



# Court Case Management February 2012

## CCM II Progress Report

### WHAT'S NEW ?

- On January 15th all of the adult Provincial Criminal Court files for the whole province were entered in the Crown's PRISM system. This will allow Crown offices in Okotoks and Wetaskiwin to have access to their files as they prepare for the regional roll-out.
- Development is continuing on the Court Appearance Scheduling System (see article on page 2) with the more additions being made to the screen displays as we work towards a more efficient method of scheduling.
- Work is continuing to provide access to all the "P" files (Adult Provincial Court Criminal) files in the entire province through the RCS to enable defence counsel to search for files located anywhere in the Province.
- The Public Prosecution Service of Canada has initiated a procedure in Calgary and Edmonton to enable contact with the Defence Bar for scheduling cases. An information circular was distributed to the Bar in Calgary last fall and will be distributed in Edmonton over the next month.

### CONTACT

If you have any questions about CCM, please contact Tim Owens,

Project Lead, at 780-937-7044, or email [tim.owens@gov.ab.ca](mailto:tim.owens@gov.ab.ca)

For more information on CCM see our web page at [www.albertacourts.ca](http://www.albertacourts.ca)

## Changes to Case Management Office (CMO) Scheduling in Edmonton

### Special points of interest:

Progress Report  
CMO Scheduling Changes  
BC delegation visits Edmonton  
Regional roll-out  
Contest Winner

- Effective February 13, 2012—The number of available slots (cases) for assignment court will be increased from 16 to 20 per day, Tuesday to Friday. When a change is made to limit the number of multi-day matters to four, the number of cases may change for Monday as well.
- Effective March 1, 2012—RCS will allow pre-booking of dates that exceed the current maximum date range of 8 months and will allow a pre-book of matters 8 to 12 months in the future. All matters set outside of 8 months will require the approval of the Provincial Court Judge sitting in the courtroom where the file originated (#265, #268 and #356). For matters scheduled at the CMO, or any other courtroom other than those listed above, approval will be required from the Provincial Court Judge sitting in Courtroom #356.
- Effective June 7, 2012—Courtroom #268 will be opened every Thursday (morning and afternoon) for Low Complexity Domestic Violence trials. These additional time slots will be available for booking on RCS effective February 13, 2012.
- Effective March 1, 2012—Changes will be made to the summary disposition court. Courtroom #446 will continue to be open Monday through Friday as a continuous docket. Courtroom #267 will be open on Monday and Tuesday afternoons for those dispositions arising out of Early Case Resolution (ECR) offers where the offer is being accepted and a joint submission is being advanced. Long matters will not be heard in #267 ECR court.
- Effective June 11, 2012—Courtroom #353 will be closed on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

## Regional Roll-out

Work is being done to modify the Remote Courtroom Scheduling system (RCS) to allow defence counsel to book cases out of Okotoks and Wetaskiwin when the Case Management Office (CMO) opens in those locations this spring. Completion of the assessment of infrastructure in Okotoks and Wetaskiwin and procurement of required hardware is also being undertaken. Development of the CARM (Computer Aided Resource Management) Interface with JOIN is underway which will allow the CMO to book court dates using police officer availability. Training has begun for both the Court and

Crown staff in both locations in preparation for the regional roll-out and will be ongoing over the next month. Two more defence counsel have joined the regional roll-out subcommittee representing Okotoks. Brandi Aymont is a defence counsel practicing in Okotoks and Jack Kelly is a Calgary lawyer who works in the regional areas as well. Jack is the president of the CDLA (Criminal Defence Lawyers' Association). We look forward to their input.



## CMO Scheduling Gets a New Name

Court Services will soon have a new tool to facilitate trial scheduling at the CMO. The technical team that is part of CCM has been working on this system to deliver a better way scheduling. Until now we have always referred to it as "the new system" or "that system". Now we have a name for it! As a result of a contest that we held among the Court Services staff the new system will now be known as **CASS, Court Appearance Scheduling System**.

The winning entry came to us from **Rhonda McAndrews** from Provincial Court in Calgary.

Rhonda started with the Government of Alberta in June 1997. She started with Family and Youth Court in Calgary as a Judicial clerk. She was also the exhibit clerk and eventually the Trial Coordinator. She came to Provincial Criminal Court October 2001 as a Team Lead in the documentation section. She became the Administrator of the Case Management Office in June 2006 and now manages the JP counter at the Calgary CMO.

In the past, Rhonda has been on committees including the group that did testing and training in Edmonton for the transition from CAP to JOIN when it was first implemented. She did testing and development work in Edmonton for PRISM and RCS. She has been on various CCM committees since its inception and is now



**Rhonda McAndrews and Basem Hage from Provincial Court Criminal, Calgary**

on various committees for CCM2. Rhonda really enjoys working with technology and loves getting the opportunity to streamline processes and use technology to improve access to Justice. Rhonda is married with two young boys and this spring will be adding a puppy to their brood.

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*Rhonda McAndrews*

## Visit From B.C. Delegation

Courthouses across the country continually share their stories and compare notes about the different initiatives that are going on. Here in Edmonton we were pleased to play host to our colleagues from British Columbia.

Associate Chief Judge Nancy Phillips led a delegation of participants from B.C. to Edmonton on January 23rd and 24th. Included in the group were members of the B.C. Crowns office and Court Services and a Project Manager. These delegates were able to meet with members of the Edmonton Crown office and hear first hand some of the stories from CCM. They were particularly interested in how File Ownership had impacted their daily lives. They attended the Edmonton Courthouse to observe the Case Management Office operations in Edmonton and see how the assignment courts run. They also had a chance to speak to many Court Services staff.

As the Province of British Columbia begins considering how to implement their own improvements, these delegates will be able to take home some valuable information about the many challenges that were faced by all the stakeholders during the implementation of CCM in Edmonton and Calgary. Hopefully they will also take away the many success stories as well.