 2005: 7325 8147 2006: 7244 8081 2007: 6899 7496 2008: 6617 6988 ^f 2009: 6442 ^f 6928 ^f 2010: 6139 ^f 6964 ^f 2011: 5756 6501	Public Safety will strengthen the province's response to serious crime and organized crime by: - exploring the Cease Fire Initiative, which is a collaborative approach to respond to, and reduce, gun violence in Nova Scotia - developing a provincial response to marihuana and synthetic drug use and production in Nova Scotia. - continuing efforts to promote the development of safer, stronger communities by enhancing public awareness of the <i>Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act (SCAN)</i> as well as the Civil Forfeiture Unit, in order to assist in community safety issues. - exploring, with the intent to develop solutions, initiatives to assist in deterring criminal activity related to stolen property. This focus may include illegal transactions in various kinds of stolen metals. Public Safety will enhance road safety by: - continuing to support the <i>Road Safety Action Plan</i> by prioritizing a new intelligence driven team approach with emphasis on enforcement, prevention, and education that should result in the reduction of accidents and a safer, more secure, highway system for Nova Scotia - exploring and monitoring the new impaired driving models in B.C. and Alberta which have had dramatic success in reducing road vehicle accident fatalities.

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target
Create safe communities and environments that promote a healthy lifestyle (continued)	(5b) Volume of youth crime as measured by the youth-accused crime rate per 100,000 population aged 12 to 17 years ⁷ See also Figures 3 and 4, following this table	Base year: 2005 Canada NS 6596 9332	Annual Target: 2013-14 Reduce the youth-accused crime rate in Nova Scotia. Ultimate target: Reduce the youth-accused crime rate in Nova Scotia to below the national average.	Subsequent year data: Overall youth-accused crime rate trend data: Canada NS 2006: 6812 10942 2007: 6783 10563 2008: 6578 9843 ^f 2009: 6594 9441 ^f 2010: 6187 ^f 9153 ^f 2011: 5564 8948	Public Safety will adopt a collaborative approach to respond more effectively to the root causes of crime by: - Continuing to implement the <i>Domestic Violence Action Plan</i> including developing campaigns to build awareness and help people address domestic violence making it easier for victims to navigate and access services - Exploring the feasibility of using the HUB Model of multi agency response as developed by the city of Glasgow and adapted in Saskatchewan with strong results - Contributing to the <i>Bullying Action Plan</i> with Dept. of Education through four key actions: 1) Restorative approaches in schools initiative; a three year collaborative project to equip educators with the tools and resources they need to transform their schools to restorative schools 2) Host a police leaders symposium to explore issues surrounding the police role vis a vis bullying, with a focus on prevention , investigation and tracking 3) 2013 annual crime prevention symposium theme will be building relationships to end interpersonal violence 4) Arrange and host an information session on current best practice approaches in bullying prevention for community organizations, including Lighthouses partners - Begin gradual expansion of the Lighthouses program by adding two new partners in 2013 Correctional Services will further imbed Core Correctional Practices into operations and daily practices as well as introduce cognitive skills development programs for offenders in custody to further promote pro-social skills and behaviours from offenders

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target
Create safe communities and environments that promote a healthy lifestyle (continued)	(6a) Public perception of safety in the home ⁸	Base year: 2005 76%	Annual Target: 2013-14 to maintain/increase the public's perceptions of safety in the home.	Subsequent year data: 2006: 79% 2007: 78% 2008: 81% 2009: 86% 2010: -- 2011: 79% 2012: 87%	Court Services' Domestic Violence Court Project in Sydney is piloting an approach that provides perpetrators with the opportunity to admit their guilt and learn new skills in an effort to change behaviours. The outcome of the pilot, if successful, is the changing of perpetrator's behavior through an educational and therapeutic program. Through the Domestic Violence Court and Mental Health Court systems, Court Services is evaluating the effectiveness of a problem solving approach to dealing with offenders. Crime Prevention Actions: See measure 5a/b above Policing Actions: See measure 5a/b above
	(6b) Public perception of safety in the neighbourhood ⁹	Base year: 2005 74%	Annual Target: 2013-14 to maintain/increase the public's perceptions of safety in the neighbourhood.	Subsequent year data: 2006: 72% 2007: 67% 2008: 74% 2009: 75% 2010: -- 2011: 74% 2012: 75%	

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to achieve target
<p>Create safe communities and environments that promote a healthy lifestyle (continued)</p>	<p>(7) Major incidents¹⁰ involving persons in custody</p>	<p>Base year: 2011-12 16 major incidents</p>	<p>Annual Target: 2013-14 No major incidents</p>	<p>Subsequent year data: 2012-13: 8 (as of Jan 30/13)</p>	<p>Court Services is continuing to improve safety and security of court facilities to ensure compliance with Occupational Health and safety requirements. This includes improvements in courthouse security (i.e. installation of CCTV cameras), courtroom layouts, Deputy Sheriff training and prisoner movement procedures</p> <p>The Department of Justice will continue with the construction of the Northern Nova Scotia Correctional Facility thereby allowing for the closure of older smaller facilities while increasing custodial capacity within the province.</p> <p>Correctional Services will expand the Direct Supervision initiative at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility to include additional living areas. This will better ensure the safety of staff and offenders and the successful reintegration of offenders into society.</p>

Figure 1



Since peaking in 2004, Nova Scotia's total crime rate has declined by 25%. Nova Scotia's crime rate trends are similar to the national trends, however, Nova Scotia's crime rate has been consistently higher than Canada's over the course of the last decade – Nova Scotia's rate was approximately 13% higher than Canada's in 2011.

All three indices of crime have been on a downward trend. Nova Scotia's violent crime rate has decreased by 31% since peaking in 2003. In comparison, the violent crime rate for Canada as a whole has dropped 14% over the same period of time. While Nova Scotia's violent crime rate remains higher than the national average, the faster decline in Nova Scotia's rate suggests a narrowing of the gap between the two. Property crime in Nova Scotia decreased by 26% since peaking in 2004. The rate for other Criminal Code Offences has also declined over the last number of years, decreasing by 17% since 2003.

Figure 2

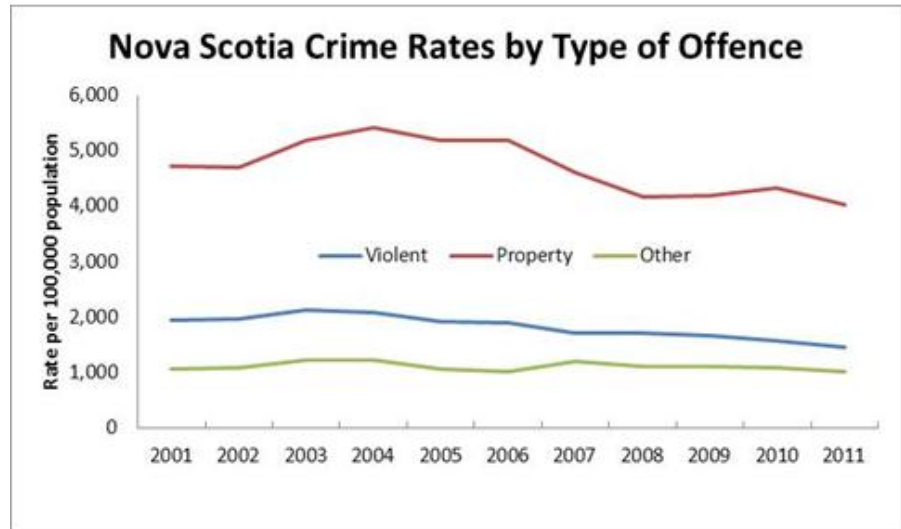
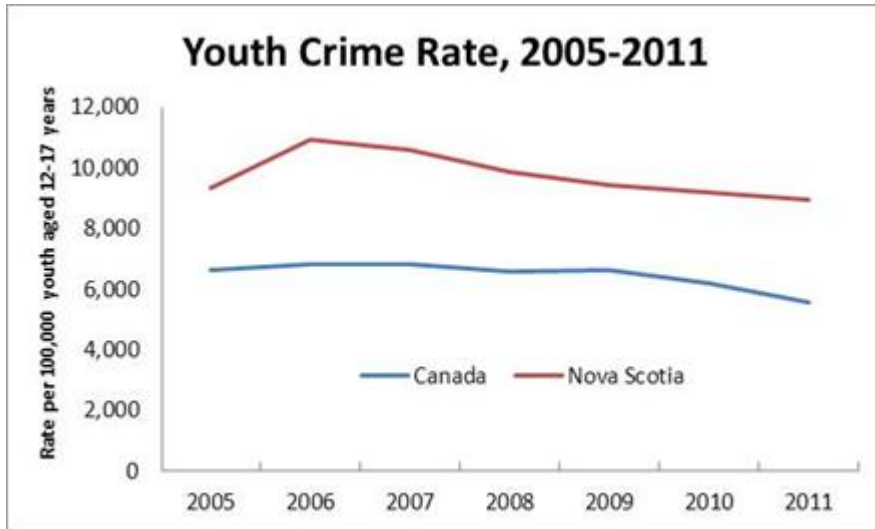


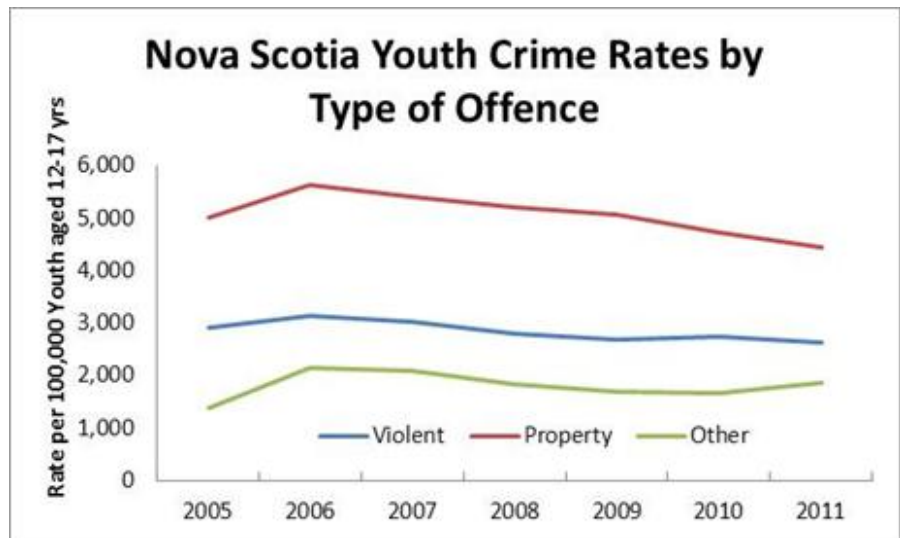
Figure 3



Since peaking in 2006, Nova Scotia's youth-accused crime rate has declined by 18%. While both Nova Scotia's youth crime rate and the national youth crime rate have shown similar downward trends, Nova Scotia's rate remains higher than the national rate.

Figure 4

The rate of Nova Scotia youth accused of violent offences has declined by 16% since peaking in 2006 and youth accused of property offences have declined by 21%. After four consecutive years of decline, the rate of youth accused of other *Criminal Code* offences increased by 11% in 2011.



Budget Context

Nova Scotia Department of Justice			
	2012-2013 Estimate	2012-2013 Forecast	2013-2014 Estimate
Program & Service Area	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)
Gross Departmental Expenses:			
Administration	26,119	24,179	23,948
Nova Scotia Legal Aid	21,302	21,302	22,181
Court Services	65,303	65,994	64,113
Correctional Services	58,610	59,833	59,719
Compliance and Internal Investigation Services	542	425	516
Public Trustee	2,241	2,201	2,210
Fatality Inquiry Act	3,943	4,197	3,871
Public Safety	120,630	124,311	125,751
Serious Incident Response Team	595	524	584
EMO	7,438	8,783	6,908
Total Gross Departmental Expenses	306,723	311,749	309,801
Additional Information:			
Fees and Other Charges	(22,637)	(23,500)	(24,514)
Ordinary Recoveries	(106,507)	(110,816)	(109,730)
TCA Purchase Requirements	3,985	3,851	1,020
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	1,607	1,542	1,568

Note:

Estimates/Forecasts: All estimates/forecasts should be rounded to the nearest thousand.

FTE's for Departments: Rounding should follow what appears in 1.1 of the Estimates book.

FTE's for PSO's: In accordance with what appears in the Nova Scotia Estimates Supplementary Detail, all FTE information should be rounded to the nearest tenth.

Notes pertaining to Performance Measures

Over the course of the coming year, the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is undertaking to develop a new strategic plan which will include the development of new performance measures and targets.

1. Case processing time refers to the average number of days it takes to process cases in criminal court from first to last appearance. A new industry standard for case processing times was introduced by Statistics Canada in 2006-2007. The definition of a court case includes all charges against the same person having overlapping court dates.
2. 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 2011-12 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 Spring, 2013.
3. Youth case processing time is defined as the average elapsed time from the accused's first appearance in youth court until final disposition. Nova Scotia excludes restorative justice cases and bench warrants when calculating case processing times and reporting on the corresponding case volumes. Cases involving restorative justice are excluded because, on average, these cases take over 200 days to complete, which artificially inflates 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.
4. Please note that the data presented for this measure has changed from previous years due to changes in how it is collected by Statistics Canada. Previously, data presented was from the *Maintenance Enforcement Survey* (MES), which Statistics Canada no longer reports on. Instead, Statistics Canada uses the *Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs* (SMEP) to collect this data. The rate for cases in full compliance is calculated based on the number of cases in full compliance divided by total cases having a payment due. Cases where there is nothing due in a month are now excluded from analyses. Note that percentage figures included in the table show the proportion of cases in full compliance with payment in March of the fiscal year.
5. The *Atlantic Quarterly Survey* provides an indication of the public's level of confidence in the justice system. Figures for this measure include respondents that indicated having "a great deal

of confidence” as well as those who indicated having “some confidence” in the justice system as per the *Atlantic Quarterly Survey*.

6. The crime rate is a key indicator of social well-being within a society. The crime rate is calculated by summing criminal incidents reported to the police (excluding traffic offences as well as other provincial and federal statute offences) and dividing by the population. In this calculation, all offences are counted equally; for example, one incident of homicide is counted in the same way as one incident of bicycle theft. As such, the crime rate tends to be driven by high-volume, less serious offences, such as minor thefts and mischief.

The crime rate is expressed as a rate per 100,000 population. This standardized figure allows us to compare rates across communities. In addition to the overall crime rate, there are three sub-totals: violent, property and other *Criminal Code*, excluding *Criminal Code* traffic offences.

It is important to note that 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, increased police resources and public confidence could result in an increase in the number of crimes coming to the attention of police, which will impact the official crime rate.

7. In Canada, separate justice systems exist for youth (12 to 17 years) and adults (18 years and older) accused of crime. The youth crime rate is calculated by totaling the number of youth accused of a criminal offence and then dividing that number by the population of youth aged 12 to 17 years. The number of youth accused includes those who were charged (or recommended for charging) by police and those who were dealt with by means other than the formal laying of a charge. Examples of those “not charged” include youth diverted from the formal criminal justice system through the use of warnings, cautions and referrals to community programs.

The youth crime rate is expressed as a rate per 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17 years. This standardized figure allows us to compare rates across communities. In addition to the overall youth crime rate, there are three sub-totals: violent, property and other *Criminal Code*, excluding *Criminal Code* traffic offences.

8. The *Atlantic Quarterly Survey* provides an indication of the public’s perception of safety in the home by asking respondents to provide a rating of how worried they are about safety from crime when alone in their home in the evening or at night. Figures for this measure include respondents who indicated that they were “not at all worried” when alone in their home in the evening or at night as well as those who were “not very worried”.

9. The *Atlantic Quarterly Survey* provides an indication of the public's perception of safety in their neighbourhood by asking respondents to rate how safe they feel when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. Figures for this measure include respondents who indicated that they felt "very safe" when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark as well as those who felt "reasonably safe".

10. Major incidents are defined in the Department of Justice's Major Incidents Disclosure Policy as follows:

- 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.