



NOVA SCOTIA  
PUBLIC PROSECUTION  
SERVICE

---

---

ANNUAL REPORT

*FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2017*

---

---

© Crown copyright, Province of Nova Scotia, 2018

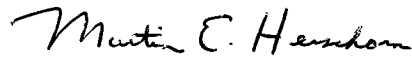
Public Prosecution Service Annual Report  
for the period April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017  
Public Prosecution Service  
September 2018

ISBN: 978-1-55457-781-1

Honourable Kevin Murphy  
Speaker of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly  
Office of the Speaker  
Province House  
Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour of presenting to you, and through you to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service, as required by Section 13 of the *Public Prosecutions Act*. This report covers the period from April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017.



Martin E. Herschorn, QC  
Director of Public Prosecutions

# CONTENTS

The Mandate of the Public Prosecution Service .....	1
Mission .....	1
Goals .....	2
Core Business Functions .....	2
Priorities and Accomplishments 2016–2017 .....	3
Measuring Our Performance .....	5
The Role of the Attorney General .....	7
The Role of the Director of Public Prosecutions .....	8
The Role of the Crown Attorney .....	9
Organization Description .....	11
Appendix A: Criminal Code Charges by Judicial Centre/Category of Offence .....	14
Appendix B: Provincial Statute Charges by Judicial Centre/Category of Offence .....	16
Appendix C: Appeals Statistics .....	17
Appendix D: Budget Resources .....	19
Appendix E: Public Prosecutions Act .....	20

## **THE MANDATE OF THE PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE**

In Nova Scotia all prosecutions for criminal and provincial offences are brought in the name of the Crown, because the Crown is responsible for bringing before the courts those accused of prohibited conduct that adversely affects the safety and well-being of the community.

The mandate of this prosecution service is to ensure fair and equal treatment in the prosecution of offences.

All prosecutions within the jurisdiction of the Attorney General of Nova Scotia are the responsibility of the Director of Public Prosecutions and are conducted by the Crown attorneys of the Public Prosecution Service independently of the Attorney General. The only limitation on the operational independence of the Director of Public Prosecutions 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.

In support of its mandate, the Public Prosecution Service has adopted the following mission and goals.

### **MISSION**

The mission of the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service is to seek justice and serve the public interest by performing prosecution duties with fairness, professionalism, and integrity.

---

## GOALS

In accomplishing its mission, the Public Prosecution Service contributes to the Government's priority of fulfilling its social responsibility to provide for public safety.

In order to accomplish its mission, the Public Prosecution Service has set the following goals:

1. Provide a Public Prosecution Service that reflects excellence, dedication to public service, and high ethical standards.
2. Provide a Public Prosecution Service that identifies and manages the resources required to carry out its mission.
3. Provide a Public Prosecution Service that reflects the application of best business practices consistent with providing a high-quality service.
4. Provide within the Public Prosecution Service an environment that allows for the independent exercise of prosecutorial discretion.
5. Provide a Public Prosecution Service that is reflective of the community it serves.

## CORE BUSINESS FUNCTIONS

The Public Prosecution Service's core business functions are:

- to represent the Crown in the conduct of criminal matters and quasi-criminal matters before all levels of court
  - to represent the Crown in the conduct of criminal and quasi-criminal appeals before all levels of court
  - to provide legal advice and assistance to the police and provincial law enforcement officers at their request
  - to participate in the development of criminal law policy and criminal prosecutions policy
-

## **PRIORITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016–2017**

### **Court Activity**

This year 97 Crown attorneys across the province dealt with 40,686 criminal charges and prosecuted 9,660 provincial statute violations.

### **Fiscal**

The PPS worked to meet its budget challenges as usual this year but exceeded its 2016-2017 budget by \$189,000. This overage was driven by operational pressures in the area of legal services (DOJ) of \$39,900; renewals (on-line research tools) of \$33,000; witness fees of \$31,300; photocopy charges of \$24,100; subscriptions periodicals and books of \$24,000; external legal services of \$20,500; and membership fees of \$16,200.

### **E-Disclosure**

The PPS continued work on the implementation, operation and expansion of the e-Disclosure initiative including the implementation of electronic file transfer which allows for the “instant” transmission of e-Disclosure files between parties. Work continued on the standardization of vetting and redaction processes for identifying sensitive information prior to the Crown providing the defence with disclosure of the Crown’s case. A successful pilot project concluded, and a practice guide is almost finalized. A province wide roll-out is expected in the next fiscal year.

### **Case Management**

Arrangements with the Ontario government to acquire its case management system for Nova Scotia made progress. Cabinet approved the initiative and a memorandum of understanding was signed by both provinces. The province’s office of Information, Communication and Technology Services is assisting the PPS with this endeavor. Software is expected to arrive early in the next fiscal year and the first stage of testing is expected to commence in the fall of 2017.

### **Education and Training**

Education and training were again a major priority for the PPS this year. Crown attorneys attended the PPS’s annual fall educational conference for three days of education on a variety of criminal law topics. Additionally, a large number of Crown attorneys attended Ontario Crown School and the National Criminal Law Program. Specialized training was also provided to several Crown attorneys on discrete subjects.

---

### **Internet Child Exploitation**

Funding was received to create two Crown attorney positions dedicated to internet child exploitation offences. Those Crown attorneys are now in place and, in addition to their own prosecutorial responsibilities, they are providing support and guidance to Crown attorneys in other parts of the province who are also prosecuting these cases.

### **Criminal Justice Transformation Group**

The PPS continued to be an active participant in the province's Criminal Justice Transformation Group (CJTG). This group, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice, is comprised of those who lead the various components of the criminal justice system. The group works collaboratively to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the justice system in this province. With the Supreme Court of Canada's Jordan decision in July 2016 establishing time parameters for the completion of cases at both the provincial and superior court levels, the group is focused solely on addressing delay within the court system.

### **Early Resolution Pilot Project**

The PPS initiated an early resolution pilot project in Halifax to help free up time for the provincial court to hear more serious and complex matters. Crown attorneys prepare early resolution positions in minor offences. An initial sentencing position is provided to defence counsel and the accused has a limited time to determine whether to accept the Crown's position.

### **Communications**

The PPS continues to provide communications designed to enhance community understanding of the role of the Crown attorney and of the prosecutorial process. As was the case last year, issues management required significant resources regarding many ongoing high-profile cases.

---



## MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

OUTCOME DESCRIPTION	WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?	WHERE ARE WE NOW?	WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?
<b>High-quality trial work</b>	That the PPS is delivering high-quality trial work by Crown attorneys who attain a performance evaluation of competent or higher; are provided with adequate preparation time for in-court work; are supported by continuing legal education; and, where applicable, are mentored by senior colleagues. These elements ensure the delivery of high-quality trial work in presenting the evidence thoroughly and fairly to ensure the proper verdict is reached.	All Nova Scotia Crown attorneys have achieved a performance rating of competent or higher. They are generally given adequate time to prepare cases for court. They are provided with continuing legal education as funding permits. A mentoring program has been developed and is in place.	Crown attorney performance evaluations would be enhanced by in-court monitoring. A case management information system would maximize efficiencies as Crowns prepare for and deliver their cases in court.
<b>High-quality appeal work</b>	That the PPS is delivering high-quality appeal work by Crown attorneys who attain a performance evaluation of competent or higher; are provided with adequate preparation time for in-court work; are supported by continuing legal education; and, where applicable, are mentored by senior colleagues. These elements ensure the delivery of high-quality appeal work in presenting the evidence thoroughly and fairly to ensure the proper decision is reached.	All Appeals Crown attorneys have achieved a performance rating of competent or higher. They are always given adequate time to prepare cases for court. They are provided with continuing legal education as funding permits. A mentoring program has been developed and is in place.	Crown attorney performance evaluations would be enhanced by in-court monitoring. A case management information system would maximize efficiencies as Crowns prepare for and deliver their cases in court.
<b>Provide high-quality legal advice and assistance</b>	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.	The PPS continues to provide timely responses to requests from police and provincial enforcement officers for legal advice on particular cases or direction on matters of criminal law.  The PPS requires Crown attorneys to record all advice given to police so that the PPS may measure both quality and quantity of advice.	All advice to police should be examined and evaluated to make a determination on volume and Crown workload. As well, a quality analysis should be undertaken.

OUTCOME DESCRIPTION	WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?	WHERE ARE WE NOW?	WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?
<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 front-line perspective.</p>	<p>The PPS participates in joint meetings, including federal/provincial/territorial (FPT) ministers' and deputy ministers' meetings, Coordinating Committee of Senior Justice Officials and FPT heads of prosecutions, meetings of the Provincial Justice Partners Committee and the International Association of Prosecutors. 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.</p>	<p>The existing level of contribution to policy development should be maintained and enhanced.</p>

## THE ROLE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

In Nova Scotia, the Minister of Justice is also the Attorney General and in this role superintends all matters connected with the administration of justice in the province except those within the jurisdiction of the Attorney General of Canada. The Attorney General's functions and powers include legislative responsibility for affairs and matters relating to courts and prosecutions. The Attorney General is the Law Officer of the Crown and the Chief Public Prosecutor.

By virtue of this role, the Attorney General has the right to be informed about the conduct of police activities and individual criminal prosecutions. This right is normally only exercised in exceptional cases. No such right exists for any other member of the executive council or of government. This not only protects the integrity of the criminal justice system but also serves to shield government members and their staff from the accusation of attempting to interfere in the administration of justice.

The *Public Prosecutions Act* ensures the accountability to the Legislative Assembly of the Attorney General in his or her capacity as Chief Public Prosecutor. Section 6 of the Act provides that the Attorney General is responsible for the Public Prosecution Service and is accountable to the Assembly for all prosecutions. This ensures that ultimate control over prosecutions remains in the hands of an elected official.

By virtue of subsection 6 (a) of the *Public Prosecutions Act*, the Attorney General is entitled to issue general instructions or guidelines to the Public Prosecution Service in respect of all prosecutions or a class of prosecutions, after consultations with the Director of Public Prosecutions. During the period April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, the Attorney General did not have occasion to exercise this authority under this provision.

By virtue of subsection 6 (b) of the *Public Prosecutions Act*, the Attorney General is entitled to issue instructions or guidelines in a particular prosecution after consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions. During the period April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, the Attorney General did not have occasion to exercise this authority under this provision.

By virtue of subsection 6 (e) of the *Public Prosecutions Act*, the Attorney General is entitled to exercise all statutory functions with respect to prosecutions after consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions. During the period April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, the Attorney General did not have occasion to exercise this authority under this provision.

---

## THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

The Director of Public Prosecutions is the head of the Public Prosecution Service, which conducts all prosecutions independently of the Attorney General on behalf of the Crown in right of Nova Scotia. This includes the prosecution of offences under the Criminal Code, certain other federal statutes (e.g., *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, *Canada Shipping Act*, *Small Vessel Regulations*, *Explosives Act*), and most offences under provincial statutes. Prosecutions for violations of other federal statutes are conducted by agents of the Attorney General of Canada.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, as the lawful deputy of the Attorney General with respect to prosecutions under the Criminal Code and under the *Summary Proceedings Act*, can exercise any of the powers conferred upon the Attorney General. These include the preferring of direct indictments or consenting to the laying of a new information following a discharge of an accused at a preliminary inquiry. When these powers are exercised in indictable matters, a report can be provided to the Attorney General at his or her request or upon the initiative of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This would allow the Attorney General to be in a knowledgeable position should any of these decisions be questioned in the House of Assembly or should the Attorney General wish to exercise any of the powers conferred by section 6 of the *Public Prosecutions Act*.

The Director of Public Prosecutions also has the status of deputy head, and the provisions of the *Civil Service Act* and regulations relating to a deputy or a deputy head apply to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Director of Public Prosecutions must be a barrister of at least 10 years' standing. If from another province, he or she must become a practicing member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society within one year of appointment. The Director of Public Prosecutions holds office during good behavior and may be removed from office for cause by a resolution of the Assembly.

---

## THE ROLE OF THE CROWN ATTORNEY

Crown attorneys in Nova Scotia are responsible to the Director of Public Prosecutions through a chief Crown attorney for the conduct of prosecutions. The conduct of a prosecution involves not only the conduct of the trial itself but a myriad of other activities essential to a fair prosecution. Crown attorneys therefore conduct arraignments, show cause (bail) hearings, preliminary inquiries, sentencings, appeals to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, appeals to the Court of Appeal, appeals to the Supreme Court of Canada, disposition and review hearings before the Criminal Code Review Board, and fatality inquiries. In addition, they provide precharge advice to the police and provincial government enforcement officials, participate in the formulation of policy advice on the criminal law, participate in management activities aimed at improving the delivery of prosecutorial services to our community, prepare professional papers, and conduct and participate in public speaking engagements. In short, they discharge a number of responsibilities of fundamental importance to our community.

In discharging these responsibilities a Crown attorney must be guided by the law, codes of professional ethics, and the public interest. The public interest involves many considerations. It encompasses the need to protect citizens while convicting criminals and deterring crime. The community is entitled to have those charged with offences prosecuted firmly and efficiently, but it also expects them to be prosecuted fairly. Properly balanced, the public interest in the conviction of the guilty does not conflict with the principles of fundamental justice.

---

The notion that all accused should receive fair and equal prosecutorial treatment by the Crown is a key aspect of the rule of law. Canada's judicial system operates on an adversarial trial model. It is left up to the parties to frame the issues before the court and lead the evidence relied on in support of their case. The role of defence counsel in this model is to do everything that can be ethically done to secure an acquittal for an accused who has chosen to plead not guilty. The role of Crown attorney, on the other hand, excludes any notion of winning or losing. The Supreme Court of Canada has expressed in the following words the proper frame of mind of those who represent the Crown:

“... the situation which the Crown occupies is not that of an advocate in a civil case. His functions are quasi-judicial. He should not seek so much to obtain a verdict of guilty as assist the judge and jury to render the most complete justice. Moderation and impartiality should always characterize his conduct before the court. He will in fact have honestly fulfilled his duty and will be beyond reproach, if, putting aside any appeal to emotions, in a dignified manner consistent with his role, he exposes the evidence to the jury without going beyond what it actually reveals.”

*Boucher v. Her Majesty the Queen [1955] S.C.R. 16*

On March 31, 2017, there were 97 Crown attorneys employed by the Public Prosecution Service. They were assisted in their duties by 73 support staff.

---

## **ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

The head office of the Public Prosecution Service comprises its senior management, including the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Deputy Director, the Director of Communications, and the Director of Business Affairs, plus their support staff.

The Deputy Director assists the Director and is primarily responsible for the legal operations of the Public Prosecution Service. All chief Crown attorneys report through the Deputy Director to the Director and are resident in the Western, Cape Breton, Halifax, and Central regions. In the Halifax Region, along with the chief Crown attorney, a regional Crown attorney (administrative) supervises the activities of Crown attorneys and their support staff. In the Western, Central, and Cape Breton regions, a chief Crown attorney supervises the activities of Crown attorneys and their support staff. The regional offices respond to requests from the police for precharge legal advice, and conduct preliminary inquiries and trials before the various trial courts of the province. Chief Crown attorneys also head Appeals and Special Prosecutions.

### **Special Prosecutions Section**

The Special Prosecutions Section focuses on commercial crime, cybercrime, fraud, extraordinary, unusual or historical sexual assaults, charges under the province's *Revenue Act* or other provincial statutes, and Aboriginal law. Members of this unit also prosecute cases that present conflicts for regional offices, or they may be involved where a law enforcement officer is the subject of a police investigation or a prosecution.

### **Appeals Branch**

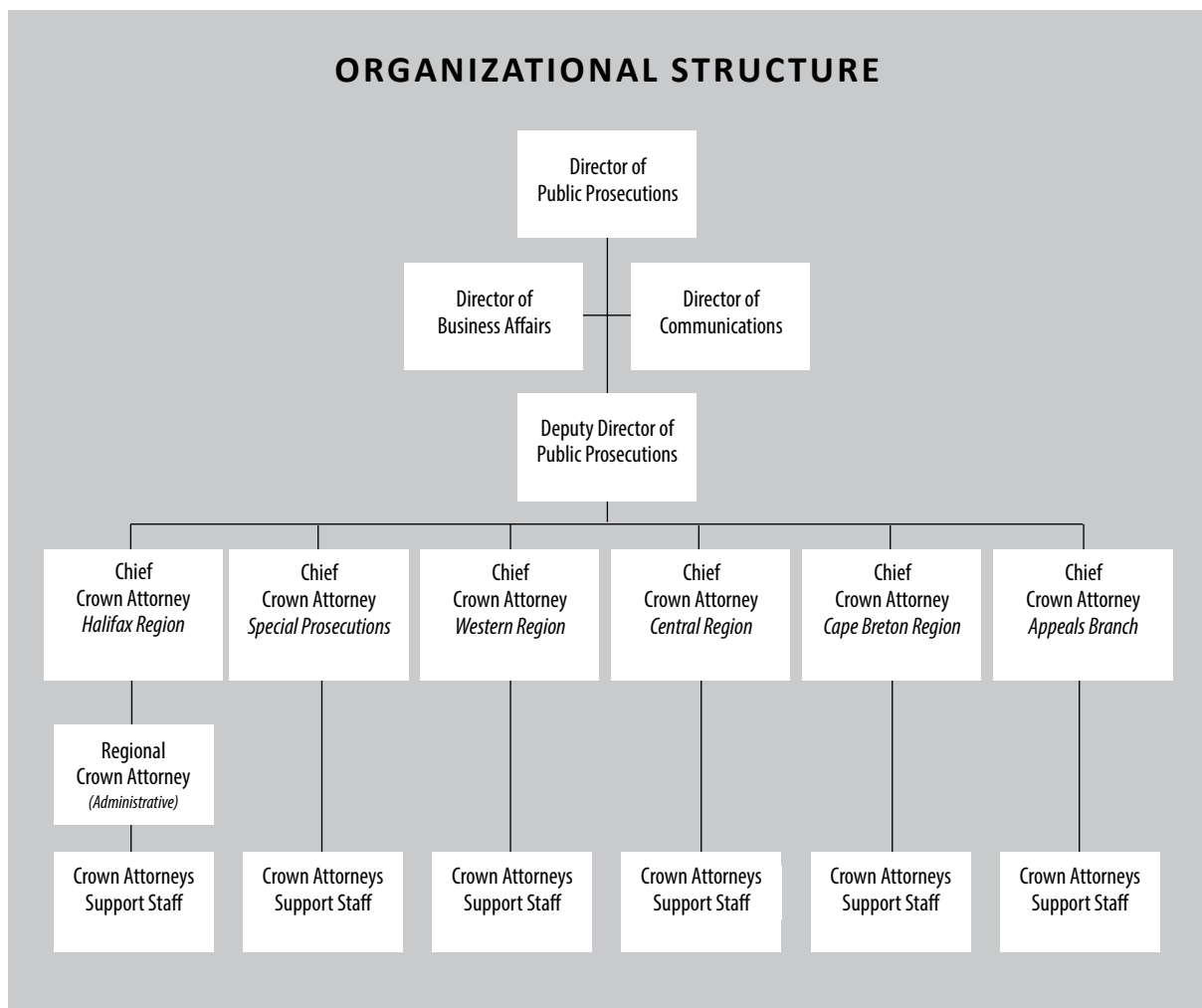
The Appeals Branch is responsible for conducting all criminal and quasicriminal appeals to which the Attorney General is a party in the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. The Appeals Branch also conducts all proceedings required before an appeal is heard by the court. These proceedings include Chambers motions in the Court of Appeal and applications for leave to appeal in the Supreme Court of Canada.

---

## Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

For the period April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, the PPS received 25 applications for records under this Act.

The organizational structure of the Public Prosecution Service is illustrated by the following chart:





## APPENDICES

All statistics, with the exception of Appeals, received through the kind co-operation of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

## APPENDIX A

### CRIMINAL CODE CHARGES IN PROVINCIAL COURT by Offence Category and Judicial Centre 2016–2017

OFFENCE CATEGORIES	HALIFAX	DARTMOUTH	AMHERST	KENTVILLE	BRIDGEWATER	PICTOU
Homicide	5	7	0	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	5	6	0	3	0	1
Robbery	124	60	2	14	3	5
Sexual Assault	67	43	36	87	28	14
Other Sexual Offences	72	69	46	88	41	15
Major Assault	433	333	71	113	71	58
Common Assault	652	561	152	230	152	175
Uttering Threats	426	306	90	148	98	106
Criminal Harassment	44	26	8	18	10	5
Other Crimes Against a Person	120	82	27	32	11	8
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	86	19	13	20	7	8
Theft	1,206	462	70	167	85	107
Break and Enter	178	148	261	53	35	33
Fraud	653	283	47	41	40	153
Mischief	358	243	319	115	73	77
Possession of Stolen Property	1,324	523	45	94	68	42
Other Property Crimes	32	41	9	19	5	7
Failure to Attend Court	189	147	9	14	9	18
Breach of Probation	1,783	1,066	129	184	119	87
Unlawfully at Large	50	154	2	6	2	4
Failure to Comply with Order	2,644	1,537	311	425	233	276
Other Administration of Justice	250	130	41	34	28	15
Weapons Offences	805	1,334	107	61	84	30
Prostitution	22	1	0	2	0	1
Disturbing the Peace	45	17	17	12	12	4
Residual Criminal Code	180	27	49	32	8	16
Impaired Driving	618	703	143	301	141	172
Other Criminal Code Traffic	153	129	28	42	43	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,524</b>	<b>8,457</b>	<b>2,032</b>	<b>2,355</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>1,472</b>

**APPENDIX A (continued)**  
**CRIMINAL CODE CHARGES IN PROVINCIAL COURT**  
**by Offence Category and Judicial Centre 2016–2017**

OFFENCE CATEGORIES	SYDNEY	TRURO	ANTIGONISH	PORT HAWKESBURY	YARMOUTH	DIGBY	TOTAL
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Attempted Murder	7	0	0	0	2	6	30
Robbery	16	12	2	4	4	3	249
Sexual Assault	34	40	3	9	34	29	424
Other Sexual Offences	51	51	10	9	42	52	546
Major Assault	223	122	27	34	78	68	1,631
Common Assault	407	244	72	75	231	143	3,094
Uttering Threats	268	146	47	50	132	62	1,879
Criminal Harassment	19	7	5	3	12	4	161
Other Crimes Against a Person	56	21	8	6	8	12	391
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	24	15	3	6	17	10	228
Theft	360	172	36	31	80	50	2,826
Break and Enter	123	70	10	21	39	35	1,006
Fraud	148	96	9	13	23	7	1,513
Mischief	229	104	20	30	95	51	1,714
Possession of Stolen Property	154	106	9	35	34	12	2,446
Other Property Crimes	83	4	0	6	0	2	208
Failure to Attend Court	94	31	2	7	9	8	537
Breach of Probation	654	242	39	58	207	81	4,649
Unlawfully at Large	11	4	2	1	4	4	244
Failure to Comply with Order	1,639	552	173	226	404	285	8,705
Other Administration of Justice	83	45	13	11	47	30	727
Weapons Offences	148	135	8	51	77	104	2,944
Prostitution	0	2	0	0	0	0	28
Disturbing the Peace	18	10	5	6	6	10	162
Residual Criminal Code	54	10	2	11	14	9	412
Impaired Driving	329	351	91	101	179	82	3,211
Other Criminal Code Traffic	93	88	9	25	36	28	709
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,325</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>40,686</b>

**APPENDIX B**  
**PROVINCIAL STATUTE CASES**  
**by Judicial Centre, 2016–2017**  
 (only cases with prosecutor assigned)

	MOTOR VEHICLE ACT	LIQUOR CONTROL ACT	OTHER PROVINCIAL STATUTES	TOTAL
HALIFAX	4,538	115	460	5,113
DARTMOUTH	1,415	5	120	1,540
AMHERST	135	6	67	208
KENTVILLE	273	24	80	377
BRIDGEWATER	202	13	33	248
PICTOU	212	8	19	239
SYDNEY	409	18	62	489
TRURO	363	19	139	521
ANTIGONISH	109	55	31	195
PORT HAWKESBURY	77	5	27	109
YARMOUTH	265	11	84	360
DIGBY	206	12	43	261
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,204</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>9,660</b>

## **APPENDIX C**

### **APPEALS STATISTICS**

### **2016–2017**

The following statistics relate to the operations of the Appeals Branch covering the period April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017.

The Branch participated in 32 appeals heard by the Court of Appeal. Of this number:

- 3 were initiated by the Crown
- 29 were initiated by offenders

Of the appeals initiated by the Crown, one dealt with acquittal and two with sentence.

Of the 29 appeals initiated by offenders:

- 15 dealt with conviction
- 8 dealt with sentence
- 1 involved an extraordinary remedy (*certiorari*)
- 5 involved a motion for fresh evidence

Of the appeals initiated by offenders, none fell under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and two were argued by self-represented inmates.

The Appeals Branch was involved in nine appeals which were abandoned, quashed or dismissed without a full hearing in the Court of Appeal. All nine had been initiated by offenders.

The Appeals Branch participated in 129 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).

---

The Appeals Branch received seven recommendations for appeal from trial Crown attorneys, three of which were approved for appeal.

In the Supreme Court of Canada, the Appeals Branch filed one notice of appeal. (The notice of appeal was subsequently abandoned and withdrawn because the intended respondent was deceased.) The Branch received decisions in five applications for leave to appeal, one filed by the Branch and four by offenders.

## APPENDIX D BUDGET RESOURCES

PROGRAM & SERVICE AREA	2016-2017 ESTIMATE (\$ thousands)	2016-2017 ACTUAL (\$ thousands)
GROSS DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES		
Head Office	2,728	2,856
Cape Breton Region	3,524	3,446
Central Region	3,040	3,009
Halifax Region	7,518	7,775
Western Region	3,122	3,179
Special Prosecutions	1,943	1,879
Appeals	1,140	1,059
<b>TOTAL GROSS DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>23,015</b>	<b>23,203</b>
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		
Fees and Other Charges	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	262	277
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff (Full Time Employees)	167.8	165.5

## **APPENDIX E PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS ACT**

*Formatting of this version may differ from the official version. An official copy of this statute is available from Nova Scotia Government Publications.*

### **An Act to Provide for an Independent Director of Public Prosecutions**

#### **Short Title**

- 1 This Act may be cited as the *Public Prosecutions Act*.

#### **Purpose of Act**

- 2 The purpose of this Act is to ensure fair and equal treatment in the prosecution of offences by
  - (a) establishing the position of Director of Public Prosecutions;
  - (b) providing for a public prosecution service; and
  - (c) providing for the independence of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the public prosecution service.

#### **Interpretation**

- 3 In this Act, “prosecution” includes the decision whether to prosecute or not, the prosecution proceeding itself and matters arising therefrom, and appeals.
-



## **Director of Public Prosecutions**

- 4 There shall be a Director of Public Prosecutions who
- (a) is the head of the public prosecution service and is responsible for all prosecutions within the jurisdiction of the Attorney General conducted on behalf of the Crown;
  - (b) may conduct all prosecutions independently of the Attorney General except that the Director of Public Prosecutions shall comply with all instructions or guidelines issued by the Attorney General in writing and published pursuant to this Act;
  - (c) is, for the purpose of the Criminal Code (Canada) and the *Summary Proceedings Act*, the Attorney General's lawful deputy in respect of prosecutions;
  - (d) shall advise police officers in respect of prosecutions generally or in respect of a particular investigation that may lead to a prosecution, when the police request such assistance;
  - (e) may issue general instructions or guidelines to a chief Crown attorney, a regional Crown attorney or a Crown attorney in respect of all prosecutions or a class of prosecutions, and shall cause such instructions or guidelines to be published.
  - (f) may issue instructions or guidelines to a chief Crown attorney, a regional Crown attorney or a Crown attorney in a particular prosecution.
-

## **Qualifications and appointment**

- 5 (1) The Director of Public Prosecutions
- (a) shall be a barrister of at least ten years' standing at the Bar of Nova Scotia or of another province of Canada, and if of another province, shall, within one year of appointment, become a practising member of the Bar of Nova Scotia;
  - (b) shall be appointed by the Governor in Council after consultation with the Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, the Chief Justice of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court and the Executive of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society;
  - (c) holds office during good behaviour;
  - (d) has the status of deputy head and the provisions of the *Civil Service Act* and regulations relating to a deputy or a deputy head apply to the Director of Public Prosecutions; and
  - (e) shall be paid the same salary as the Chief Judge of the provincial court.

## **Removal from office**

- (2) The Director of Public Prosecutions may be removed from office for cause by a resolution of the Assembly.
-

### **Acting Director of Public Prosecutions**

- (3) Where, while the Assembly is not sitting, the Director of Public Prosecutions fails to be of good behaviour, or is unable to perform the duties of office, the Governor in Council may appoint a person to be Acting Director of Public Prosecutions who shall take over the duties of the Director of Public Prosecutions until the Governor in Council sooner rescinds the appointment of the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions. *As amended by 1999 (2nd session), c.16, s.1(1).*
- (4) Where a vacancy occurs in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in a manner other than that referred to in subsection (2), the Governor in Council may appoint a person to be Acting Director of Public Prosecutions until a Director of Public Prosecutions is appointed pursuant to this Act. *As amended by 1999 (2nd session) c.16, s.1(2).*

### **Powers and duties of Attorney General**

- 6 The Attorney General is the minister responsible for the prosecution service and is accountable to the Assembly for all prosecutions to which this Act applies and
- (a) after consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions, may issue general instructions or guidelines in respect of all prosecutions, or a class of prosecutions, to the prosecution service and shall cause all such instructions or guidelines to be in writing and to be published at the direction of the Director of Public Prosecutions as soon as practicable in the Royal Gazette;
  - (b) after consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions, may issue instructions or guidelines in a particular prosecution, and shall cause such instructions or guidelines to be in writing and to be published at the direction of the Director of Public Prosecutions as soon as practicable in the Royal Gazette except where, in the opinion of the Director of Public Prosecutions, publication would not be in the best interests of the administration of justice, in which case the Director of Public Prosecutions, instead, shall publish as much information concerning the instructions or guidelines as the Director of Public Prosecutions considers appropriate in the next annual report of the Director of Public Prosecutions to the Assembly;
-

- (c) may consult with the Director of Public Prosecutions and may provide advice to the Director of Public Prosecutions and, subject to clauses (a) and (b), the Director of Public Prosecutions is not bound by such advice;
- (d) may consult with members of the Executive Council regarding general prosecution policy but not regarding a particular prosecution;
- (e) may exercise statutory functions with respect to prosecutions, including consenting to a prosecution, preferring an indictment or authorizing a stay of proceedings, after consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions and shall cause notice of such action to be published at the direction of the Director of Public Prosecutions as soon as practicable in the Royal Gazette. *As amended by 1999 (2nd session) c.16, s.2.*

### **Meeting between Attorney General and Director**

- 6A The Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions shall meet at least twelve times a year, on a monthly basis if possible, to discuss policy matters, including existing and contemplated major prosecutions. *As amended by 1999 (2nd session) c.16, s.3.*

### **Extraordinary prosecution**

- 6B (1) In this Section, “extraordinary prosecution” means an unexpected or unforeseen prosecution that cannot be undertaken within the budget appropriated for the public prosecution service but is of such a magnitude and importance that, in the opinion of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the prosecution should be undertaken notwithstanding the lack of financial resources.
- (2) The Director of Public Prosecutions may spend in any fiscal year an amount that is not more than five per cent more than the amount appropriated for the public prosecution service for that year for the purpose of undertaking an extraordinary prosecution.
-

- (3) The Governor in Council shall provide the additional funds referred to in subsection (2) through a supplementary appropriation.
- (4) Where the Governor in Council has provided the funds referred to in subsection (3) and deems it advisable to conduct a review of the need for the additional funds, the Governor in Council may appoint a qualified person to conduct the review. *As amended by 1999 (2nd session) c.16, s.3.*

### **Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions**

- 7 The Director of Public Prosecutions may, from time to time, designate a barrister in the public service to be Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions who is responsible to the Director of Public Prosecutions and who may exercise all of the powers and authority of the Director of Public Prosecutions and, for that purpose, is a lawful deputy of the Attorney General.

### **Crown attorneys**

- 8 There shall be Crown attorneys to conduct prosecutions and the Crown attorneys are responsible to the Director of Public Prosecutions and, where applicable, to a chief Crown attorney or a regional Crown attorney.

### **Regional Crown attorneys**

- 9 There may be a regional Crown attorney to supervise Crown attorneys within a geographic area determined by the Director of Public Prosecutions, and a regional Crown attorney is responsible to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

### **Chief Crown attorneys**

- 10 There may be a chief Crown attorney to supervise Crown attorneys and, where applicable, regional Crown attorneys, and a chief Crown attorney is responsible to the Director of Public Prosecutions.
-

### **Powers, authorities and duties**

- 11 A chief Crown attorney, a regional Crown attorney and a Crown attorney have all the powers, authorities and duties provided by the criminal law of Canada for prosecutors, for prosecuting officers or for counsel acting on behalf of the Attorney General.

### **Qualifications**

- 12 All chief Crown attorneys, all regional Crown attorneys and all full-time Crown attorneys shall be barristers appointed pursuant to the *Civil Service Act* upon the recommendation of the Director of Public Prosecutions after a competition.

### **Annual report**

- 13 The Director of Public Prosecutions shall report annually to the Assembly in respect of prosecutions.

### **Appointment of barrister**

- 14 (1) The Director of Public Prosecutions may appoint a barrister to take charge of and conduct a particular prosecution or to take charge of and conduct criminal business to the extent specified in the terms of the appointment.  
  
(2) A barrister appointed pursuant to this Section shall be known and designated as a Crown attorney and, when acting within the terms of the appointment, has all the powers and authority of a Crown attorney.  
  
(3) The Director of Public Prosecutions may, from time to time, vary the terms of appointment of a Crown attorney pursuant to this Section or may, at any time, revoke the appointment.
-

### **Existing prosecuting officers**

- 15 Notwithstanding Section 12, all prosecuting officers and assistant prosecuting officers employed by the Province immediately before the coming into force of this Act are Crown attorneys for the purpose of this Act.

### **House of Assembly Act amended**

- 16 Clause (c) of subsection (1) of Section 30 of Chapter 210 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the *House of Assembly Act*, is amended by striking out the punctuation and words “prosecuting officer” in the second and third lines thereof.

### **Repeal of Prosecuting Officers Act**

- 17 Chapter 362 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the *Prosecuting Officers Act*, is repealed.

### **Proclamation**

- 18 This Act comes into force on and not before such day as the Governor in Council orders and declares by proclamation.

Proclaimed – July 24, 1990

In force – September 1, 1990

Amended by Chapter 16, 1999 (Second Session), which received Royal Assent on November 23, 1999

---

