

April 2011

Court Case Management Program

A Provincial Court of Alberta program supported by Alberta Justice and the Defence Bar

Court Case Management: Phase Two

Making everyone's job easier



Building on CCM accomplishments, the implementation of CCM2 in Calgary and Edmonton adult criminal Provincial Court is expected to further increase our effectiveness and strengthen our relationship with various stakeholders.

Consider how CCM2 will improve these issues:

- ❖ Cases are currently scheduled by Court Services using a stand alone subsystem associated with JOIN. The final scheduling results must then be manually re-entered into JOIN.

What CCM2 will bring: CCM2 will allow data entry through a far more user-friendly interface allowing scheduling results to be entered directly into JOIN. Time required to schedule cases will be reduced from minutes to seconds by reducing duplicate data entry and discrepancies, improving service to lawyers and the public.

- ❖ The Crown prosecution's disclosure process is essentially a paper-based system. It is cumbersome and materials are easily lost or misplaced. Many hours of prosecution's support staff time is spent on this process which would be better invested in more valuable activities.

What CCM2 will bring: Under CCM2, the electronic capture of information and direct integration into the prosecutions' file system will virtually remove the paper handling process.

- ❖ Current disclosure practices require defence counsel to attend to court or a Crown prosecutor's office to receive disclosure materials which is time consuming and costly.

What CCM2 will bring: CCM2 will make disclosure materials available to defence counsel electronically through a secure web service which will enhance the delivery of these materials, saving time and resources.

- ❖ Repeated adjournments are requested to provide time to obtain disclosure materials from the Crown and police. This creates significant additional and unnecessary activities for Court Services who must constantly update JOIN and/or other files as cases are adjourned waiting for complete disclosure to defence counsel or the accused to occur.

What CCM2 will bring: CCM2 will reduce the time it takes to request, receive, and process disclosure information thus decreasing the number of adjournments required.

- ❖ Subpoena capabilities in JOIN are limited and do not allow for enough data to be transferred to the prosecution's PRISM system.

What CCM2 will bring: CCM2 will enhance workflow and information transfer from police to prosecutions. Potential witness contact data will be sent electronically from police, reducing data entry and transcription errors. This information will be used by Crown support staff to create and track subpoenas. Also, the new system will provide work queues to eliminate the current paper process for bringing forward files and subpoena cancellations.

CCM2 will ensure witness cancellations are performed every time a hearing is not going ahead to eliminate witnesses from appearing in court for matters that are adjourned or cancelled.

- ❖ Updates to the Judicial Scheduling System in Edmonton and Calgary are manually entered, and updated twice daily. Currently, disqualification lists are maintained manually by judicial schedulers. If judges are assigned to cases they are disqualified from hearing, adjournments or mistrials can be the result. This causes inconvenience to the public and delays the completion of cases.

What CCM2 will bring: CCM2 will ensure updates to the judicial schedule are performed in real time and without duplicate data entry. Disqualification lists for judges will be created to make scheduling more efficient.

- ❖ Regional locations have not had the benefit of CCM.

What CCM2 will bring: CCM2 will commence moving the benefits of CCM1 and CCM2 to a number of regional courts. Two locations will be considered first, with additional regions to follow. However, prior to any roll-out, a review will be undertaken to determine what changes and adaptations may be required to enable each region to take advantage of CCM. Individual roll-out plans will follow.

See the improvements for yourself CCM Phase One accomplishments

- Searches by defence counsel on Remote Court Scheduling increased by 2,100 to 8,500 from February 2011 to March 2011.
- There have been 1,478 hearings booked through Remote Courtroom Scheduling from March 2010 to March 31, 2011.
- From February to March 2011, the number of RCS bookings increased 45%.
- The Case Management Office in Edmonton and Calgary now handle more than 6,000 appearances combined each month. Pre-CCM, these matters went before a judge in a courtroom.