



Provincial Court of British Columbia

**Annual Report
2005-2006**

THE HONOURABLE HUGH STANSFIELD
CHIEF JUDGE



THE PROVINCIAL COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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The Honourable Wally Oppal
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Dear Mr. Attorney:

I am pleased to enclose the Annual Report of the Provincial Court of British Columbia covering the period of April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006. This report covers the end of Chief Judge Carol Baird Ellan's term in office which concluded in June 2005 and the commencement of my five year term as Chief Judge in July 2005.

Highlights for the year include the introduction of civil processes to accommodate the expansion of the Court's civil jurisdiction to \$25,000, criminal process reform initiatives and a major review of the office of the Judicial Justice of the Peace. The Court is also developing a new three-year Strategic Plan for the Court that is nearing completion.

This is an exciting time of reform and growth for the Court as it continues to strive to serve the public with the most efficient and effective use of judicial resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'H Stansfield'.

The Honourable Hugh Stansfield
Chief Judge

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE 2005 – 2006 FISCAL YEAR

1

The term of former Chief Judge Carol Baird Ellan concluded in June 2005. At the end of her term of office, Chief Judge Baird Ellan reported that most of the matters addressed in the first Strategic Plan had been completed.

Chief Judge Hugh Stansfield began his five year term in the summer of 2005, with a Province wide public outreach and communication program. The Chief Judge's goals were to increase public awareness of the Court and its processes while listening to relevant public concerns. Over the course of several months, the Chief Judge participated in public forums, spoke at community consultations, met with Mayors and councillors and sat for interviews in virtually every region of the Province.

The Court also began a fundamental review of its processes in the areas of Civil, Criminal and Family Law.

Civil

In the area of civil jurisdiction, the Court developed revised processes to accommodate the significant increase of jurisdiction from \$10,000 to \$25,000 which came into effect September of 2005. This included modified civil process rules, expanded settlement conference and pre trial conference protocols and enhanced education for judges with respect to substantive law and settlement conference skills.

The Court was able to manage this increase in jurisdiction without new judicial resources or significant legislative reform through innovation and cooperation of judges in the reform process.

Family

The Family Justice Reform Working Group released its report on recommended changes to Family Law processes and law in June of 2005.

http://www.bcjusticereview.org/working_groups/family_justice/family_justice.asp

The Working Group developed recommendations for fundamental changes to the family court system in BC. It also examined the concept of unified family court and made recommendations on the delivery of family justice services outside of the court system, such as non-adversarial and settlement oriented processes.

The Court continued its work on reforms with respect to family law matters such as case conferencing taking into consideration the report of the Working Group. As well, preliminary work with family law assize lists expanded significantly reducing the number of trial days required for such matters.

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Criminal

Reform of criminal law processes was identified as a priority by Chief Judge Stansfield to reduce unnecessary appearances, improve trial certainty and enhance confidence in the administration of justice.

The 2004 report of the Street Crime Working Group with respect to the potential value of a community court based in the downtown east side of Vancouver was identified by Chief Judge Stansfield as a priority for the Court. (The full report can be found at: http://www.bcjusticereview.org/working_groups/street_crime/street_crime.asp)

The Court began the process of working with relevant parties to investigate the feasibility of establishing such a separate Court in late 2005.

With respect to substantive reform, a Criminal Process Reform Committee was established to identify key issues affecting the operation of the Court's criminal jurisdiction. Over the course of 2005 and 2006 extensive consultations resulted in a targeted list of priorities for change and a range of recommended reforms.

JJP Function and Role

A review of the nature and scope of matters currently assigned to Judicial Justices of the Peace was also identified as a priority for the Court. A comprehensive report on this subject was commenced in 2005 with the objective of reporting to the Chief Judge with recommendations for change by March 31, 2007.

Strategic Plan

Work began in the fall of 2005 on the 2006-2009 Strategic Plan. A committee was established with broad representation from the judiciary to consider matters outstanding from the first strategic plan, identify new priorities and emerging issues. The work of the committee continued through late 2005 and early 2006 with the goal of circulating a draft plan by June 2006.

Court Performance Management

Significant benchmarks in the area of Court Performance Management had been established under the leadership of Chief Judge Baird Ellan. In 2005 work continued to further expand and enhance the Court's ability to identify emerging issues and potential solutions through more substantive measurement of relevant data. Working in cooperation with Court Services Branch, the Court has developed measurement standards which will provide early warning of changes in workload and the Court's ability to respond to emerging issues.

Court Administration

As part of an ongoing process of management renewal, the Court established an internal audit committee. A seven year plan was established to sequentially review all aspects of administration operating under the auspices of the Chief Judge. An independent audit consultant was retained in 2005 and the first report was received in April of 2006.

Intranet

The Court continues to post relevant updates and information on matters of interest to the judiciary on the newly created Intranet site. Reports, policy manuals and links to other relevant information are continually expanded to improve the utility of this site for all members of the judiciary.

Public Information Committee

The Court's Public Information Committee was very active throughout the year participating in Public Forums, speaking as faculty at educational sessions for lawyers and law students, and presenting to law enforcement programs.

Following his appointment, the Chief Judge began his term by touring the Province, presiding in Court and meeting the media. The Chief Judge also participated in a regular television feature entitled "Ask the Judge" where he answered questions from the public about the justice system.

The Provincial Court of British Columbia continues in its traditions of innovation, access to justice, quality of judicial service, accountability and excellence.

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ADMINISTRATION

The Court continued the internal governance structure recommended in the 2003-2005 Strategic Plan consisting of an Executive Committee and a Management Committee.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is chaired by the Chief Judge and includes the three Associate Chief Judges, with the advice and assistance of the Director of Judicial Administration. The role of the Executive Committee is to provide strategic direction and decision making for the Court on administrative and management matters as well as issues touching on the administrative independence of the court.

Chief Judge—The Honourable Hugh C. Stansfield (appointed June 2005 for a term of five years)

Associate Chief Judges

- The Honourable Judge Brian M. Neal (appointed July of 2005 for a term of two years)
- The Honourable Judge Dennis Schmidt (appointed June of 2005 for a term of two years)
- The Honourable Judge James J. Threlfall (appointed June of 2005 for a term of five years)

Management Committee

The Administrative Judges of the Court designated pursuant to section 10 of the Provincial Court Act constitute the Management Committee. The role of the Committee is to provide advice to the Chief Judge on emerging issues in judicial districts, policy proposals and administrative matters.

The members of the Committee in 2005/2006 were as follows:

- Administrative Judge M.J. Brecknell (Cariboo Northeast District)
- Administrative Judge P.L.J. de Couto (North Fraser District)
- Administrative Judge E.F. de Walle (North West District)
- Administrative Judge E.L. Iverson (North Vancouver Island District)
- Administrative Judge W.J. Kitchen (Vancouver Criminal District)
- Administrative Judge W.G. MacDonald (South Fraser District)
- Administrative Judge D.E. Moss (Coast District)
- Administrative Judge M.E. Rae (Robson Square District)
- Administrative Judge L.W. Smith (South Vancouver Island District)
- Administrative Judge N. N. Phillips (Okanagan District)
- Administrative Judge D. L. Sperry (Kootenay District)
- Administrative Judge C.D. Cleaveley (Kamloops District)

4. Traffic Court and Justice Centre Administration

The Court continued with two Administrative JJPs in accordance with the Strategic Plan. JJP Linda Mayner continued as the Administrative Judicial Justice of the Peace for the Traffic Court Division and JJP Patricia Schwartz continued as the Administrative Judicial Justice of the Peace for the Justice Centre.

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THE JURISDICTION OF THE PROVINCIAL COURT

1. The Scope of the Court's Authority

The Provincial Court of British Columbia is one of two trial courts in the province, the other being the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

The Provincial Court's caseload encompasses the following primary subject areas: criminal, family and youth, civil, and traffic.

Appeals from Provincial Court decisions go to either the Supreme Court of British Columbia or the BC Court of Appeal, depending upon the nature of the case. Appeals on some Provincial Court cases may be taken to the Supreme Court of Canada, after the Court of Appeal.

The statutes listed below are the principal ones in which the court has jurisdiction. Under some of these enactments, jurisdiction is shared with the Supreme Court or split between the Provincial Court and the Supreme Court.

Federal Statutes:	Provincial Statutes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criminal Code• Youth Criminal Justice Act• Controlled Drugs and Substances Act• Firearms Act• Income Tax Act• Fisheries Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Guardianship Act• Child, Family and Community Service Act• Commercial Transport Act• Court Order Enforcement Act• Environmental Management Act• Family Relations Act• Family Maintenance Enforcement Act• Health Act• Liquor Control and Licensing Act• Community Charter and Local Government Act (Bylaw Offences)• Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act• Mental Health Act• Motor Vehicle Act• Offence Act• Passenger Transportation Act• Small Claims Act• Waste Management Act• Wildlife Act• Youth Justice Act

The Provincial Court's jurisdiction extends to all criminal cases except a few in which the Supreme Court has exclusive jurisdiction, listed in section 469 of the *Criminal Code* (such as murder, treason, piracy, alarming Her Majesty). For these, a preliminary inquiry is generally held in the Provincial Court before the Supreme Court trial.

The Provincial Court does not conduct jury trials. It has exclusive jurisdiction in all summary conviction trials and hears trials in all indictable matters where the accused does not elect a jury trial or a trial by a Supreme Court Judge.

In family matters, the Provincial Court has jurisdiction in child protection cases, maintenance, custody, guardianship, and access, but not divorce, adoption, or the division of family property.

The Provincial Court's jurisdiction in civil matters extends to cases with a monetary limit of \$25,000 (as of September 1, 2005).

Provincial ticket offences, primarily traffic, are heard by judicial justices of the peace. Judicial justices of the peace also hear bail and search warrant applications by fax and telephone through the Justice Centre.

2. Legislative Changes

a. Federal

During the fiscal year April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006, provisions were brought into force under five federal Acts affecting or expanding Provincial Court jurisdiction.

On November 1, 2005, portions of *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (protection of children and other vulnerable persons) and the Canada Evidence Act*, S.C. 2005, c. 32 came into force. The provisions brought into force relate to voyeurism and sexual offences involving children. In addition, new provisions were enacted for receiving evidence from a victim or witness under 18 years of age. On January 2, 2006, further provisions of the Act were brought into force. Those provisions for publication bans, exclusion of the public from a court room, use of witness support persons in court, and witnesses testifying outside of the courtroom or behind a screen. Amendments were also made to the *Canada Evidence Act* provisions related to evidence from persons under the age of 14.

Portions of *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (mental disorder) and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, S.C. 2005, c. 22 were brought into force on June 30, 2005. These provisions related to Part XX.1 (Mental Disorder) of the *Criminal Code*, including provisions for assessment orders and recommendations by a Review Board for a stay of proceedings. Further provisions related to regular inquiries by a court after a person has been found unfit to stand trial, procedures before a court and Review Board, use of victim statements, and publication bans. The legislation also includes related amendments to the *National Defence Act*.

On November 25, 2005, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (trafficking in persons)*, S.C. 2005, c. 43, received Royal Assent and thereby came into force. This legislation enacts provisions related to kidnapping, trafficking in persons, hostage taking and abduction, including provisions for the protection of witnesses. On that same date, Royal Assent brought into force the provisions of *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (proceeds of crime) and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and to make consequential amendments to another Act*, S.C. 2005, c. 44 and *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Cultural Property Export and Import Act*, S.C. 2005, c. 40. Chapter 44 made various changes to Part XII.2 (Proceeds of crime) of the *Criminal Code*, including changes to the definition of "designated offence", the provision related to search warrants, restraint orders and orders of forfeiture. Administrative amendments were also made to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* and *Seized Property Management Act*. Chapter 40 adds provisions to the *Criminal Code* regarding offences in relation to cultural property, and amends the *Cultural Property Export and Import Act*.

b. Provincial

Section 7 of the *Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 2004*, S.B.C. 2004, c. 68, came into force on May 1, 2005. This section repealed and replaced s. 89 of the *Motor Vehicle Act* which now, among other things, authorizes a judicial officer to notify the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia of various driving prohibitions.

Amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act* came into force June 15, 2005 (section 2, 9, 17, 20, 21 (c) and 23 of the *Motor Vehicle Act, 2004*, S.B.C. 2004, c.68). These amendments relate primarily to the superintendent's authority regarding remedial courses and programs for drivers, superintendent-imposed driving prohibitions, and regulations related to driver training.

On September 1, 2005, portions of the *Justice Modernization Statutes Amendment Act*, S.B.C. 2004, c. 65, came into force. Among those provisions was an amendment to s. 3 of the *Small Claims Act* authorizing the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations prescribing the amount claimable under the *Small Claims Act*, up to \$50,000. A regulation was also enacted (OIC #357/2005), effective September 1, 2005, raising the monetary limit in small claims matters to \$25,000. *The Amendment Act* also changed the *Crown Proceeding Act*, effective September 1, 2005, to permit proceedings otherwise within Provincial Court jurisdiction to be brought against government in the Provincial Court.

With the increase in the Provincial Court's monetary jurisdiction under the *Small Claims Act* on September 1, 2005, Rule 7.3 was added to the *Small Claims Rules* establishing the process for mediation of claims between \$10,000 and \$25,000 (BC Reg. 251/2005 as amended by BC Reg. 286/2005). This was in addition to the process for mediation already in place for claims up to \$10,000. BC Reg. 251/2005 also included transitional provisions related to parties with then-current claims or counterclaims who wished to increase the amount of their claim above \$10,000 but within the \$25,000 monetary limit.

On September 14, 2005, the *Small Claims Rules* (BC Reg. 261/93) were amended by BC Reg. 285/2005 (effective October 1, 2005) and BC Reg. 286/2005. BC Reg. amended Rules 7.2 (Mediation for claims up to \$10,000), 7.3 (Mediation for claims between \$10,000 and \$25,000), with consequential changes to 8(10), 16, and Forms 5, 22, 23 and 31.

Amendments to the *Provincial Court (Child, Family and Community Service Act) Rules*, BC Reg. 533/95 were made by BC Reg. 351/2005, effective January 16, 2006. These amendments relate to the definition of "party" in the definition section of Rules, and changes to Rules 1 and 6 as well as to various forms.

THE PROVINCIAL COURT'S CASELOAD

1. Incoming Cases by Subject Matter

During the fiscal year 2005-06, the Provincial Court received 217,019 new cases.

About 47% of Provincial Court's caseload is criminal and youth matters, 35% is traffic matters, and about 14% is family and small claims.

Almost 99% of all criminal cases in British Columbia are conducted and completed in the Provincial Court (100,151 new criminal cases in Provincial Court in 2005-06).

While the number of new adult criminal cases declined again in the year, the rate of descent was only slight as compared to recent fiscal years, marking what could be a levelling off period. New youth cases reflected a slight reduction in caseload, in part likely due to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act's* continued emphasis on alternate measures.

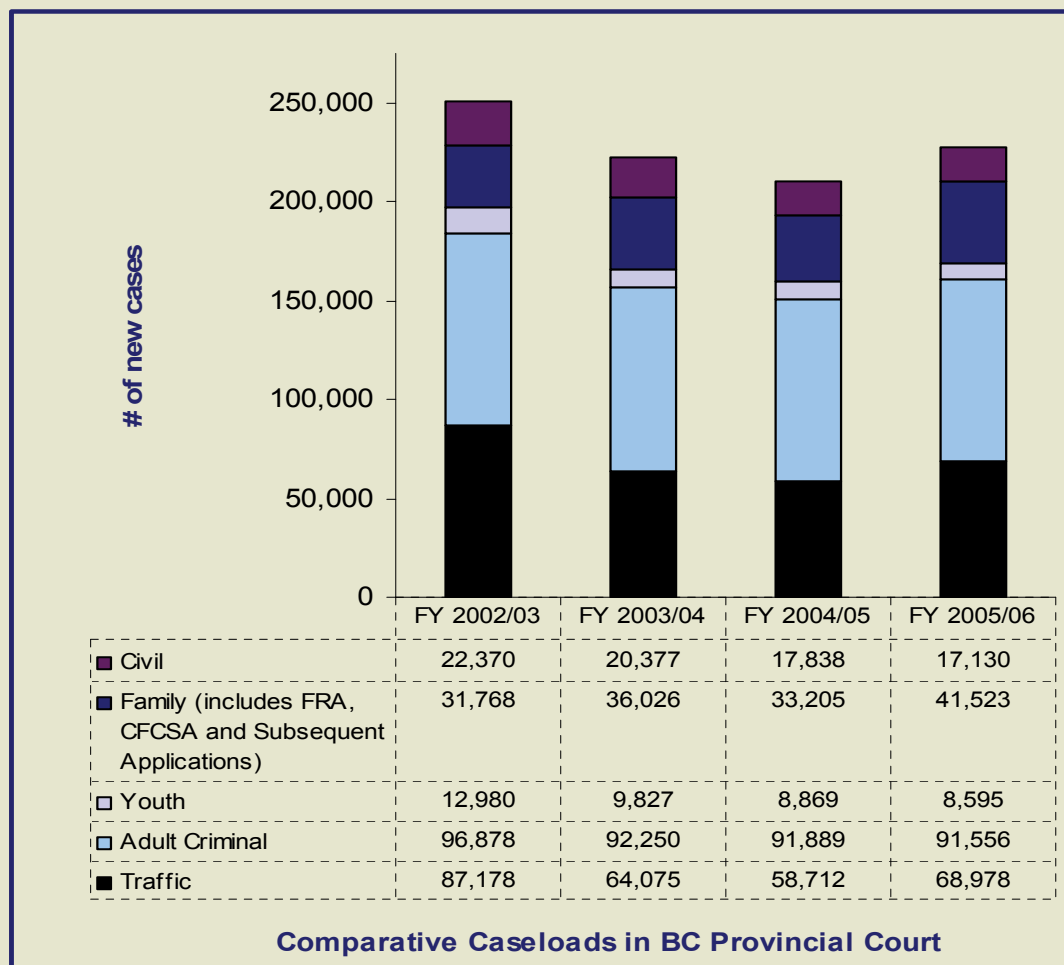
Sharing jurisdiction with the Supreme Court in matters of child custody, access, maintenance, and maintenance enforcement, the Provincial Court heard more than 41,000 family cases over the year (including repeat applications on existing files) or about 75% of all family matters in the Province.

New *Family Relations Act* cases increased slightly in the year; subsequent applications on files commenced before 2005/2006 continued to increase. The number of new cases and subsequent applications under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* also increased slightly over the past fiscal year.

The Provincial Court hears over 17,000 civil cases each year. Volumes of civil cases filed in the Court declined slightly in the 2005/2006 fiscal year. The increase in the Court's monetary jurisdiction to \$25,000 on September 1, 2005, has not had a significant impact on new Civil Court filings.

Traffic caseload increased during the year to almost 69,000 new traffic cases.

The following chart shows comparative caseloads for new cases for the current and previous three fiscal years, by subject.



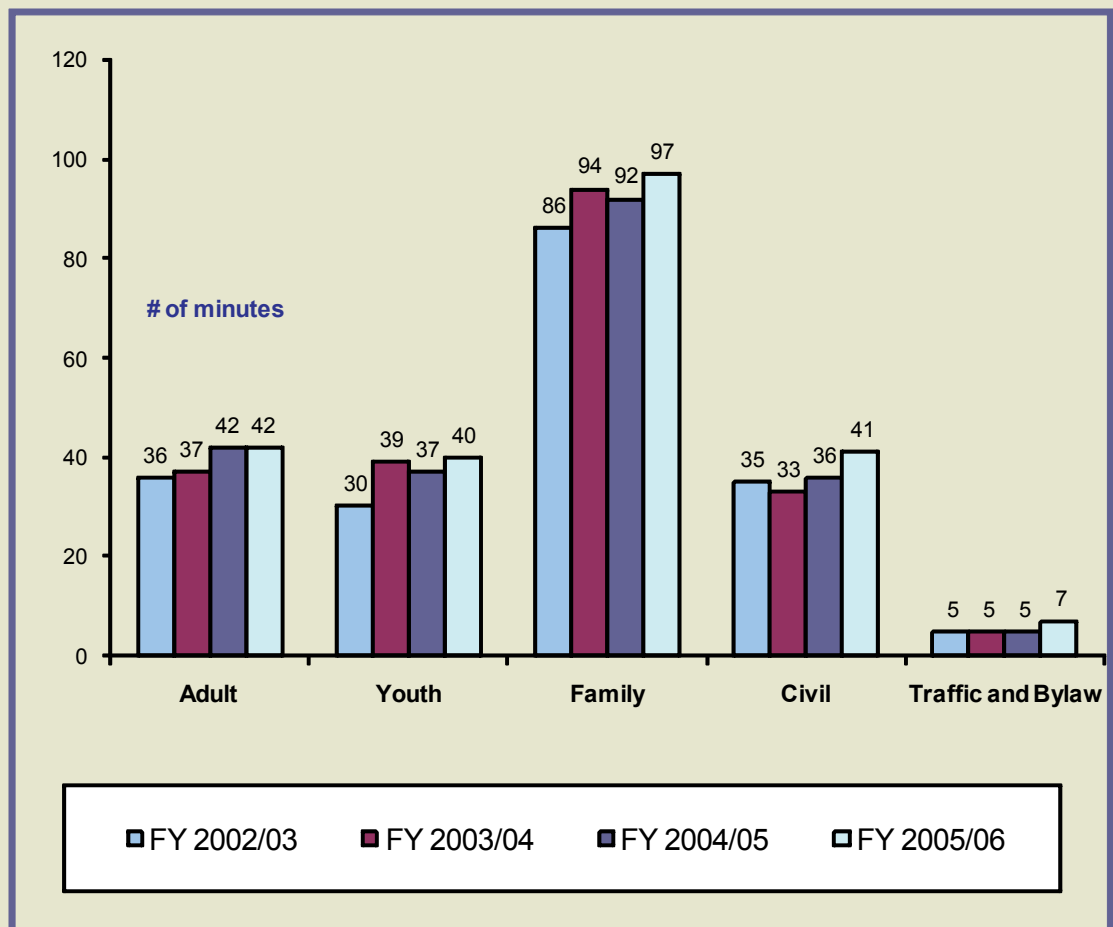
2. Trends in Case Length

The court continues to track provincial average case length based upon time spent on case types. There are significant variations in average case length per type between districts for some case types. Average case length is calculated based on total caseload and total time spent.

Average case length therefore represents the average time spent per case to deal with all incoming cases, from those concluded in a few minutes or several brief appearances, to trials up to several months or even years in length. About 7% of incoming matters proceed to a trial.

The graph below shows changes in provincial average case length for the year. Rises in adult criminal and civil will need to be monitored during the next year.

Average Case Length per Case Type (in minutes)



3. Next Available Trial Dates (Backlog)

The Court continues to track backlog through quarterly surveys of the "next available trial date" per district by subject matter. This represents the average wait for trial based on the delay between the setting of a case and its trial date. A similar survey for traffic matters began this past year.

Backlogs are beginning to develop in a few locations for adult criminal due mainly to under-resourcing. These rises will be monitored and assessed during the next year.

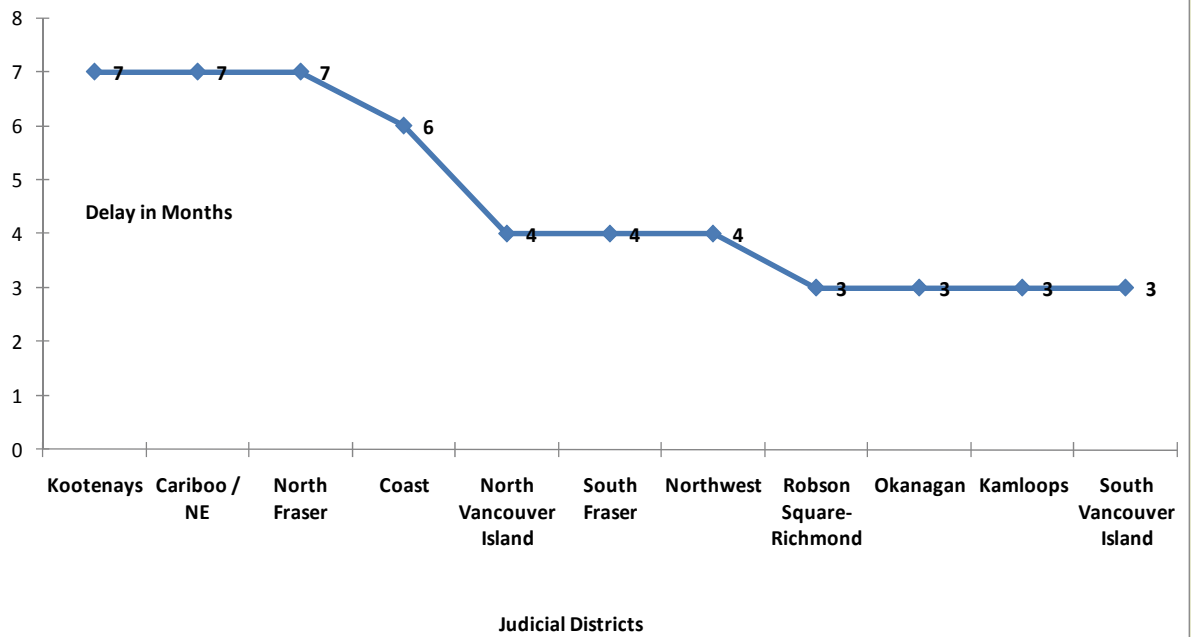
The Management Committee has endorsed a number of court performance measures and set standards in the following areas: time to trial for 1/2 day adult criminal trials (90% within 6 months); time to trials for 2 day adult criminal trials (90% within 8 months); time to trial for youth matters (90% within 4 months); time to small claims settlement conferences from filing of reply (90% within 2 months); time to trials for small claims actions (90% within 4 months); time to hearing for child protection matters (90% within 3 months); and family hearings (90% heard within 4 months).

In the spring of 2006, the Court undertook a major civil backlog reduction project in North Vancouver, New Westminister and Port Coquitlam, with judicial resources being temporarily reallocated from two lower mainland districts. This effort reduced the backlog in North Vancouver from the last fiscal year's delay to trial of 9 months, to a delay of 5 months. In New Westminister and Port Coquitlam, this effort initially reduced the backlog from 11 months delay to trial to 5 months. Early indications show this delay to be slowly rising and a separate assessment is planned to determine the cause.

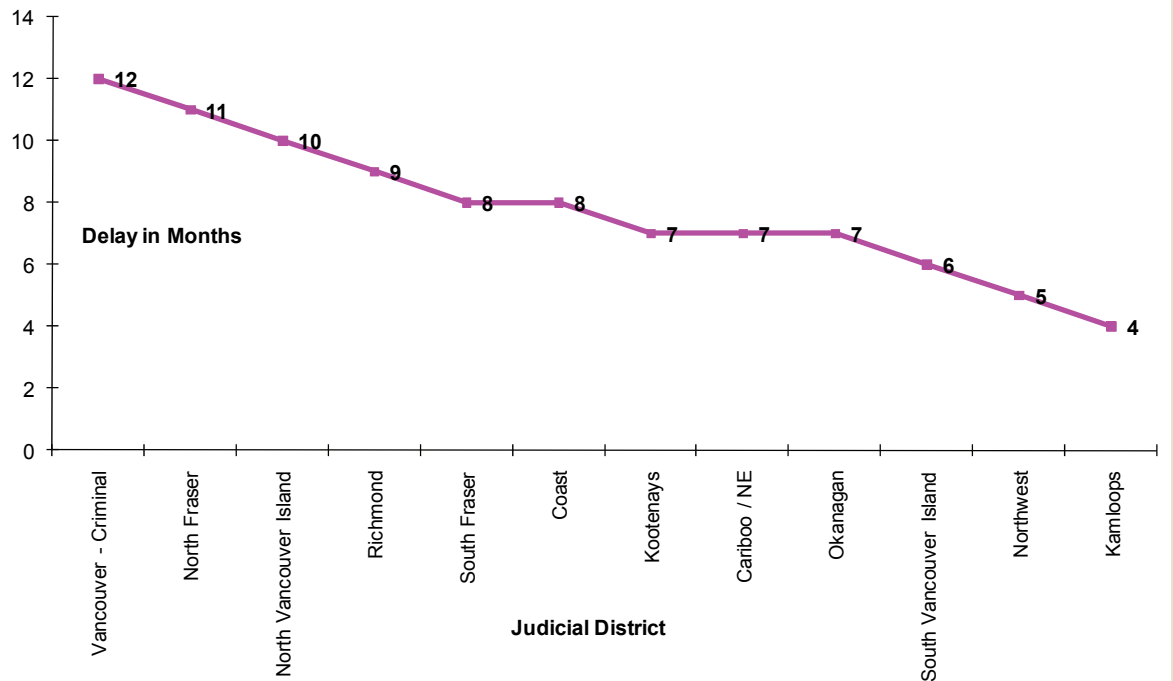
From January to March 2006, a Traffic backlog reduction initiative occurred in Richmond Provincial Court. Approximately 9,000 cases were disposed of during this time. On December 31, 2005, a violation ticket, once received by the Court registry, was scheduled for a hearing 13 months away. After the backlog reduction initiative, as of March 31, 2006, a violation ticket would now have a hearing date in 5 months.

The following charts show backlogs by location and subject matter at the close of the fiscal year.

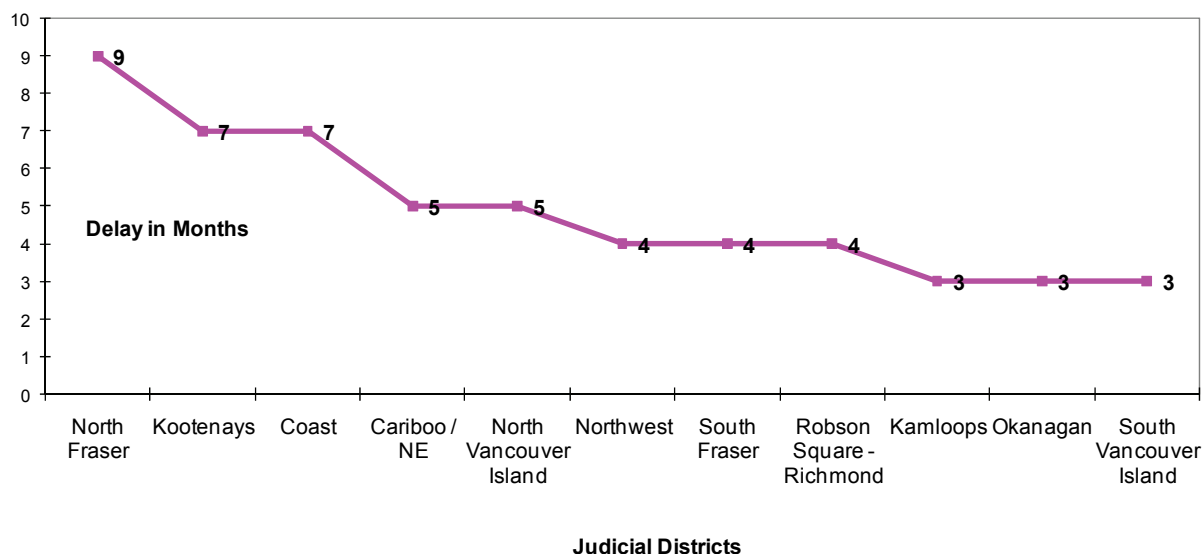
Next Available Trial Date (Backlog) Family -- March 31, 2006



Next Available Trial Date (Backlog) Adult Criminal -- March 31, 2006



Next Available Trial Dates (Backlog) Small Claims -- March 31, 2006



4. Judicial Resource Assessment & Allocation

The Court continues to develop and refine its method of assessing needs for judicial resources province-wide, through a formula based on incoming caseloads, backlogs and average case lengths. The workload of each judicial district is broken down between all divisions in which the court sits and is compared against Provincial standards set by the Chief Judge and the Management Committee. Other factors considered in this assessment include travel challenges of some districts, long term illnesses of judges, future retirements and relocation of judges.

Required resources by district are assessed based on the three-year average of case lengths by type, incoming caseloads for the current period, available judge sitting time, and backlog, to arrive at a projected required number of judges per judicial district. This comparator is used for the purpose of assigning judges within and between districts, and identifying vacancies for appointment requests by the Chief Judge.

This past year saw great advancements in the development of our court performance standards. This cooperative effort between the Judiciary and Court Services Branch will allow for a more in-depth analysis for assessing the courts resource requirements.

During the fiscal year, the Court continued with its “unassigned judges” program by creating a pool of unassigned judge time proportionate to each district’s number of resident judges. This “reserve” of sitting time is used for backlog reduction, emergency coverage and reallocation of required resources between districts, throughout the year.

FACILITIES

The following is a list of the 88 court locations throughout the province, including circuit courts.

	COAST		OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
North Vancouver Pemberton* Powell River Sechelt	The Honourable Admin. Judge D.E Moss	Atlin* Bella Bella* Bella Coola* Good Hope Lake* Lower Post* Klemtu*	
	KAMLOOPS		OKANAGAN
Ashcroft* Chase* Clearwater Kamloops Lillooet* Merritt*	The Honourable Admin. Judge C. Cleaveley	Kelowna Penticton Princeton* Revelstoke* Salmon Arm Vernon	The Honourable Admin Judge N. Phillips
	KOOTENAYS		CARIBOO NORTHEAST
Castlegar* Cranbrook Creston* Fernie* Golden Grand Forks* Invermere* Nakusp Nelson Rossland Sparwood*	The Honourable Admin. Judge D.L. Sperry	Alexis Creek* Anahim Lake* Chetwynd* Dawson Creek Fort Nelson Fort St. James* Fort St. John Fraser Lake* Hudson's Hope* Kwadacha (Fort Ware)* Mackenzie McBride* 100 Mile House* Prince George Quesnel Tsay Keh Dene* Tumbler Ridge* Valemount Vanderhoof* Williams Lake	The Honourable Admin. Judge M.J. Brecknell
	NORTH FRASER		VANCOUVER RICHMOND
New Westminster Port Coquitlam	The Honourable Admin. Judge P.J. de Couto	Vancouver Civil & Family (Robson Square) Richmond	The Honourable Admin. Judge M.E. Rae
	N.VANCOUVER ISLAND		SOUTH FRASER
Campbell River Courtenay Gold River* Nanaimo Port Alberni Port Hardy Powell River Tahsis* Tofino* Ucluelet*	The Honourable Admin. Judge E.L. Iverson	Abbotsford Chilliwack Surrey	The Honourable Admin. Judge W.G. MacDonald
	NORTHWEST		S. VANCOUVER ISLAND
Burns Lake Dease Lake* Houston* Kitimat* Masset New Aiyansh* New Hazelton* Prince Rupert Queen Charlotte City* Smithers Stewart* Terrace	The Honourable Admin. Judge E.F. De Walle	Duncan Ganges* Sidney* Victoria West. Communities (Colwood)	The Honourable Admin. Judge L.W. Smith
			VANCOUVER CRIMINAL
		Vancouver Crim (Main St.)	The Honourable Admin Judge W.J. Kitchen

* unstaffed court locations (circuit courts)

Financial Reports

1. 2005-2006 Budget Submissions and Expenditures

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	Budget	Actual	Variance	
Salaries	\$29,331,000	\$28,383,647	\$947,353	(1)
Supp. Salaries	30,000	77,942	(47,942)	(2)
Benefits	7,040,000	6,840,722	199,278	(3)
Judicial Council/Ad Hoc	351,000	420,300	(69,300)	(4)
Travel	1,271,000	1,511,163	(240,163)	(5)
Central Management Support Services	0	5,132	(5,132)	
Professional Services	113,000	148,354	(35,354)	(6)
Information Services	207,000	313,972	(106,972)	(7)
Office Expense	891,000	922,644	(31,644)	(8)
Advertising	3,000	163	2,837	
Court Attire and Supplies	73,000	83,975	(10,975)	
Vehicles	66,000	52,313	13,687	
Amortization	349,000	357,961	(8,961)	
Building Lease	468,000	500,521	(32,521)	(9)
C.A.P.C.J. Grant	8,000	7,200	800	
Library	177,000	222,377	(45,377)	(10)
Interest on Capital Leases	9,000	5,962	3,038	
General Expenses	0	(29,176)	29,176	(11)
Sub-Total Operating	\$40,387,000	\$39,825,172	\$561,828	
Operating Variance as per Financial Management Report			\$561,828	
Provincial Court Judges		140.42		
Judicial Justices of the Peace (JJPs)		28.37		
Staff		76.69		
Total FTE:		245.48		
Capital Budget Variance (Systems and Furniture)	\$1,110,000	\$950,107	\$159,893	
(1)	Appointment lag on judges/JJPs; savings for judges/JJPs on sick leave.			
(2)	Increased maternity and parental leave costs.			
(3)	Related to savings in salaries.			
(4)	Increased use of Ad Hoc JJPs to cover absent JJPs.			
(5)	Increased travel to areas experiencing a shortage of judges JJPs.			
(6)	Enhancements to Judges Benchbook.			
(7)	Expenditures to enhance disaster recovery site and upgrade computer network.			
(8)	Increased equipment leasing costs and stationery/office supplies.			
(9)	Tenant improvement at Justice Centre.			
(10)	Increases to subscriptions.			
(11)	Gain on disposal of assets.			

2. Expenditures and Variances for Ad Hoc Judges & Ad Hoc Judicial Justices of the Peace

Ad hoc judges and JJPs are deployed on a short-notice, emergency basis to cover for short-term illness or other unexpected shortages of judicial resources. They receive per diem remuneration when assigned by the Office of the Chief Judge. Amounts paid to ad hoc judges and JJPs are budgeted separately from salaries. The ad hoc judge and JJP budget may be supplemented from the budget for salaries of judges and JJPs, where appointments are delayed or a judge or JJP is on long term disability. The ad hoc judge program is increasingly being replaced by the Unassigned Judges Program discussed above.

The following charts show the amount of time committed to ad hoc judge and judicial justice of the peace services in the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Costs for Ad Hocs exceeded budget to cover long term sick leave absences.

2005/2006 Ad Hoc Judge Usage & Expenditures

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004/2005	DAYS USED	\$ AMOUNT
TOTAL USAGE	244.00	\$181,311.00
TOTAL BUDGET (days)	210.00	\$192,570.00
VARIANCE	(34.00)	(\$11,259.00)

2005/2006 Ad Hoc Judicial Justice of the Peace Usage & Expenditures

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005/2006	DAYS USED	\$ AMOUNT
TOTAL	559.16	\$214,944.00
TOTAL BUDGET	289.00	\$120,960.00
VARIANCE	(279.16)	(\$93,984.00)

JUDICIAL COMPLEMENT

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1. Judges

At the commencement of the fiscal year, in April 1, 2005, the complement of Provincial Court judges totalled 135 full time judges, 16 part time and 5 ad hoc judges.

At March 31, 2006, the complement was 140 full time, 16 part time and 3 ad hoc judges. The following changes in the complement of judges took place during the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

“Part time” refers to senior judges who have elected to receive pension and to work a reduced schedule of approximately half time, pursuant to section 9.1 of the *Provincial Court Act*. This program was enacted initially as a pilot to end March 31, 2005, but was continued as a permanent program through government’s February 16, 2005 adoption of the recommendation of the 2004 Judges Compensation Commission Report, based upon a joint submission of the Ministry of the Attorney General and the judiciary.

Retirements

Judge	Date	Administrative District
K. Page (Ad Hoc) Deceased)	May 14, 2005	Vancouver H/Q
B.J. Grannary (Deceased)	June 3, 2005	Okanagan
D.M. Waurynchuk	June 30, 2005	South Fraser
M.H. Thomas (Ad Hoc)	March 6, 2006	Vancouver H/Q

Part Time Elections

Judge	Date	Administrative District
W.Blair	April 1, 2005	Kamloops
B. Macfarlane	April 1, 2005	Cariboo/Northeast

Appointments

Judge	Date	Administrative District
B. Chapman	August 29, 2005	Okanagan
D. O’Byrne	August 29, 2005	Cariboo/Northeast
A. Walker	August 29, 2005	Cariboo/Northeast
K. Wallace	August 29, 2005	Okanagan
P. Dohm	December 2, 2005	South Fraser
D. Gardner	December 2, 2005	South Fraser
G. Rideout	December 2, 2005	Vancouver Criminal
R. Romano	December 2, 2005	South Fraser

Appointment to Supreme Court

Judge	Date	Administrative District
E. Arnold Bailey	April 14, 2005	Vancouver Criminal

Transfers

Judge	Date	Administrative District
A.I. Ehrcke	May 16, 2005	South Island to Vancouver Criminal
P. Maughan (P/T)	January 1, 2006	Vancouver Criminal to South Island
C. Cleaveley	April 1, 2005	Cariboo/Northeast to Kamloops
K. Skilnick	June 6, 2005	Cariboo/Northeast to South Fraser
B. Dyer	September 1, 2005	South Fraser to North Fraser
P. Chen	September 1, 2005	North Fraser H/Q to Coast
C. Baird Ellan (former Chief Judge)	July 1, 2005	Vancouver H/Q to Coast
H. Stansfield (Chief Judge)	July 1, 2005	Okanagan to Vancouver H/Q

Office of the Chief Judge

H.C. Stansfield, Chief Judge

Ad Hoc Judges:

C.C. Barnett

F.S. Green

L.A.T. Nimsick

T.W. Shupe

Cariboo—Northeast:

M.J. Brecknell, Administrative Judge

E.L. Bayliff

E.C. Blake

R.R. Blaskovits

B.A. Daley

B.L. Dollis

M.A. Gray

R.B. Macfarlane (P/T)

D. J. O'Byrne

K. Walker

R.E. Walker (LTD)

R. Walters

D. H. Weatherley

Coast

D.E. Moss, Administrative Judge

J. Auxier

C.C. Baird Ellan

W.J. Diebolt (p/t)

J. Gedye

D.E. Moon

W.J. Rodgers

Kamloops

C.D. Cleaveley, Administrative Judge

W.A. Blair (p/t)

T.A. Dohm

J.P. Gordon (p/t)

E.A. Sather (p/t)

B.W. Sundhu

Kootenays

D.L. Sperry, Administrative Judge

D.C. Carlgren

R.G. Fabbro

R.J. Webb

North Fraser

P.L.J. de Couto, Administrative Judge

T. Alexander

S.C. Antifaev

G.P. Angelomatis

M.R. Buller Bennett

J.C. Challenger

S. Dossa

B.A. Dyer

D.D. Potheary

A.J. Spence

D.M.B. Steinberg

D. Stone

North Vancouver Island

E.L. Iverson, Administrative Judge

J.D. Cowling

P.M. Doherty

R.A. Gould

J.I.D. Joe

B.R. Klaver

C.D. Lazar (p/t)

K.J. Libby (p/t)

J.E. Saunders

B. Saunderson

Northwest

E.F. de Walle, Administrative Judge

W.R. Jack

A.K. Krantz

J.R. Milne

H.J. Seidemann

Okanagan

J.J. Threlfall, Associate Chief Judge

N.N. Phillips, Administrative Judge

E.R. Brecknell

E.M. Burdett

J.P. Cartwright (LTD)

B. J. Chapman

P.V. Hogan

W.W. Klinger

G.G. Sinclair

R.R. Smith

M.G. Takahashi

A. Wallace

Robson Square - Richmond

E.D. Schmidt, Associate Chief Judge
 M.E. Rae, Administrative Judge
 R.P. Chen
 B.K. Davis
 H.K. Dhillon
 E.A. Ferbey
 R.D. Fratkin
 J.F. Galati
 R.M. Gallagher
 E.J. McKinnon
 P.R. Meyers
 M.R. Mondin
 D.R. Pendleton
 V. Romilly
 D. Senni
 A.R. Tweedale
 J.E. Watchuk
 J.F. Werier
 W.F.W. Yee

South Fraser

W.G. MacDonald, Administrative Judge
 K.W. Ball
 M.C. Borowicz
 G.T.W. Bowden
 R.B. Caryer
 J.G. Cohen
 T.J. Crabtree
 P. M. Dohm
 T.D. Devitt
 H. Field
 D. R. Gardner
 G.S. Gill
 E. Gordon
 P.D. Gulbransen
 M.B. Hicks
 B.G. Hoy
 P.A. Hyde
 J.W. Jardine
 R.J. Lemiski (p/t)
 J.J. Lenaghan
 J.R. Lytwyn
 C.B. MacArthur (p/t)
 S.K. MacGregor
 C.G. Maltby
 R.D. Miller
 S. Point (*on leave for 3 year appointment
 as Chief Commissioner of BC Treaty Com-
 mission*)
 R. Raven
 R. R. Romano
 C.J. Rounthwaite
 K.D. Skilnick
 W.F. Stewart (p/t)
 J. Wingham
 W.A. Young

South Vancouver Island

B.M. Neal, Associate Chief Judge
 L.W. Smith, Administrative Judge
 J.K. Bracken
 L.F.E. Chaperon
 A.E. Filmer (p/t)
 L.J.M. Harvey
 R.A. Higinbotham
 J.M. Hubbard
 J.N. Kay
 B.D. MacKenzie
 P.L. Maughan (p/t)
 A.J. Palmer
 E.J. Quantz

Vancouver - Criminal:

W.J. Kitchen, Administrative Judge
 C.L. Bagnall
 B.E. Bastin
 C.J. Bruce
 E.I. Ehrcke
 J.E. Godfrey
 T.J. Gove
 F.E. Howard
 R.R. Low
 M.O. MacLean
 T.D. McGee (p/t)
 H.J. McGivern (p/t)
 J.F. Palmer
 G. Rideout
 A.E. Rounthwaite
 K.A.P.D. Smith (p/t)
 D.I. Smyth (p/t)
 C.J. Trueman (LTD)
 C.E. Warren
 H.F. Weitzel

2. Judicial Justices of the Peace

Judicial Justices of the Peace (JJPs) are justices of the peace who are designated as judicial justices pursuant to section 30(1) of the *Provincial Court Act*. Under section 11 of the *Provincial Court Act*, JJPs are assigned by the Chief Judge to preside over traffic bylaw matters and ticketable offences under provincial legislation, and to hear bail and search warrant applications.

Bail and search warrant applications conducted by JJPs are heard primarily by facsimile and telephone through the Justice Centre, located in Burnaby. The Centre operates on a 24-hour basis.

At the commencement of the fiscal year, at April 1, 2005, there were 29 full time, 2 part-time and 3 ad hoc JJPs.

At March 31, 2006, the complement was 28 full time, 3 part time and 5 ad hoc JJPs.

The following changes in the complement of JJPs occurred during the year:

Appointments

Judicial Justice of the Peace

C. Harvey (Ad Hoc)

D. Henderson (Ad Hoc)

Justice Centre:

- J.N. Aasen
- J.S. Arntsen
- I.L. Blackstone
- J. Chellappan
- B.S. Cyr
- P.L. Dodwell
- G. Hayes
- S. Joseph-Tiwary
- D.H. Maihara
- D.M. North
- K.M. Pomfret
- C.L. Rogers
- P. Schwartz
- J.M. Wakefield
- M. Kobiljski

Office of the Chief Judge:

- K.M. Yamamoto (ad hoc)
- G.C. Foster (ad hoc)
- D. Henderson (ad hoc)
- D.W. Rivett (ad hoc)
- C. Harvey (ad hoc)

Richmond:

- L.L. Mayner
- K.M. Morrison (p/t)
- J. Smigel (p/t)

Vancouver (Robson Square):

- R. Almond
- Z. Makhdoom
- A.M. Osborne
- E. Turley (LTD)
- J.D. Clark

Kamloops:

- J.E. Hughes

Okanagan:

- L.J. Taylor

Prince George:

- C.D. Jolly

North Fraser:

- C.M. Proctor

South Fraser:

- B.D. Lambert

North Island:

- J.F. Dodd

South Island:

- G.E. Madrick (p/t)

Coast:

- P.M. Lim

Justice Centre Support Staff

A group of dedicated personnel listed below provided support services to JJPs assigned to the Justice Centre throughout the current fiscal year.

Justice Centre - JJP Support Staff as of March 31, 2006

Supervisors

- Darlene Mayo
- Erin Weisbrod

Support Staff

- Rachel Fujinami
- Laura Ceklaj
- Erin Smith
- Sandra Trochta
- Judi Morris
- Sarah Calla

3. Judicial Case Managers

Judicial Case Managers (JCMs) are employees of the judiciary who are responsible, under the supervision of the Administrative Judges, for court scheduling, coordination of judges' sittings, conducting initial criminal appearances, and managing the flow of cases. They are instrumental in ensuring that judicial resources are effectively allocated and utilized in a manner consistent with the rules and policies of the Court. Judicial Case Managers are justices of the peace and exercise judicial discretion as part of their duties.

The following were the Court's 37 judicial case managers as at March 31, 2006:

Judicial Case Managers - At March 31, 2006

Vancouver—Criminal:

- T.L. Hill
- C.J. Johnstone
- K.E. MacKenzie
- L.L. Stokes
- L.T. Caporale

Robson Square—Richmond:

- C. Goodrich
- C. Mayhew
- B. Brown
- J.A. Norton

Kootenays:

- M.J. Jensen (Cranbrook) (p/t)
- S.P. Hadikin (Nelson) (p/t)

Kamloops:

- S.D. Paul (Kamloops)

Okanagan:

- D.C. Krenz
- B.L. Vincent

Northwest:

- L. Leonardes (Terrace) (p/t)
- C.M. Foerster (Prince Rupert) (p/t)
- S.E. Portschi (Smithers) (p/t)

North Vancouver Island:

- C.M. Ballman (Courtenay/Campbell River)
- V. Mitchell (Nanaimo)

South Vancouver Island:

- S.L. Cole (Duncan/Colwood) (p/t)
- D. Henry (Victoria)
- Y. Locke (Victoria)
- M.L. Preston (Victoria)

North Fraser:

- M.L. deKeruzec (Port Coquitlam)
- S. Gill (Port Coquitlam)
- W.R. Bennett (New Westminster)

South Fraser:

- D.J. Hodge (Surrey)
- J. Jenvey (Surrey)
- A. Mitchell (Abbotsford) (p/t)
- S. Thorne (Surrey)
- M.K. Warwick (Abbotsford)
- B.L. West (Surrey)
- A.L. Schulz (Chilliwack)

Cariboo—Northeast:

- D. Pillipow (Prince George)
- S.D. Jasper (Quesnel) (p/t)
- G. Campbell (Fort St. John)

Coast:

- S.I. McLarty (North Vancouver)

4. Judicial Administrative Assistants

Judicial Administrative Assistants (JAAs) are judiciary employees who perform administrative services for Administrative Judges, Judges and JPs in their administrative district. Their duties include organizing meetings, preparing written judgments, preparing the judges' rota, and keeping court statistics. JAAs are under the supervision of the Administrative Judges.

The following were the 24 judicial administrative assistants at March 31, 2006:

Judicial Administrative Assistants - At March 31, 2006	
<p>Vancouver Criminal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Lockstidt • A. Romilly • P.F. Mark 	<p>South Vancouver Island:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Bruce (Victoria) • C.J. Gutosky (Victoria) (T.A. to Crown) • P. Burdge (Victoria) (T.A. for Gutosky)
<p>Vancouver Richmond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J.F. Crichton (Robson Square) • C.L. McNeill (Robson Square) • C. Mayhew (Robson Square) (p/t) • A. Molgat (Richmond) (p/t) 	<p>North Vancouver Island:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Steele (Nanaimo)
<p>North Fraser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Hanif (Port Coquitlam) • D. Twerdun (New Westminster) • J.A. Anderson (Port Coquitlam) (p/t) 	<p>Okanagan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Low (Kelowna) • T. Nategaal (Kelowna) (p/t)
<p>South Fraser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J.F. Chan (Surrey) • V.L. Statler (Surrey) • L. Burgess (Chilliwack) (p/t) • P. Sahota (Abbotsford) (p/t) • J. Fernandes (Surrey) 	<p>Cariboo Northeast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L.S. Bishop (Prince George) • J. Cunard (Williams Lake) (p/t)
	<p>Kamloops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.E. Chernoff (Kamloops)
	<p>Northwest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Leonardes (Terrace) (p/t)
	<p>Coast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Garcia (North Vancouver)

5. Office of the Chief Judge Staff

The following were the judiciary staff members employed at the Office of the Chief Judge during the 2005 – 2006 fiscal year, and their respective duties:

1. **Director of Judicial Administration:** (Mike Smith) - under the direction of the Chief Judge, responsible for managing judicial administration matters, including liaison with government, management of the Court's budget, systems, resources, facilities, technology issues, justice of the peace program and special projects.
2. **Legal Officer:** (Gene Jamieson) - provides legal advice to the Chief Judge and accesses legal resources for judges, judicial justices of the peace, justices of the peace and staff in the Office of the Chief Judge.
3. **Administrative Judicial Case Manager:** (Grant Marchand) - provides the Chief Judge with reports on the state of the lists throughout the province, assists the case management program in achieving consistency of practice throughout the province, and provides an assessment of judicial resource needs.
4. **Systems Business Manager:** (Steve Rhodes) – plans, develops, evaluates and implements information systems to meet the operational needs of the provincial judiciary.
5. **Manager, Finance and Administration:** (Dan DeBou) - provides administrative, financial and human resources services; assists the Director of Judicial Administration; monitors the budget; oversees acquisition of furniture and equipment.
6. **JP Administrator:** (Kevin Purdy) - assists the Chief Judge and Director of Judicial Administration in the administration of the justice of the peace program; the unassigned and ad hoc judge programs; prepares and manages judicial justice of the peace rota.
7. **Executive Assistant to the Chief Judge:** (Maria Hla-Tin) - provides executive secretarial and administrative support to the Chief Judge.
8. **Executive Assistant to the Associate Chief Judges:** (Aida Estrella) - provides executive secretarial and administrative support to the Associate Chief Judges and Judicial Council of British Columbia.
9. **Administrative Services Coordinator:** (Vacant) – provides payroll and human resource management services, judicial time bank updating and monitoring and assists the Manager, Finance & Administration.

10. **Systems Support Coordinators:** (Mona Salameh & Justin Bailey) – provide systems support to the judiciary and assists the Systems Business Manager.
11. **Administrative Assistant to Director of Judicial Administration:** (Carissa Unger) Provides administrative support to the Director of Judicial Administration, responsible for library services, judicial clothing, needs and assists with judicial conference preparations.
12. **Administrative Assistant to Legal Officer:** (Evelyn Suzuki) - provides secretarial support to the legal officer.
13. **JP Clerk:** (Vacant) - provides secretarial/clerical support to the JP administrator; assists the JP administrator in the administration of the justice of the peace program.; electronic document project.
14. **Travel Clerk:** (Crystal Hunter) - processes travel vouchers; prepares and distributes financial reports and information.
15. **Accounts Clerk:** (Judy Darnel) - processes invoices for Visa payment; prepares and monitors contracts; leave recording and Time-On-Line payroll matters.
16. **Purchase Clerk:** (Aida Ballesteros) - purchases equipment and supplies for the judiciary; processes travel vouchers.
17. **Receptionist:** (Joyce Fernandes - provides receptionist duties and secretarial support for the Office of the Chief Judge.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Provincial Court judges participate actively in public outreach programs such as speaking to students, at educational conferences and at public forums; teaching; and engaging in community activities, such as local Law Days presented by the Canadian Bar Association.

The Court has had an active Public Information Committee since the spring of 2004. During the current year, committee members and a number of the other judges of the court, have been involved in public forums organized by the Law Courts Education Society in various locations across the Province including Prince George, Kelowna, Victoria, Chilliwack and the Queen Charlotte Islands. In addition, the Chief Judge, when his term as Chief Judge began in July 2005, travelled throughout the Province and presided in court in locations and met with local media in those locations. The Chief Judge has also appeared regularly on a Global TV feature entitled "Ask the Judge" where questions from the public about the justice system are addressed.

The members of the Public Information Committee during the year were:

1. The Honourable Chief Judge H. C. Stansfield, Chair
2. The Honourable Associate Chief Judge E.M. Burdett
3. The Honourable Administrative Judge E.F. de Walle
4. The Honourable Administrative Judge P. de Couto
5. The Honourable Administrative Judge M.E. Rae
6. The Honourable Judge C. Baird Ellan
7. The Honourable Judge J. Challenger
8. The Honourable Judge T. Gove
9. The Honourable Judge R. Higinbotham
10. The Honourable Judge J. Jardine
11. The Honourable Judge W. Klinger
12. The Honourable Judge D. Moon
13. The Honourable Judge D. Overend
14. The Honourable Judge A. Routhwaite
15. The Honourable Judge J. Saunders
16. The Honourable Judge M. Takahashi
17. G. Jamieson, Legal Officer

The Legal Officer to the Chief Judge, Gene Jamieson, has primary responsibility for responding to media inquiries and issuing media releases on matters of interest to the public. He may be contacted through the Office of the Chief Judge.

Persons interested in inviting judges to speak or participate in public outreach activities are invited to do so through the Office of the Chief Judge.

A chart showing some of the judges' public outreach activities is contained in Appendix "A".

Provincial Court Education Committee

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The Chief Judge and the Judicial Council have delegated to the BC Provincial Court Judges' Association the primary responsibility for judicial education. The Association, through the officers and directors selects the judges who make up the Education Committee. An effort is made to appoint committee members from different parts of the province, with varied practice backgrounds and interests and with a range of length of service as a judge.

The current seven committee members are

Tom Crabtree, Chair (South Fraser District)
Conni Bagnall (Vancouver, - Criminal District)
Elizabeth Bayliff (Cariboo - Northeast District)
Evan Blake (Cariboo - Northeast District)
Tony Palmer (South Island District)
Deirdre Potheary (North Fraser District)
Ross Tweedale (Robson Square - Richmond District)

The first education conference of 2005 was held in Penticton, **May 5, 6 and 7.**

The first day's presentations were

- ◆ Sentencing Drug Offenders and Corporate Criminals
- ◆ What's new at Community Corrections
- ◆ What happens after they leave the courtroom: Adult Community Sentences
- ◆ What happens after they leave the courtroom: Youth Corrections
- ◆ The Youth Criminal Justice Act: how do you like me so far

At lunch, Rick Miller of our court shared his experiences as one of the election observers sent by the Canadian government to monitor the Ukrainian Presidential election held in December 2004.

A special General Meeting of the Association was held at the end of the first day's session.

The second day's presentations were

The Return of the Family Panel

Developments in Family Law: Present and Future

Charming the Snake: Psychopathy

A very special dinner was held, 'Hail to the Chief' honouring Chief Judge Carol Baird Ellan

The third day's presentations were

- ◆ Introduction to the Intranet
- ◆ Making the Cut: Authorizing and reviewing various warrants
- ◆ Civil Claims Reform: Back to basics

A number of non-judges gave presentations, for which we are grateful. However, the majority of presenters were judges of our court. The May 2005 Conference featured these judges (in order of appearance):

Joanne Challenger, Tom Gove, Ken Skilnick, Harbans Dhillon, Lynne Dollis, Ann Rounthwaite, Donna Senniw, Conni Bagnall, Jim Jardine, Bill Kitchen, Hugh Stansfield, and Ken Ball.

The second education conference of 2005 was held in Vancouver at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue **November 17, 18 and 19.**

The jurisdiction of the Provincial Court under the Small Claims Act increased to \$ 25,000 on September 1, 2005. As a result, the Chief Judge took responsibility for the content and presenters for the Fall Conference. The Education Committee assisted.

The first day's presentations were

- ◆ Recent Developments in the law of contract
- ◆ Recent Developments in the law of torts
- ◆ Introduction to the CLE-BC Provincial Court Electronic Bench book: motor vehicle accident and wrongful dismissal claims
- ◆ CLE Research resources
- ◆ Civil law research resources
- ◆ A Criminal Law Diversion: the Impaired/over .08 Handbook for Judges

At lunch, the court's new Chief Judge, Hugh Stansfield spoke about several topics from his extensive 'state of the court' report the he had sent to all judges prior to the conference.

The second day's presentations were

- ◆ Managing reserve judgments in civil cases
- ◆ Landmines: subject areas where the Provincial Court does not have jurisdiction
- ◆ Awarding costs
- ◆ Lawyers bills
- ◆ Court Services Online resources
- ◆ Wither goes civil dispute resolution
- ◆ Pursuing transformative change in delivery of civil justice
- ◆ Revising our approach within existing Rules

Terry Shupe of our court spoke of his trip to Sri Lanka during February and March 2005 to assist with a needs assessment and Tsunami recovery development through the NGO, Developing World Connections.

The Judges' Association hosted a reception at the Wosk Centre.

The third day of the conference featured the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

The November Conference featured these judges as presenters (in order of appearance): Hugh Stansfield, Jim Threlfall, Joe Galati, Evan Blake, Jeanne Watchuk, Ken Ball, Dennis Schmidt, Brian Neal.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2005 Chief Judge Stansfield created a new committee chaired by Associate Chief Judge Neal, with broad representation from the judiciary to prepare the second strategic plan for the Court for the period 2006-2009. The Strategic Planning Committee commenced consultation within the judiciary and the identification of key issues in the early spring of 2006 with the goal of producing a draft report for consideration by the Chief Judge by June 2006. The work of the Committee continues.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEES

The Chief Judge's Technology Committee chaired by the Director of Judicial Administration reviews Electronic Access Policy Issues affecting the Court, updates the Information Technology Plan for the Court to ensure that systems meet the ongoing operational needs of the provincial judiciary, and develops related policies and procedures. It advises the Chief Judge and liaises with the Court Services Branch on all topics related to technology.

WEBSITE AND JUDGMENT DATABASE

The Court's website provides the public with a broad range of information and announcements about the Court, and the Judicial Council of BC, the judiciary and the types of cases dealt with by the Court. The website also hosts the Court's judgment database, containing most written decisions and many oral decisions of the Court in the past four years. As of March 31, 2006 there were 3,446 judgments on the database.

A feature added last year to the judgment database is the ability to obtain a listing of decisions posted in the past seven days. This has proven helpful for researchers and journalists who seek to be kept up to date on the Court's most recent decisions. The Provincial Court website, and a direct link to the most recent decisions of the court posted in the immediately preceding seven days, is also accessible from the general website for all Courts in British Columbia.

<http://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/>

<http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca>

Appendix “A”
Public Outreach Activities
2005–2006

Judge T. Alexander—Participated in the Association des Juristes d’expression française de la Colombie-Britannique.

Judge C.L. Bagnall—Speaker at Continuing Legal Education Society session entitled “Winning Advocacy Skills Workshop 2005”. Panel member for National Judicial Institute Sentencing course. Speaker at Argyle Secondary School regarding “Judicial Independence” for two Law 12 classes. Member of organizing committee for judges session at Canadian Bar Association Conference, Vancouver. Judge for University of British Columbia Faculty of Law Peter Burns Moot.

Judge K.W. Ball—Presenter, Continuing Legal Education Society program regarding changes in Small Claims Court.

Judge J. Challenger—Participated in University of British Columbia Faculty of Law Peter Burns Moot Court. Group Leader for Trial Advocacy program, University of British Columbia Faculty of Law.

Judge T. Crabtree—University of British Columbia Faculty of Law Peter Burns Moot.

Judge P. de Couto—Member, Board of Directors, Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia. Participant in Community Liaison Program in the African community with the Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia. Presentation to Law 12 Teachers at a BC Secondary Teachers’ Association meeting and to Law 12 Teachers from the Tri-City areas regarding judicial independence.

Judge S. Dossa—Speaker, National Judicial Institute program “Judging Across Borders—Canadian Judges and International Law Conference”. Presenter at Law Society of British Columbia program on “Access to Justice”. Presenter, Canadian Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution subsection program on “Faith Based Arbitration.” Presenter, Canadian Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution subsection meeting, Edmonton, Alberta.

Judge J. Galati—Speaker at Continuing Legal Education Society program entitled “Criminal Practice 2006”.

Judge J. Godfrey— Speaker at Continuing Legal Education Society program entitled “Criminal Practice 2006”.

Judge E. Gordon—Speaker at Continuing Legal Education Society program entitled “Criminal Law and the Charter 2005”.

Judge T. Gove—Presenter at Sentencing Forums coordinated by the Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Judge J. Jardine—Speaker at Continuing Legal Education Society program entitled “Criminal Practice 2006”. Speaker at Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia program entitled “Criminal Law for the Defence”.

Judge J. Lytwyn—Speaker at Continuing Legal Education Society program entitled “Winning Advocacy Skills Workshop 2005”.

Judge P. Meyers—Course Chair for continuing Legal Education program entitled “Small Claims”.

Associate Chief Judge B. Neal—Speaker at Victoria Young Lawyers meeting regarding civil cases.

Judge M. Rae—Assisted Law Courts Education Society with “Art in the Court” program involving 160 artists. Presenter, education session at Grandview Elementary coordinated by the Law Courts Education Society.

Judge A. Rounthwaite—Speaker at Continuing Legal Education Society program entitled “Winning Advocacy Skills Workshop 2005”. Speaker at B.C. Corrections Association conference on “Mentally Disordered Offenders”.

Judge J. Saunders—Swore-in Port Alberni Municipal Council. Presenter, Nanaimo Drug Abuse Resistance Education program on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Presentation of training certificates to Nanaimo RCMP. Presenter, Victim Services of Nanaimo event regarding sentencing. Presentation to Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce of Academic Dissertation. Meeting with RCMP regarding *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and extra-judicial measures.

Associate Chief Judge E.D. Schmidt—Speaker at Continuing Legal Education Society program entitled “Restructuring Justice”. Speaker at Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia seminar regarding personal injury claims in small claims court.

Judge D. Senni—Presenter at National Judicial Institute program for Chinese Judges regarding Simplified Civil Procedure.

Chief Judge H. C. Stansfield—Presenter at Sentencing Forums coordinated by the Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia in Kelowna, Prince George, Chilliwack and Williams Lake. Speaker, Continuing Legal Education Society Program “The Views of the Child: Interviewing Children in Mediation and Collaborative Practice”. Individual meetings with the Mayors of Williams Lake, Smithers and Prince Rupert. Met with Nanaimo criminal defence lawyers. Met with Councillors, City Manager and Director of Finance of the City of Langley. Spoke at New Westminster Bar Association 2005 Bench and Bar Dinner. Speaker, “Critical Issues Business Luncheon” for the Surrey Chamber of Commerce. Speaker to Advocacy Class at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law. Speaker at Vancouver Board of Trade meeting and provided brief presentation on Street Crime Working Group Report. Speaker at Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia Program entitled “Inside I.C.B.C.: Demystifying the Workings of the Corporation”. Spoke to Dispute Resolution class at University of Victoria Faculty of Law. Panel participant regarding media access to court proceedings at Association of Canadian Courts Administrators conference. Spoke to Vancouver Board of Trade Crime Task Force members. Speaker, Continuing Legal Education Society session entitled “Civil Litigation Conference”. Panel member at Greater Vancouver Leadership Summit on a panel entitled “The Cost of Surrendering Our Streets: Safety, Security and the Impact of Crime on Our Region”. Various media interviews. Speaker at I.C.B.C. Auto Crime Forum regarding auto crime and penalties. Spoke to Real Estate Transaction class at University of British Columbia Faculty of Law. Speaker at Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce meeting regarding criminal justice issues. Spoke to advocacy class students at University of Victoria Faculty of Law. Speaker at B.C. Criminal Justice Association meeting. Speaker at Continuing Legal Education Society conference entitled “Criminal Practice 2006”. Meeting with the Mayor of the City of Vancouver. Speaker at a forum regarding the Provincial Court and the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Judge H. Thomas—Participated as facilitator as part of the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law Orientation Week.

Associate Chief Judge J.J. Threlfall—Speaker at Continuing Legal Education Society program entitled “Restructuring Justice”.

Judge R. Tweedale—Coordinated visit of a judge of the Tokyo District Court of the Provincial Court at Robson Square and 222 Main Street, a second judge of the Tokyo District Court, together with Judge J. Galati. Met with Managing Director of the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (University of Victoria) regarding judicial perspective on seeking views of the child in family cases. Provide feedback to researcher for the Ministry of Attorney General, Family Justice Services Division regarding *Family Relations Act* s.15 reports. Interview on RJ Radio.

Judge H. Weitzel—Trainer, Peter Burns Moot competition, Faculty of law, University of British Columbia.

Judge J. Werier—Presenter, Youth at Risk program in conjunction with the Law Courts Education Society. Speaker at Continuing Legal Education Society program entitled “Winning Advocacy Skills Workshop 2005”.

The following judges participated in the Law Courts Education Society Judicial Community Liaison Program—Chief Judge H.C. Stansfield, Judge J. Challenger, Judge P. de Couto, Judge S. Dossa, Judge B. Dyer, Judge H. Field, Judge T. Gove, Judge P. Gulbransen, Judge R. Higinbotham, Judge R. Miller, Judge A. Rounthwaite, and Judge A.J. Spence.

The following judges in the Okanagan Region participated in various public legal education projects coordinated by the Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia: Judge J. Cartwright, Judge E. Brecknell, Judge E. Burdett, Judge B. Chapman, Judge V. Hogan, Judge W. Klinger, Judge L. Phillips, Judge G. Sinclair, Judge R. Smith, Judge M. Takahashi, Judge J. Threlfall and Judge A. Wallace.

The following judges participated in various public legal education projects coordinated by the Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia on Vancouver Island: Judge E. Quantz and Associate Chief Judge B. Neal.

The following judges in Kamloops participated in public legal education projects coordinated by the Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia: Judge T. Dohm and Judge W. Blair.