



# Ministry of Attorney General

SERVICE PLAN SUMMARY

2006/07 - 2008/09



Ministry of  
Attorney General

## Message from the Minister

An effective justice system is fundamental to democracy and is an essential part of the foundation required for a healthy, stable and prosperous society. Canada's justice system is among the finest in the world, and British Columbia constantly strives to ensure the justice system serves the public and the public interest.

The ministry's commitment to public safety and our role in the justice system is reflected in the Ministry of Attorney General's Service Plan for 2006/07 – 2008/09. The plan reflects the escalating demands on the justice system and the need to safeguard its integrity, fairness and effectiveness within the resources available for public services. Accordingly, the service plan has a strong focus on law and justice reform, accessibility to the civil and family justice systems, and the integration of the criminal justice system.

The plan also speaks to the importance of public confidence in the justice system, and to the pressing need to enhance public understanding of how the criminal, civil and family justice systems work. In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, other ministries and with the broader justice sector, we are seeking new ways to address the chronic problem of repeat offenders who commit the majority of property crimes in the province

Finally, as the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, I am advancing strategies to ensure that immigrants achieve their full potential in our culturally-diverse society and, together with all British Columbians, are able to help achieve government's Five Great Goals and the ultimate vision for a prosperous and just province.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wally Oppal'.

Honourable Wally Oppal  
Minister of Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism  
February 2006

# Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Attorney General is responsible in government for the administration of justice, leadership in law reform and for providing legal services that ensure lawful public administration.

As the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, the Attorney General leads government in the area of multiculturalism and immigration by funding programs and services to attract, retain, settle and integrate newcomers and by funding multicultural and anti-racism initiatives.

## *Ministry Goals*

### ***Justice System Goals:***

- » A ministry that is a leader in law reform and innovative justice processes
- » An effective criminal justice system
- » Effective civil and family justice systems
- » Effective legal services enabling government to administer public affairs in accordance with the law

### ***Multiculturalism and Immigration Goal:***

- » Effective immigrant settlement and adaptation services, and multiculturalism and anti-racism initiatives

## *Support for the Five Great Goals*

- » Make British Columbia the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.
- » Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.
- » Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk, and seniors.
- » Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.
- » Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

An effective justice system based on the rule of law is essential to a successful democracy and provides a solid foundation for social stability and economic growth. The role of the Ministry of Attorney General is to support and strengthen this essential foundation to realize government's vision for a prosperous and just province.

The ministry's Multiculturalism and Immigration Branch promotes and strengthens the multicultural identity of British Columbia which further supports the Five Great Goals.

## *Cross Ministry Initiatives*

The Ministry of Attorney General supports important cross-ministry initiatives such as:

### ***Children's Agenda:***

- » Family Maintenance Enforcement Program: Assists families and reduces reliance on public income assistance.
- » Child Protection Mediation Program: Provides mediation services in child protection cases, which result in a quicker settlement of issues and children involved spend less time in care, with resulting savings.

### ***ActNow, Asia-Pacific Strategy, Literacy and 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games:***

- » Settlement services and language training to immigrants.
- » A multiculturalism theme for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (with the Multicultural Advisory Council and the Ministry of Economic Development.)



## Ministry Vision and Mission

### *Justice System Vision*

A province governed by the rule of law with an effective justice system serving all British Columbians.

### *Justice System Mission*

We are responsible in government for law reform, for the administration of justice, and for seeing that public affairs are administered in accordance with the law.

### *Multiculturalism and Immigration Vision*

Safe, sustainable and liveable communities where immigrants can realize their full potential, racism is prevented and cultural diversity is valued and celebrated.

### *Multiculturalism and Immigration Mission*

We are responsible in government to meet the settlement needs of immigrants and refugees, to promote multiculturalism and to prevent racism.

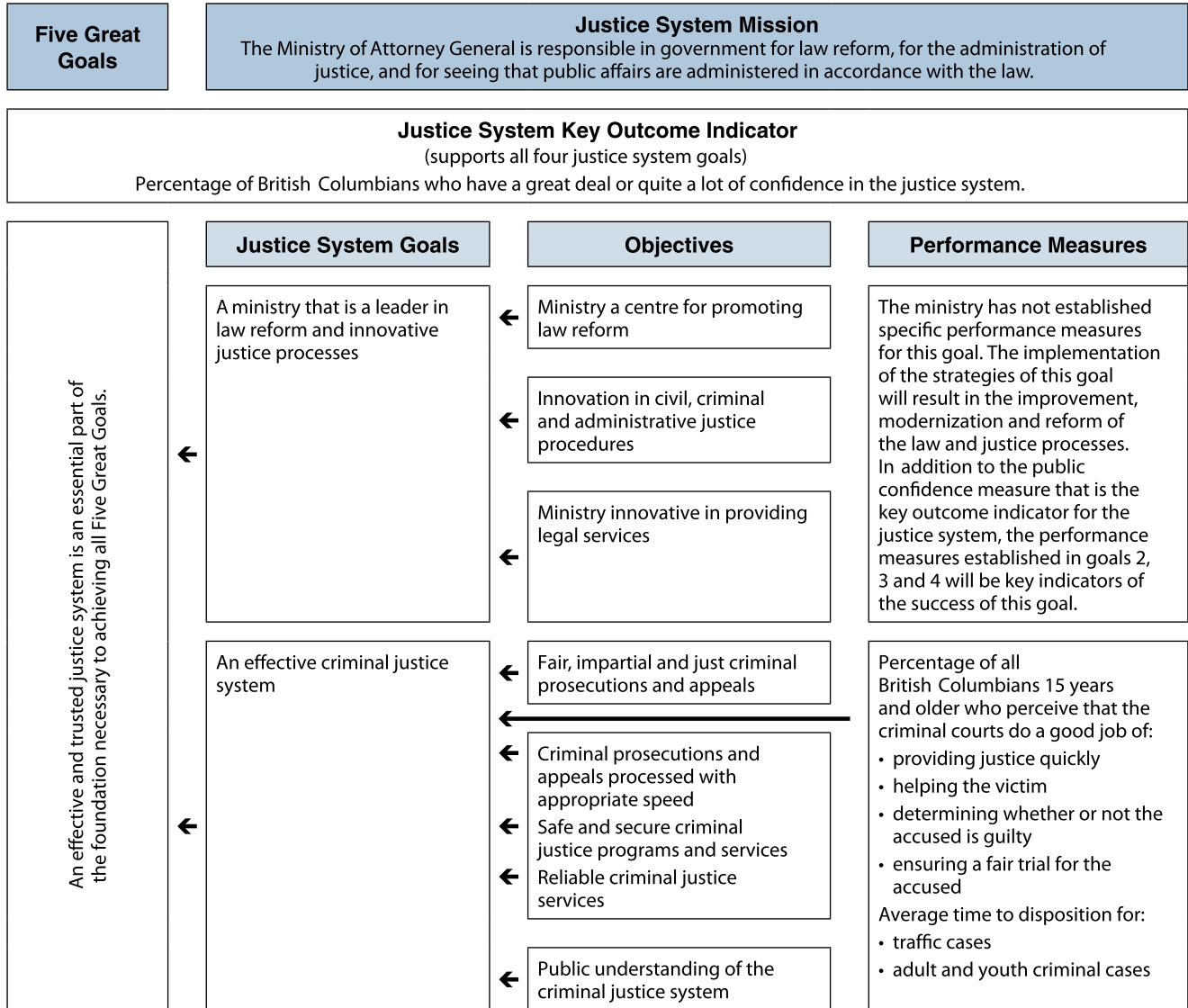
# Core Business Areas

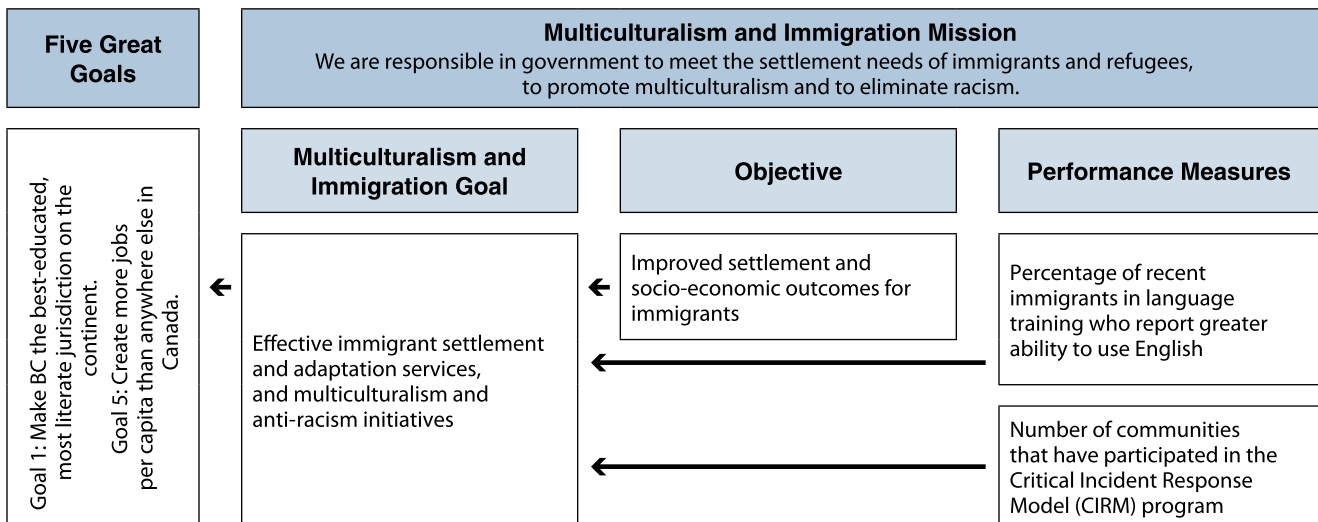
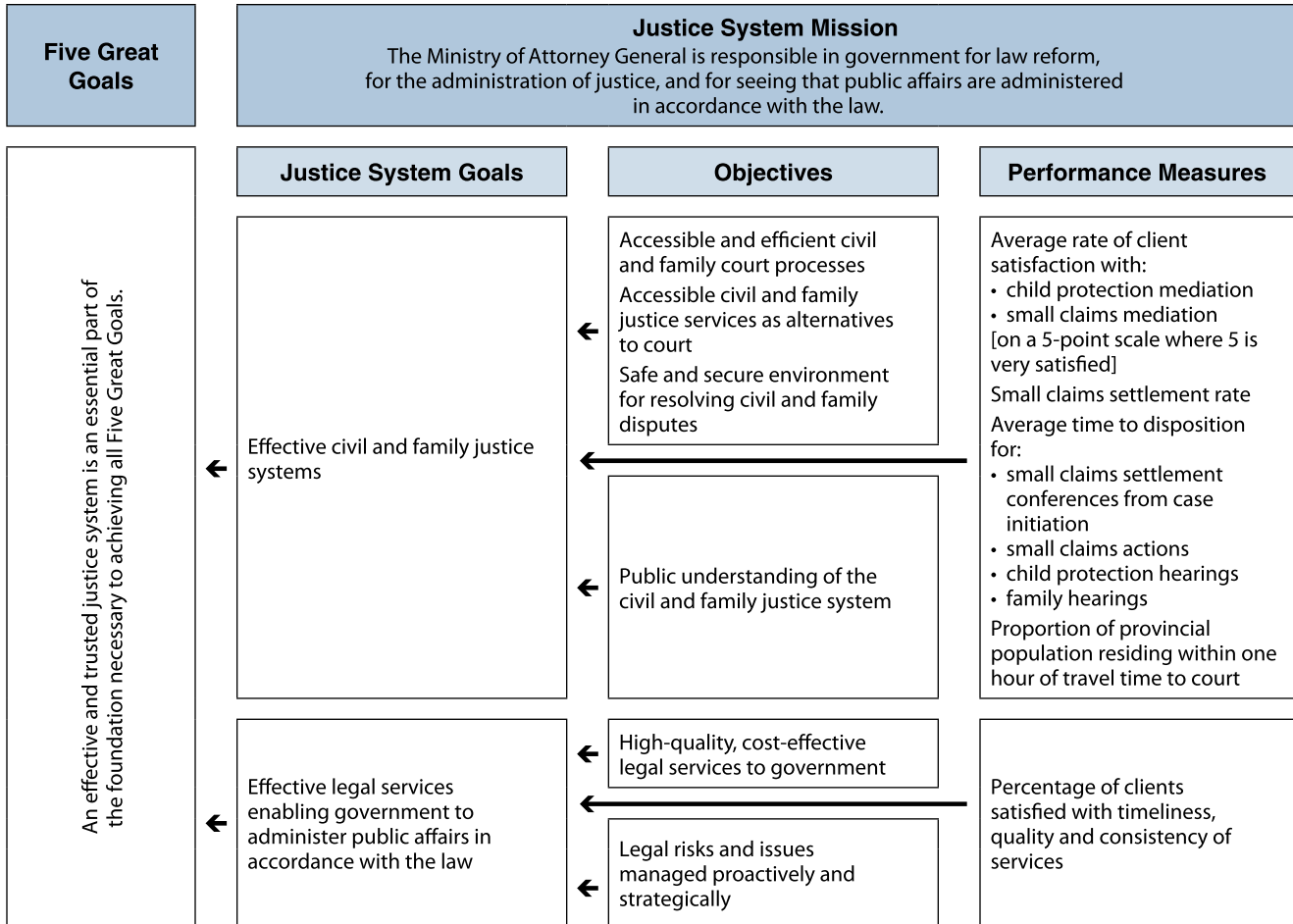
- 1. Justice Services** - The Justice Services Branch leads the ministry's responsibilities in civil, family and administrative justice reform to promote public access to the justice system. The Branch works with others in the justice sector to develop innovative solutions to reduce the cost and complexity of dispute resolution. Justice Services also include civil and family law reform, the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program, and services allowing disputes to be settled out of court. In consultation with the Legal Services Society, the Branch manages the provincial funding of legal aid.
- 2. Prosecution Services** - In British Columbia, Crown counsel in the Criminal Justice Branch are responsible for prosecution as part of the Attorney General's independent role as law officer for the Crown. Following police investigation, Crown counsel consider whether there is substantial likelihood of conviction based on the available evidence, and, if so, whether the public interest requires a prosecution. These decisions taken with fairness, impartiality and integrity, help deliver justice for victims, witnesses, defendants and the public.
- 3. Court Services** - The Court Services Branch administers the province's three levels of courts at the direction of the judges of the British Columbia Court of Appeal, the British Columbia Supreme Court and the Provincial Court of British Columbia. The Branch provides administrative services, including security and court order enforcement, to the independent judiciary, the public, lawyers, and the police and corrections authorities.
- 4. Legal Services** - The Legal Services Branch is the government's lawyer, and its clients are the Attorney General, cabinet, ministries and certain public agencies. The Branch provides advice to help ensure government acts lawfully and is, itself, represented by legal counsel when necessary.
- 5. Multiculturalism and Immigration** - The Multiculturalism and Immigration Branch is responsible for the negotiation and implementation of the Agreement for Canada-British Columbia Cooperation on Immigration. The Branch funds basic adult English language instruction and other settlement service supports to new immigrants, and initiatives to increase understanding of multiculturalism and prevent racism. The Branch also supports the work of the Multicultural Advisory Council, which advises the minister on issues related to multiculturalism and anti-racism.
- 6. Executive and Support Services** - Executive and Support Services of the ministry include the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, the Management Services Branch, the Strategic Planning and Legislation Office and the Criminal Justice Reform Office. All justice-related core business areas and executive and support service offices contribute to the ministry goal of being a leader in law reform and innovative justice processes



# Ministry Performance Plan Summary

This section details each of the ministry's goals, objectives and performance measures and illustrates how they contribute to government's Five Great Goals.







## Contact Information

For more information on the British Columbia Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, visit our web site at: [www.gov.bc.ca/ag](http://www.gov.bc.ca/ag)

The complete Ministry Service Plan 2006/07-2008/09 including other related planning resources is available at: [www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2006/sp/ag](http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2006/sp/ag)

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