

Court Case Management Program

A Provincial Court of Alberta program supported by the Justice Information Management System initiative

An update for the Judiciary, Crown, defence counsel, the unrepresented accused, court staff, Alberta Justice staff and Albertans. For more information, visit www.albertacourts.ab.ca/ccm.



March 2009

Program overview

The aim of the Court Case Management (CCM) Program is to more effectively manage cases in Edmonton and Calgary adult Provincial Court, and in turn, increase public confidence in the justice system and improve access to justice.

The CCM Program will benefit the Provincial Court, court staff, the Crown, defence counsel, the unrepresented accused, and of course, the public. The program will ensure a level playing field by treating the Crown and defence counsel (or accused) equally with respect to how matters are scheduled and disposed in Provincial Court. The Crown File Ownership Project is a sub-project under the larger CCM Program.

Crown File Ownership

Through the effective tracking of file assignments and workloads, Crown File Ownership will:

- facilitate timely dispositions and shortened court proceedings;
- lead to earlier resolution of disclosure issues; and
- ensure work is distributed equitably and appropriately, and files are managed efficiently.

A review of data collected by the General Prosecutions Offices in Calgary and Edmonton has begun. Critical analysis of the data will begin on March 19.

Based on this review, a presentation of recommendations to the Provincial Implementation Committee (PIC) is scheduled for March 31, 2009.

Business requirements for the Crown File Ownership component will be finalized after the recommendations are considered and approved by PIC.

Important notice

The CCM information session with Calgary Defence Counsel will be held from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. on March 25, 2009 in the Calgary Court Centre Barristers' Lounge (601 – 5th Street SW).

The Calgary General Prosecutions information session will be held from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on March 25, 2009 at Centrium Place (4th Floor, 332 - 6th Avenue S.W.).

Information sessions are currently being scheduled for Edmonton Defence Counsel, and Provincial Court Criminal staff and Hearing Office staff in Edmonton and Calgary. Stay tuned for more information.

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Court Scheduling

Detailed data collection for the Business Process Redesign effort in Court Services concluded in mid-February 2009.

From mid to late February 2009, an analysis team consisting of representatives from the Clerk's Office, Case Management Office, Hearing Office, General Prosecutions Office, judiciary, and defence bar critically examined the data collected.

On March 3, 2009, the analysis team presented 66 short- and long-term recommendations to the Provincial Implementation Committee (PIC). PIC approved 64 of the recommendations.

Some of the major recommendations include:

- The consideration of multiple assignment courts;
- Reducing time in docket court by having remote scheduling and remote appearances; and
- Having first appearances and uncontested matters conducted at a JP counter (similar to traffic).

Business requirements for a new court scheduling approach are being finalized and will factor into the approved recommendations, some of which will be implemented in the coming weeks. Next steps include priority setting and implementation strategies.

To view all of the Court Services Business Process Redesign recommendations, visit www.albertacourts.ab.ca/ccm

JIMS and other technology








Alberta's justice system needs an integrated information management system that allows for flow of information within its boundaries and access to information gathered by the stakeholders.

The Justice Information Management System (JIMS) is a business transformation initiative. It focuses on harmonizing and streamlining Justice business processes and supporting them with technology.

Supported by a modern information management system, JIMS will improve the flow of information between the ministry and stakeholders such as police or correctional centres.

Some of the long-term recommendations relating to court scheduling are also key requirements for JIMS and the two initiatives are working together to address the need.

Provincial Implementation Committee (PIC) members

-  Deputy Chief Judge Provincial Court Allan Lefever – Chair
-  Assistant Chief Judge Provincial Court Bob Wilkins
-  Barb Hookenson – Assistant Deputy Minister Court Services Division, Alberta Justice
-  Greg Lepp – Assistant Deputy Minister Criminal Justice Division, Alberta Justice
-  Michael Dinkel - defence counsel
-  Stephen Bull – Justice Information Management System
-  Tim Owens – CCM project lead