



Court Case Management *Evolution*

PIC Says Goodbye to Judge Lefever

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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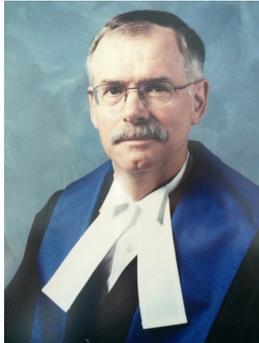
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The RCS registration form can be obtained through the Alberta Courts website albertacourts@gov.ab.ca

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



The Court Case Management program is saying goodbye to a valuable leader and supporter of CCM. In January, Judge Allan Lefever stepped down as the Deputy Chief Judge of the Provincial Court and will be sitting as a part-time Judge in Provincial

Court Criminal. He was the first person to hold the position of Deputy Chief, which was created to help Alberta's court system become the most innovative and progressive in Canada. CCM became a part of that mandate. In February 2008 a steering committee was formed to co-ordinate the interests of all the stakeholders into one encompassing project. Extensive consultation took place among the judiciary, the Crown, court administration and the defence bar. In July 2008 the decision was made that the project should be led by the Provincial Court of Alberta. In August 2008, the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) was established with Deputy Chief Judge Lefever as Chair and the project was officially named the Court Case Management Program (CCM).

Judge Lefever's approach to CCM has always been inclusive and supportive. This philosophy was stated in one of his first communications to stakeholders in 2009. "It is important that the Judiciary, Court Services, Crown, defence counsel, and court staff are all actively involved in the implementation process. A Provincial Implementation Committee (PIC) made up of representatives from these groups has been created to lead and directly oversee this project, and to ensure each group has a voice at the table."

Tim Owens, CCME Project Lead, has worked with Judge Lefever since the beginning. "I was first introduced to Assistant Chief Judge

Lefever (as he was then) in December 2007. I was immediately impressed with his ability to break down silos and his conviction that reform of the justice system needs to be a collaborative effort with all participants involved. With respect to improving the delivery of criminal justice to Albertans, his motto was 'a good idea is a good idea no matter whose idea it was'. He recognized that each stakeholder fiercely defends their independence, yet for the system to be effective in every respect, the stakeholders must exist in an interdependent environment, one in which the distinctness of the roles and responsibilities is understood, accepted and respected. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Judge Lefever was the type of leader that inspired the best in those around them. There are leaders that are appointed by persons in authority to lead others. However, there are also leaders who are sought out to lead by people who are trying to achieve a common important goal. The leaders in the second category, I would submit, are truly remarkable. Judge Lefever is in that category. "

Judge Lefever will be replaced by Chief Judge Terry Matchett as the new Chair of PIC. Judge Matchett has been involved with CCM through the years and will provide a continuation of the support and vision that we have come to expect from the Provincial Court judiciary.

Judge Lefever discusses business initiatives at a CCM meeting with Medicine Hat Chief Crown prosecutor Ramona Robins and Chief of Police in Medicine Hat Andy McGrogan.





Changes for the CCM Team

We would like to welcome another new member to PIC. Suzanne Polkosnik has become our Legal Aid representative filling the position left by the appointment of Jacquie Schafter to the bench. Ms. Polkosnik is the Vice President, Representational Services with Legal Aid. She has experience as a criminal defense lawyer and has worked as an independent consultant providing legal and management advice to organizations in the areas of compliance and ethics, employment matters and corporate governance. We look forward to the opportunity to work with Ms. Polkosnik.

As one person joins us another one leaves. Danielle Coulombe who has been the document/trainer for CCM will be commencing her new position as an application analyst with Justice Operations on January 20th. During her time with the CCM project team Danielle has travelled to CCM locations around the province providing the Crown, defence counsel and court staff with training on PRISM, RCS and CASS. We wish Danielle well in her new duties and know she will be as valuable to Justice Operations as she has been to us!

Cochrane CMO Opens

The Calgary regional court operations have completed the implementation of Case Management Offices (CMO) in all of their locations. On January 7th the final CMO was opened in Cochrane. Lynne Blair-Kaye notes, "It's nice to finally have each of our locations on the same system. It will benefit counsel to know that each area has this available now." Opening day went off without a hitch. According to feedback from one defence counsel, he was very happy that he could now deal with matters at the counter and would not have to go back into the courtroom to confirm dates. It is anticipated that the Remote Courtroom Scheduling system will be enhanced to include the matters from Cochrane and Didsbury to allow defence counsel to begin scheduling matters through RCS.

Business Process Review Recommendations

Work is commencing towards implementation of the business process recommendations that were accepted by PIC in December and intended to improve and standardize business processes in Provincial Court. CCME will play a coordination role for all the recommendation priorities.

- One of the recommendations addresses the practice of in-custody matters appearing at the CMO once bail has been addressed and a designation of counsel have been filed. Edmonton and Calgary have implemented this procedure.
- A staged approach for implementing a timeline for matters to be set for trial, preliminary or disposition within three months of first appearance is currently underway.
- The recommendation that specifies the way the early case resolution offers are handled by the ACPS has been finalized. RAC notes at the CMO will not contain details of the ECR offer and when the CMO is delivering the offer, it will be in a sealed envelope.

PRISM in Grande Prairie

Grande Prairie has been identified as the latest location to implement PRISM (Prosecutors Information System Manager). On January 24th, members of the CCME project team will be meeting with the Crown's office in Grande Prairie to establish the first steps towards implementation. That will be followed up with a business process review and an analysis session to identify the appropriate procedures to ensure the successful implementation of PRISM.

RCS Usage

The use of the Remote Courtroom Scheduling system (RCS) continues to grow throughout the province. The total number of searches for the month of November 2013 was 30,218 up from the same month in 2012 which was 21,977. This is a dramatic increase from November 2011 when the number of searches was 9,822. Defence counsel continue to find RCS a useful tool to access court information. The total number of cases booked through RCS has also continued to climb. In November 2013 there were 304 cases booked compared to November 2012 which saw 191 cases booked through RCS.