



NOVA SCOTIA  
PUBLIC  
PROSECUTION  
SERVICE

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2021 TO MARCH 31, 2022

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Public Prosecution Service Annual Report  
for the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022  
Public Prosecution Service  
September 2022

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Honourable Keith Bain  
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, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Lee Oland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Lee Oland, QC  
A/Director of Public Prosecutions



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## **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.

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## 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.
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## **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 2021–2022**

I am pleased to present this Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service for 2021–2022.

The Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service experienced another challenging year in the delivery of prosecutorial services amid the global pandemic. Most court appearances remained virtual until late in the fiscal year when in-person court appearances began to resume.

Our Crown attorneys and support staff deserve commendation for their remarkable commitment and outstanding performance in the delivery of prosecutorial services throughout yet another year of extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

This year Nova Scotia Crown attorneys handled 37,924 new Criminal Code charges and 3,562 new provincial statute charges. These are in addition to older charges still winding their way through the prosecutorial process.

This was the second year for the PPS to have a dedicated human trafficking Crown attorney. This Crown attorney focused on prosecuting human trafficking offences across the province and on developing training materials. Significantly, a video package was produced to supplement Crown and police training. Subject matter experts were interviewed for the videos and a specific case study was featured.

This year the PPS was able to fill a long-standing gap in its head office structure when the Regional Crown attorney for Halifax was reassigned new duties becoming the Director of Policy Development and Education.

Work on digital evidence management is a significant PPS initiative but progress has been slow due to funding issues. This year a needs assessment involving all justice stakeholders was conducted by an outside consultant. The results will provide clarity on direction going forward. Digital evidence management, including the ability to address the increasing use of body worn cameras by police along with the continuing evolution of e-disclosure, is critical to the future of a smoothly operating criminal justice system.

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The PPS's Equity & Diversity Committee, now led by two co-chairs, continues to make progress with PPS equity and diversity initiatives. Among the accomplishments:

- Development of a comprehensive policy for *Fair Treatment of African Nova Scotians and People of African Descent in Criminal Prosecutions* continued. The policy is ready to move on to community consultation in the coming months.
- Updates were made to prosecutorial core policies to reflect the content in the policy: *Fair Treatment of Indigenous People Involved in a Prosecution* and the anticipated policy: *Fair Treatment of African Nova Scotians and People of African Descent in Criminal Prosecutions*.
- An internal cultural competency survey is in development for distribution to all staff. The results will be valuable in the development of future staff training.

Further to progress on the equity and diversity front, the director mandated that ALL PPS staff take a specific slate of online equity courses offered by the Public Service Commission. The completion rate is at almost 100%. Also, the PPS was again able to secure funding to hire an articulated clerk from Dalhousie Schulich School of Law's Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq program.

Lastly, after a distinguished 50-year career with the Nova Scotia government -- the last 21 years as Director of Public Prosecutions -- Martin E. Herschorn, QC retired on February 4. An acting Director of Public Prosecutions was appointed while government initiated the search for a new Director.

Linda Lee Oland, QC  
A/Director of Public Prosecutions



## 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?
<b>Provide Crown representation in the development of criminal law and criminal prosecution policy</b>	That the PPS provides input into the development of criminal law and criminal prosecution policy from both an administrative and a frontline perspective.	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 Criminal Justice Transformation Group 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.	To maintain or enhance the existing level of contribution to policy development.



## 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, 2021, to March 31, 2022, 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, 2021, to March 31, 2022, 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, 2021, to March 31, 2022, the Attorney General did not have occasion to exercise this authority under this provision.

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## 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.

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## 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 pre charge 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

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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, 2022, there were 104 Crown attorneys and 12 managers employed by the Public Prosecution Service. They were assisted in their duties by 74 support staff.

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## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

### Head Office

The head office of the Public Prosecution Service comprises its senior management, including the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Deputy Director, the Senior Director of Strategic Communications, the Director of Business Affairs, the Director of Policy Development and Education, the Director of Legal Support Services and the Office of Special Initiatives plus their support staff.

### Regional Offices

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. In the Western, Central, and Cape Breton regions, a chief Crown attorney supervises the activities of Crown attorneys. The regional offices respond to requests from the police for pre charge legal advice and conduct preliminary inquiries and trials before the various trial courts of the province.

### Appeals & Special Prosecutions

A chief Crown attorney, reporting to the Director through the Deputy Director, also heads the combined unit of Appeals & Special Prosecutions.

Appeals is responsible for conducting all criminal and quasi criminal 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.

Special Prosecutions 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.

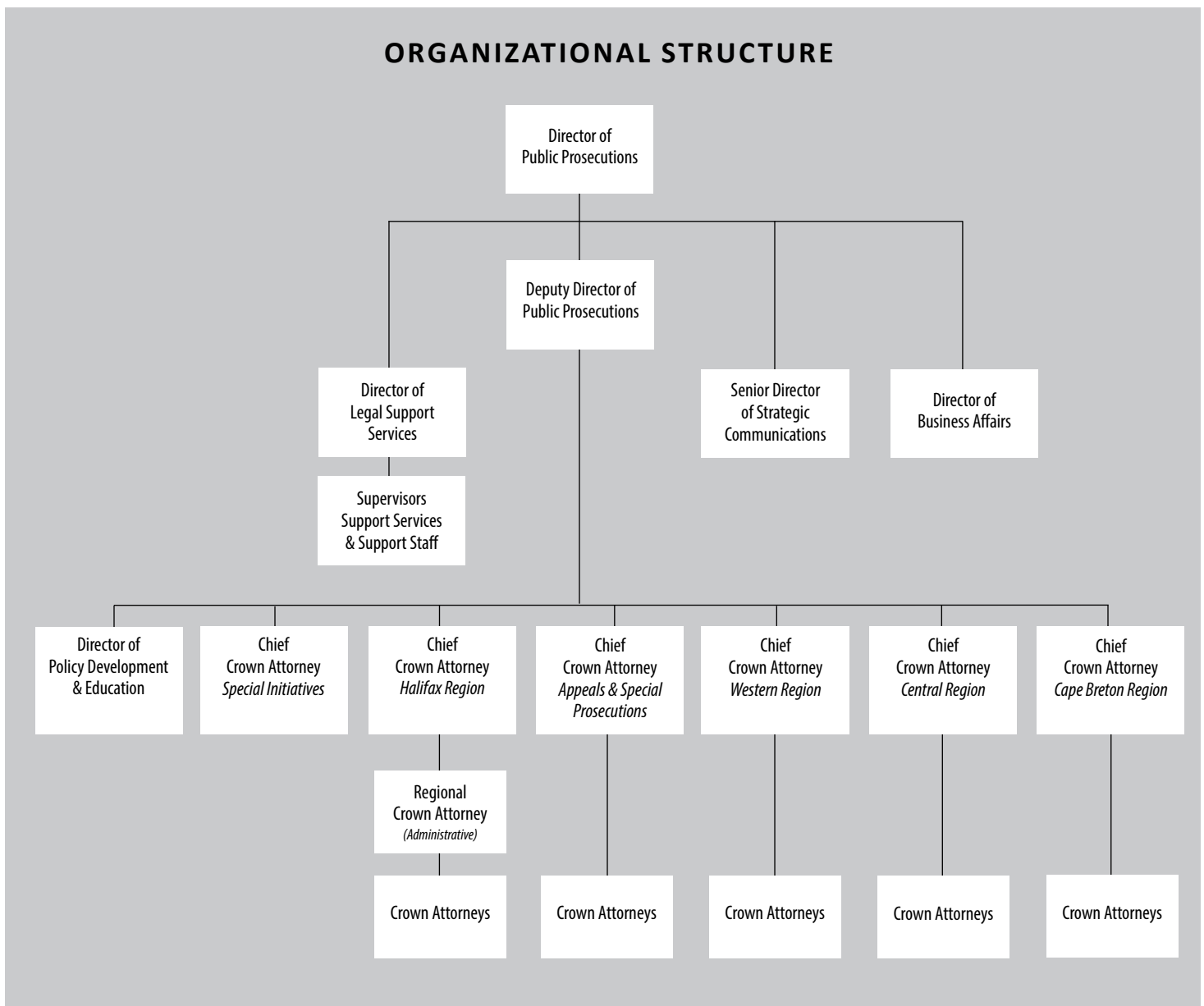
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## Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

For the period April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022 the PPS received 21 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 2021–2022

OFFENCE CATEGORIES	HALIFAX	DARTMOUTH	AMHERST	KENTVILLE	BRIDGEWATER	PICTOU
Homicide	3	8	1	2	1	1
Attempted Murder	8	5	3	0	0	4
Robbery	150	90	3	15	0	1
Sexual Assault	89	54	12	67	29	39
Other Sexual Offences	113	78	16	68	25	31
Major Assault	650	474	65	129	87	130
Common Assault	736	477	108	282	155	229
Uttering Threats	506	340	74	155	86	162
Criminal Harassment	52	45	12	13	20	17
Other Crimes Against a Person	117	72	19	26	23	26
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	45	41	11	10	1	12
Theft	794	438	64	142	59	94
Break and Enter	251	201	46	48	24	59
Fraud	251	115	24	74	13	25
Mischief	388	280	92	140	56	115
Possession Stolen Property	954	512	29	49	37	69
Other Property Crimes	74	64	6	11	3	24
Failure to Attend Court	240	159	14	22	4	27
Breach of Probation	739	467	25	60	20	82
Unlawfully at Large	6	18	0	0	0	3
Failure to Comply with Order	1,994	1,503	225	296	165	395
Other Administration of Justice	258	120	36	36	32	46
Weapons Offences	937	1,829	84	119	95	244
Prostitution/Sexual Service	17	0	0	1	0	0
Disturbing the Peace	42	7	3	12	15	16
Residual Criminal Code	120	71	20	46	9	4
Impaired Driving	510	585	90	192	153	130
Other Criminal Code Traffic	229	171	32	60	24	61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,273</b>	<b>8,224</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>2,075</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>2,046</b>



**APPENDIX A (continued)**  
**CRIMINAL CODE CHARGES IN PROVINCIAL COURT**  
**by Offence Category and Judicial Centre 2021–2022**

OFFENCE CATEGORIES	SYDNEY	TRURO	ANTIGONISH	PORT HAWKESBURY	YARMOUTH	DIGBY	TOTAL
Homicide	5	3	0	0	1	0	25
Attempted Murder	0	1	3	1	1	1	27
Robbery	29	20	0	0	6	5	319
Sexual Assault	50	80	14	33	57	19	543
Other Sexual Offences	51	105	22	41	61	28	639
Major Assault	308	163	39	87	129	99	2,360
Common Assault	479	262	62	95	167	152	3,204
Uttering Threats	254	159	52	68	144	119	2,119
Criminal Harassment	8	7	5	0	6	10	195
Other Crimes Against a Person	39	41	10	18	21	22	434
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	14	12	3	6	7	8	170
Theft	192	80	23	27	42	39	1,994
Break and Enter	68	49	12	22	67	22	869
Fraud	40	45	14	2	23	5	631
Mischief	316	126	37	49	206	84	1,889
Possession Stolen Property	109	81	16	56	13	26	1,951
Other Property Crimes	11	8	3	8	7	7	226
Failure to Attend Court	251	44	12	6	5	9	793
Breach of Probation	387	133	19	73	54	50	2,109
Unlawfully at Large	2	5	0	1	0	0	35
Failure to Comply with Order	2,576	575	105	166	238	181	8,419
Other Administration of Justice	149	52	20	23	31	30	833
Weapons Offences	178	134	27	61	123	67	3,898
Prostitution	0	8	1	0	0	0	27
Disturbing the Peace	19	9	3	6	6	2	140
Residual Criminal Code	37	23	13	6	88	24	461
Impaired Driving	294	326	98	98	135	91	2,702
Other Criminal Code Traffic	115	96	24	37	38	25	912
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,981</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>37,924</b>



**APPENDIX B**  
**PROVINCIAL STATUTE CASES**  
**by Judicial Centre, 2021–2022**  
 (only cases with prosecutor assigned)

	MOTOR VEHICLE ACT	LIQUOR CONTROL ACT	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT	HEALTH PROTECTION ACT	OTHER PROVINCIAL STATUTES	TOTAL
HALIFAX	1,139	44	2	48	88	1,321
DARTMOUTH	3	1	0	1	65	70
AMHERST	68	0	0	3	30	101
KENTVILLE	81	6	2	41	42	172
BRIDGEWATER	112	1	2	4	27	146
PICTOU	135	4	4	27	83	253
SYDNEY	248	4	0	5	44	301
TRURO	296	6	3	12	88	405
ANTIGONISH	109	32	0	5	37	183
PORT HAWKESBURY	96	7	1	6	14	124
YARMOUTH	181	5	0	8	57	251
DIGBY	156	16	0	6	57	235
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,624</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>3,562</b>

1. Data includes all charges laid on an *Information or Summary Offence Ticket* (SOT) between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022 with a prosecutor assigned.
2. The count for provincial statute offences includes those which were handled by the summary offence court.
3. Due to the pandemic there were periods of time when hearings were not being held and courts were not collecting fines. This resulted in a significant reduction in numbers over the previous years.



## **APPENDIX C**

### **APPEALS STATISTICS**

#### **2021–2022**

The following are statistics related to appeals covering the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

The section participated in 24 appeals heard by the Court of Appeal. Of this number:

- 4 were initiated by the Crown
- 20 were initiated by offenders

Of the appeals initiated by the Crown:

- 1 dealt with appeal of an extraordinary remedy
- 3 dealt with sentence

Of the 20 appeals initiated by offenders:

- 18 dealt with conviction
- 2 dealt with sentence

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

The PPS was involved in no appeals that were abandoned, quashed or dismissed without a full hearing in the Court of Appeal.

The PPS participated in 174 Chambers motions heard by a single judge of the Court of Appeal. Chambers motions include motions for a hearing date and the filing of the 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).

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Seventeen recommendations for appeal were received from trial Crown Attorneys. Nine were approved for appeal.

With regard to the Supreme Court of Canada, the PPS received one notice of appeal from an offender and one application for leave to appeal. The PPS sought leave to appeal to the SCC on no matters. The PPS participated in four hearings before the SCC.



## APPENDIX D

### FINANCIAL TABLE AND VARIANCE EXPLANATION

PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE	2021-2022 ESTIMATE (\$ thousands)	2021-2022 ACTUAL (\$ thousands)	2021-2022 VARIANCE (\$ thousands)
DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES			
Head Office	3,987	4,625	638
Cape Breton Region	3,864	4,031	167
Central Region	3,326	3,486	160
Halifax Region	8,747	9,219	472
Western Region	3,186	3,516	330
Appeals	1,194	1,231	37
Special Prosecutions	2,329	2,728	399
TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES	26,633	28,836	2,203
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION			
Ordinary Revenue	0	0	0
Fees and Other Charges	0	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	403	233	(170)
TOTAL: REVENUE, FEES AND RECOVERIES	403	233	(170)
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	176.8	182.1	5.3

#### Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:

Pressure due to higher than anticipated salary and operating costs. Operating cost increases mainly due to increased expenditures for office lease costs, transcription costs, per diem Crown Attorney fees, witness and expert witness fees, membership dues and appeal costs.

#### Revenue, Fees and Recoveries Variance Explanation:

Decrease in municipal recoveries related to the prosecution of summary offence tickets mainly due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

#### Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:

FTEs from *Youth Opportunity Initiative Program* within the PSC.



## 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.
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## **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.
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## **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.
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### **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;
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- (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.
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- (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.
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### **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.
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### **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

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