

PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE
2010-11 Statement of Mandate

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Message from the Director of Public Prosecutions

I am pleased to present the 2010-2011 Statement of Mandate for the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service.

The Service and its 94 Crown Attorneys play a critical role in the criminal justice system. They determine whether cases investigated by the police are carried forward and prosecuted. When prosecuting, Crown Attorneys must always conduct themselves with professionalism, diligence and fairness. One of the core functions of the Crown Attorney is to conduct prosecutions resulting from criminal code charges laid by the police or other law enforcement agencies as well as charges under various provincial statutes. In addition, Crown Attorneys provide ongoing legal advice to the police and other law enforcement agencies.

Following the laying of a charge by the police, the Crown Attorney's "gatekeeper" role comes to the fore. The Crown Attorney decides whether the charge should proceed based upon a review of the evidence to determine whether there is a realistic prospect of conviction and, secondly, whether it is in the public interest to proceed. In exercising this vital role, Crown Attorneys must be guided by a thorough and up-to-date knowledge of applicable statutory provisions and case law developments. Crown Attorneys are also guided by policy statements developed by the Public Prosecution Service senior management.

The Public Prosecution Service prosecuted some 44,000 criminal code charges and about 5,000 provincial statute offences last year.

The Public Prosecution Service continues to see significant increases in the number of files it prosecutes. In 2004, the PPS opened 21,744 files whereas in 2008, the PPS prosecuted 24,056 files. The complexity of criminal prosecutions is also increasing as a result of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; the reform of evidence law; and the complex statutory revisions amending the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

Over the next year the Service will be focusing on a number of issues including: continuing legal education for Crown Attorneys; improved management information to better allocate resources where they are most needed; developing a program for articling law students; standardization of disclosure practices; and succession management.

Martin E. Herschorn, Q.C.
Director of Public Prosecutions

1. MANDATE

The Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service is a functionally independent agency of government created by the Public Prosecutions Act. It shares a common Minister and some common services with the Department of Justice (DOJ), but is not a division nor part of the Department of Justice. In addition to its statutory responsibilities, the Public Prosecution Service and its members contribute, where appropriate and feasible, to the formulation of public policy in the administration of justice.

The Public Prosecution Service, by statute, is responsible for:

- prosecution of all Criminal Code offences
- prosecution of other Federal Statutes
- prosecution of provincial summary conviction offences
- appeals before the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia
- appeals before the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal
- appeals before the Supreme Court of Canada
- representation at Criminal Review Board hearings
- advising police officers in respect of prosecutions generally or in respect of particular investigations

2. VISION

To be a leading prosecution service in Canada, highly effective and widely respected by the legal community and the general public, staffed by valued, skilled and motivated people, working in a dynamic supportive environment.

3. MISSION STATEMENT

To seek justice and serve the public interest by performing prosecution duties with fairness, professionalism and integrity.

Performance Measures Template

Department Mandate: : Represent the Crown in the conduct of criminal and quasi-criminal matters before all levels of courts.					
OUTCOME (immediate or inter-mediate)	MEASURE / RATIONALE	DATA Base Year - 2006	TARGET 200Y (Target for end of next Fiscal Year)	TRENDS	Strategic Actions to achieve target
Outcome	Measure	Base Year:	Annual Target:	Trends	Strategic Actions
High quality trial work	Performance evaluation of Crown Attorneys, to attain competent or higher designation	2006-07 100 % of Crown Attorney's received a rating of competent or better.	2010-11 - 100% Ultimate Target Maintain standard of 100%	Subsequent year data:	- The PPS developed an In Court Monitoring procedure which has not yet been implemented, due to the busy management and court schedules of regional managers. - Provide continuing education to full time Crown Attorneys, Per Diem Crown Attorneys and Support Staff - Implement a Case Management Information System

The role of the Crown Attorney is not to win or lose a criminal prosecution. It is to fairly present all relevant evidence to the court, to seek justice and serve the public interest by performing prosecution duties with fairness, professionalism and integrity.

Achieved through:

- Performance appraisals, records kept by Crown Attorneys of quality work shared with managers during ongoing performance appraisal processes, justice statistics re charges laid, disposition results.
- Responding to complaints against Crown Attorneys, provide counsel and advice to Crown Attorneys when necessary.
- Regular meetings with police at regional level to obtain feedback regarding interaction with Crowns.

Performance Measures Template

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Performance Measures Template

Department Mandate: : Participate in the development of criminal law and criminal prosecutions policy.					
OUTCOME (immediate or inter-mediate)	MEASURE / RATIONALE	DATA Base Year - 2004	TARGET 200Y (Target for end of next Fiscal Year)	TRENDS	Strategic Actions to achieve target
Outcome	Measure	Base Year: 2004/05	Annual Target:	Trends	Strategic Actions
Providing Crown representation in the development of criminal law and criminal prosecutions policy	Providing representation on all committees as requested	To continue to provide 100% representation, upon request.	Maintain 100% representation	Subsequent year data:	- Contribute to the development of criminal law policies and procedures in conjunction with federal and provincial Departments of Justice. Liaise with law enforcement agencies, government, the judiciary and professional associations on policy and procedural matters

Policy and Procedures developed with government, law enforcement, judiciary, professional associations.

Achieved through:

- PPS involvement in development of criminal law and prosecution policy through liaison with Federal and Provincial governments, judiciary and professional associations.
- Liaison with the defence bar and the judiciary in the development of Provincial Court procedural rules.
- Liaison with Department of Justice for the enhancement of security and safety in criminal courts for Justice staff.
- Participation with the Judiciary in the development of forms for use in criminal proceedings.
- Participation with the Canadian Bar Association in the development of ethical guidelines as it relates to Crown Attorneys.
- Participation in Supreme and Provincial Court Liaison sub-committees of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.
- Participation with other prosecution agencies across the country to develop protocols for compliance with SOIRA (Sexual Offender Information Registry Act).

Budget Context Chart Template

Public Prosecution Service			
	2009–2010 Estimate	2009–2010 Forecast	2010–2011 Estimate
Program & Service Area	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)
Program Expenses:			
Head Office - PPS	1,984	1,833	2,841
Specials	1,531	1,622	1,397
Appeals	1,132	1,215	1,096
Halifax Region	6,275	6,328	6,367
Cape Breton Region	2,600	2,605	2,568
Central Region	2,842	2,856	2,631
Western Region	2,361	2,839	2,432
<u>Total Program Expenses</u>	18,725	19,298	19,332
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	168.2	161.5	169.8

Rounding

Estimates/Forecasts:

Departments/PSO's

- All estimates/forecasts should be rounded to the nearest thousand.

FTE's:

FTE's for Departments

- Rounding should follow what appears in 1.17 of the Estimates book.

FTE's for Public Service Entities (PSO's)

- In accordance with what appears in the Nova Scotia Estimates Supplementary Detail all FTE information should be rounded to the nearest tenth.