



Court Case Management *Evolution*

December 2013

CMO Opening in Didsbury

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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For more information on CCM see our web page at

www.albertacourts.ab.ca

If you ever thought it was easy working at the circuit courts in Alberta, think again. On what proved to be the snowiest day of the year, the Calgary Regional Court operations added an additional CMO (Case Management Office) location in Didsbury. On December 2nd, despite blizzard conditions, the intrepid team from Calgary made their way to Didsbury for the first day of the opening of the CMO. According to Lynne Blair-Kaye, Manager of the Regional Courts, the opening went very well despite the weather. "We had quite a few people phone in that they could not make it so their matters went into RAC (required appearance court). Other than that it went pretty smooth." Ena Thompson, one of the court clerks, assisted people with the new procedures. Elizabeth Fry will be taking over that role beginning January.

The addition of this latest CMO brings the number of locations in Calgary regional Provincial Court to four including offices in Airdrie, Canmore and Okotoks. The Case Management Office in Cochrane will be opening on January 7th of next year completing all the regional areas for Calgary.

Here's hoping the weather is better!



A Judge's Work Is Never Done

Judge Gaschler does double duty as he helps clear the snow off the staffs' vehicles in Didsbury.



From left to right: Vickie Butts, Judge G.J. Gaschler, Jackie Rosko, Heather Roach, Ena Thompson, Lynne Blair-Kaye, Britta Kristensen (absent duty counsel Mark D'aoust)

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Congratulations to Judge Schaffter

Jacqueline Schaffter, Q.C. is the most recent appointment to Alberta's Edmonton Region Provincial Court. Until her appointment Judge Schaffter was a valuable member of the CCM Provincial Implementation Committee (PIC) in her capacity as president and CEO of Legal Aid Alberta. Tim Owens, CCME project lead said, "Although Jacquie was only with the project for a short time, she rolled up her sleeves from day one. She made sure that Legal Aid was well represented and contributing to the collaborative effort. We wish you all the best in your new office!"



Things We're Working On

Electronic Documents in Provincial Court Criminal

A legislative amendment to the Provincial Court Act to facilitate the use of electronic data and documents in the Provincial Court was given Royal Assent on December 11. The amendment enables Part XXVIII of the Criminal Code, which states “a Court may use electronic documents provided it does so in accordance with an Act or Rules of Court”. The amendment will be proclaimed in force at a later date, once regulations setting out more detailed requirements around the use of electronic documents and electronic signatures have been finalized.

Criminal e-file

We are working on the implementation of a new technology which will replace present aging technology and facilitate the move to a paperless court system. The benefits will be that it enables the automation of work flows and of records retention eventually replacing AJDA. It is anticipated that it will streamline the transfer of prosecution packages from law enforcement to the Crown prosecutors. It will also provide a system of distributing and storing digital evidence which will replace discs. The proof of concept has been completed and we are now well into the pilot project which will demonstrate end to end functionality for the new business and technology processes.

Business Process Review Recommendations

PIC has reviewed and approved an implementation plan to move forward with the business process review recommendations that were developed during a five day analysis session in Medicine Hat. Some of the recommendations have been designated as straight forward and the business is already moving on some of the initiatives. Others require a more coordinated effort, some with technological components. These initiatives require an assessment to determine the costs associated with implementation and sustainability and will be subject to government funding. The CCM project team will be working with the ADMs responsible for leading this effort to track the progress and provide assistance.

Edmonton Crown Office Analysis Session

An analysis session was held with members of the CCM project team and staff from the Crown Prosecutors office in Edmonton to help them prepare for going to a paperless process. The session produced 51 recommendations for improvements to business processes in anticipation of the new procedures. Two of the recommendations are awaiting approval. According to business analyst Branka Micevic, the session “was really positive and provided very good outcomes.” The Crown’s office is preparing to receive files from the Edmonton Police Service electronically. Work has commenced on the EPS side to complete training in uploading their files for electronic delivery to the Crown. It is anticipated that only those documents that are original or cannot be placed in an electronic format will be kept and all others will be electronic. The benefits for the office include a reduction in paper and the work associated with preparing files for court.



PRISM in Lethbridge

The Crown Prosecutors office in Lethbridge is eagerly awaiting the new PRISM implementation that is set to commence in the new year. The CCME team was in Lethbridge on November 5th and 6th to map the current business processes and again on November 14th and 15th to conduct an analysis session to identify procedures moving forward. The CCM trainer, Danielle Coulombe, will be in Lethbridge December 17th through the 19th to begin training for the office.

RCS for Federal Files

The Public Prosecutions Services of Canada would like to remind you RCS is not just for provincial criminal matters. In Edmonton and Calgary there is a process set up to enable defence counsel to remotely book matters through the federal office.

In Edmonton contact the court unit staff at 780-495-3553 or e-mail FedCrwnSchdEdm@ppsc-sppc.gc.ca and in Calgary call the Federal scheduling line at 403-710-4097 or e-mail FedCrwnSchdCal@ppsc-sppc.gc.ca.