



Court Case Management

Evolution

Chief Judge Matchett Chairs PIC

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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In This Issue:

- Judge Matchett
- CCM for the Coming Year
- Criminal eFile
- E-informations
- PRISM in Grande Prairie
- Provincial Court Scheduling Project in B.C.

The retirement last month of Deputy Judge Lefever as chairman of the Provincial Implementation Committee (PIC) left the CCME project without its guiding force. We are very fortunate to have Chief Judge Terry Matchett take his place. Chief Judge Matchett has agreed to come on board as the chairman of PIC and has already shown his usual steady guidance. PIC continues to meet bi-weekly and provides an opportunity for input from all of the CCM stakeholders. It includes members of the judiciary, the ADMs from Court Services, Alberta Crown Prosecutions Service and Technology Services as well as representatives from Public Prosecutions Service of Canada, public affairs, Legal Aid, defence counsel and CCM project team members.

Judge Matchett recently told PIC, "I am excited to be taking on the role of Chair of this very important initiative at this critical period recognizing full well that in replacing former Deputy Chief Judge Lefever I have very big shoes to fill. I won't have Allan's expertise or experience with the project but I do promise to do my best to bring the same commitment to results which he demonstrated from the day this project

was initiated."

The next year will continue to see many more challenges and successes as CCM continues with its initiatives. Judge Matchett has very aptly identified the mandate. "Given the recent demise of the JIMS project last year, CCM is more critical than ever as an engine to drive both the business and technology innovation required to build a more effective and efficient criminal justice system in this province. The partnerships we have created, the expertise we have gained in managing projects and in managing change - these must continue to be the engines that drive improvement in the justice system."



The CCM project team is looking forward to working with Judge Matchett to achieve the aims he has envisioned.

The last word goes to Judge Matchett; "I look forward to working with all justice stakeholders in the coming years to build a criminal justice system which is the envy of the rest of Canada."

CCM for the Coming Year

The Court Case Management program has been given approval for six initiatives that have been determined to be the priorities for the upcoming year. Our primary focus is delivering solutions that are innovative and operationally efficient. Funding is in place to achieve these objectives and the time frame and benefits have been defined. The following are the priorities that will be undertaken during the next fiscal year.

- **Criminal eFile** - moves the prosecutions services and the courts towards an electronic, paperless system
- **Crown Dates to Defence** - Crown available dates accessible electronically by defence to enable easier booking
- **Provincial Implementation** - implementing CCM processes and systems including PRISM, CASS, RCS and CMO in more court locations
- **Federal Matters at CMO** - The PPSC anticipates implementing PRISM which would enable federal matters to appear at the CMO and facilitates booking on RCS
- **Implementing Business Process Review Recommendations** - Work will continue to implement the 33 recommendations that were approved from the business process review last October. There are 11 straightforward and 8 coordinated effort recommendations that are currently in various stages of moving forward with an intention to complete them by March 31, 2014. There are 14 coordinated effort recommendations that require technology (3 are included in the priorities above). Out of these recommendations:
 - 3 would require a strategy to be developed prior to any technology being developed,
 - 3 would be considered enhancements to existing systems, and
 - 8 would be considered adding new functionality to existing systems .

The RCS registration form can be obtained through the Alberta Courts website albertacourts@gov.ab.ca

Take your completed form along with your bar card to any Provincial Court Criminal Office and sign up!

Didsbury and Cochrane booking now on RCS!



Things We're Working On

E-Information

The CCM team is working on the e-information proof of concept. This proof of concept will explore options for receiving electronic charging documents and the business processes that could be used to exchange information between Court Services and law enforcement. The sponsors of this proof of concept are Lynn Varty, ADM Court Services and Inspector Deb Jolly from the Edmonton Police Service. Several workshops have been held with participants from Court Services staff, IT services, and the Edmonton Police Service. These participants will form the working group along with business analysts from CCME. Efforts will be concentrated on testing redesigned business processes and the technological options to support those processes.

PRISM in Grande Prairie

The CCM team was in Grande Prairie on January 24th to meet with the Chief Crown prosecutor Steven Hinkley and office manager Gwen Ball of the Alberta Crown Prosecution Services office. The purpose of the meeting was to kick off the introduction of PRISM. Business analysts from the CCME team went to Grande Prairie on February 10th and 11th to complete a review of their business processes to facilitate the implementation of PRISM. That was followed by an analysis session which was conducted on February 20th and 21st with staff members of the Crown's office to develop recommendations to move forward with PRISM. It is anticipated these recommendations will be presented in the near future with approval to follow.

Criminal e-file

Criminal e-file is an initiative to move the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service and the provincial criminal courts towards an electronic paperless system for the majority of all charge documents. This is a complex undertaking that involves implementation of new technology and processes that can leverage the technology. The Court Case Management project is responsible for completing a pilot project this year which will trial-run some of the technology that is planned for implementation next year. The Ministry has specified that OpenText is the standard approved software that will be used for document management. This software was successfully tested last year during a proof of concept project. The purpose of this pilot is to compare the current processes related to the management of charge documents to the OpenText solution. A decision has already been made to implement OpenText next fiscal year and the pilot is being undertaken to learn what issues must be addressed before moving forward with a full implementation of this system. On February 13th, an informational and training session was held with members of the Edmonton Crown's office. Several prosecutors as well as legal assistants were present to see a demonstration of the capabilities of OpenText and gain some hands-on experience. The user acceptance testing is scheduled for the last week of February. During UAT we will be testing three major pieces of work; intake, disclosure and file usability by Crown and support staff. The pilot project will take place during the first week of March. At that time the CCM project team will be in attendance to support and assist during the pilot.

Provincial Court Scheduling Project in B.C.

Over the past few years the CCM team has had the privilege of networking with Justice participants from other provinces in Canada to share ideas about improvements to the delivery of justice. Most recently the province of British Columbia has undertaken a transformational project within the Provincial Court and the Ministry of Justice called the Provincial Court Scheduling Project. The project is a judicially led initiative with the aim of making more effective, efficient and equitable use of judicial resources. The sponsor of the project is Associate Chief Judge Nancy Phillips. Many of the features that are being implemented by BC will be familiar to stakeholders in Alberta. Alberta played host to members of the B.C. project team several times over the last three years to provide insights into the business and technology changes required to improve the delivery of justice processes. As a result, some of the initiatives in B.C. have incorporated the Alberta CCM processes. In December of 2013 the Simplified Criminal Front-end process was successfully implemented throughout the province. It is similar to the Case Management Offices in Alberta, allowing more administrative court appearances to be heard at a counter instead of a courtroom. The next phase of implementation will see assignment courts supported by Crown file ownership. As of January 2, 2014 judicial assignments are no longer publically available. They are utilizing a "delayed assignment of judges" process that assigns judges on a "day of" basis, a practice that Alberta uses as well. Technology will be put in place to have judges made available to conduct hearings by video conferencing in circuit points. In addition there will be digital display systems, similar to the ones in Edmonton and Calgary, placed in the larger court locations. These will replace the posting of paper dockets. In order to gain additional efficiencies, B.C. has taken one step further by applying the principals of trial scheduling to mixed trial lists, scheduling family, civil and criminal matters together. Trial court judges in most locations will have lists with trial matters from more than one division. Those of us in Alberta who have been involved in CCM for many years will be eagerly following the progress of the Provincial Court Scheduling project in B.C. and wish them all the best with their endeavour.