

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
2006-2007

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ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The accountability report of the Department of Justice for the year ended March 31, 2007 is prepared pursuant to the *Provincial Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the department business plan information for the fiscal year 2006-2007. The reporting of department outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgements and opinions by department management.

We acknowledge this accountability report is the responsibility of the Department of Justice management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the department business plan for the year.

Cecil P. Clarke
Minister of Justice

Marian Tyson, Q.C.
Deputy Minister of Justice

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER AND DEPUTY MINISTER

It is with both pride and a sense of accomplishment that we present the work of the Department of Justice during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Our business plan for the year was ambitious and we made progress on all aspects of our mandate, including significant and serious enforcement, offender supervision and rehabilitative services and on initiatives that are helping to prevent crime in the first place.

We owe our thanks to the over 1400 talented and very dedicated employees who have carried out much of the work that appears in the following pages. Many of the initiatives outlined in this document also involved our partners in the justice system and within communities.

The commitment of our employees, the support of our partners and the confidence of Nova Scotians are essential in the pursuit of our vision. That vision aims to ensure Nova Scotia is a place where citizens trust the justice system; people are and feel safe and secure; disputes are effectively and sensitively resolved; access to justice processes is timely and affordable; communities actively participate in the justice system; and diversity is valued and respected.

We encourage you to review the accomplishments outlined in the following pages, recognizing that more needs to be done to address crime and ensure public safety. In the year ahead, we will continue to act on recommendations arising from the Nunn Commission and the Minister's Task Force on Safer Streets and Communities to ensure supports and services are in place to prevent and address crime in our neighbourhoods.

Cecil P. Clarke
Minister of Justice

Marian Tyson, Q.C.
Deputy Minister of Justice

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this accountability report is to present results of the Department of Justice business plan for 2006-2007, in keeping with efforts to ensure accountability and transparency. Because this report is based on the goals, priorities and performance measures set out in our business plan, it would be helpful to read both documents together.

Department overview

The Department of Justice is committed to the fair and effective administration of justice and to excellence in service to the people of Nova Scotia. To accomplish its mandate, the department provides services through seven divisions: Policing and Victim Services¹; Court Services; Correctional Services; Legal Services; Human Resources; Information Management²; and Finance and Administration.

Our Policing and Victim Services Division provides policing service governance, including acting in an advisory role to all police services, managing contracts with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and First Nations Policing, and strengthening policing initiatives through the development of governance standards and training. It works in partnership with the public safety community to contribute to and facilitate initiatives to improve public safety and reduce and prevent crime. It regulates the private security industry, and it administers the licensing provisions of the federal *Firearms Act*. In 2006-2007, the division added a Public Safety Investigative Unit to support the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*. In addition, direct services for victims are provided through four core programs: the Provincial Victim Services Program; the Criminal Injuries Counselling Program; the Victim Impact Statement Program; and the Child Victim/Witness Program.³

Our Court Services Division provides civil law, criminal law and family court administrative services, small claims, bankruptcy law adjudication, security and transport of prisoners to and from court, Restorative Justice for diverting offences involving youth, and Justices of the Peace. The department operates 45 facilities throughout the province, with court administration managed through 14 justice centres. The division also manages the Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP), with eight offices across the province.

¹In August 2007, the Policing and Victim Services Division was re-organized and renamed to focus on the broader issue of public safety and security. The division is now the Public Safety Division.

²In April 2007, the Information Management Division was renamed the Policy and Information Management Division to reflect the role of the Policy Branch.

³The Provincial Victim Services Program was transferred to the Court Services Division in August 2007 to align it with Court Services and the delivery of those services.

The Correctional Services Division provides community-based correctional services, including adult diversion measures; pre-sentence reports; offender supervision; and reintegration programs and planning. Custody-based correctional services involve facility operations and reintegration programs and planning. The department operates five adult correctional facilities in Amherst, Antigonish, Dartmouth, Sydney and Yarmouth; one youth correctional facility in Waterville; and a small satellite youth detention facility at the adult facility in Sydney. The department also operates 22 community corrections offices throughout the province.

Legal Services represents the Crown and its agencies in civil litigation matters before courts and tribunals and supports alternative dispute resolution. It also provides legal advice to the Crown and its agencies, corporate counsel services, law reform and legislation support, client education, and drafts regulations.

The Nova Scotia Medical Examiner Service also falls under this department. Investigations are held into all deaths due to violence, undue means, culpable negligence and sudden unexplained deaths. The department also oversees trustee services for incompetent adults, infants and missing persons through the Office of the Public Trustee; and it coordinates the administration of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The department oversees the functioning of the justice system by working cooperatively with all of its components, including the Public Prosecution Service, Nova Scotia Legal Aid, Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, police, judiciary, federal government, and various non-governmental organizations. A Justice Partners Forum is held regularly with our partners providing an avenue to work together to achieve common goals while respecting the autonomy of each.

The department's management team also meets regularly to determine priorities and report on accomplishments. Representatives from all divisions develop priorities, keeping in mind the department's four strategic directions, which are broad themes for change. They are:

- a justice system that is properly administered and cost effective;
- there is public confidence in the justice system;
- people are and feel safe and secure;
- people make constructive choices.

Issues and events shaping our work in 2006-2007

Crime garnered considerable attention this past year, in part by reported increases in rates of violent youth crime and violent victimization.

An area of particular concern for many Nova Scotians has been youth crime, highlighted by the death of Theresa McEvoy. The department announced a public inquiry to look into the events which preceded her death, with a final report from Inquiry Commissioner Justice D. Merlin Nunn released in the fall 2006. In January 2007 the province accepted all recommendations and we continue to make steady progress in our efforts to ensure a strong response to youth crime and

improved prevention measures in collaboration with other government departments and the community.

Also in late 2006, the Minister's Task Force on Safer Streets and Communities was established. This committed and knowledgeable group of volunteers has been gathering ideas from Nova Scotians on ways to prevent crime, and their efforts will help inform the development of a provincial crime prevention/reduction strategy.

Responding to increasing concerns around public safety, government announced additional investment in enforcement beyond what it stated in its corporate plan with a commitment to fund 250 new police officers over four years starting in 2007-2008.

We also introduced a program to electronically supervise offenders in the community, and we established a Public Safety Investigative Unit in response to the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*. Under this act, complaints from community members can result in court orders to close locations that are home to prostitution, illegal liquor, drugs or gaming.

A provincial Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes Program was also launched offering cash rewards of up to \$50,000 for information leading to arrests and convictions in cases of unsolved crime.

On the legislative front, the department also introduced legislation to address privacy concerns arising from a review of the ramifications of the *U.S. Patriot Act*. The new *Correctional Services Act* and Regulations came into force on July 1, 2006, providing a modern framework for the delivery of correctional services. The *Police Act* and Regulations were proclaimed on January 1, 2006 and will require ongoing facilitation to continue enhancing policing governance in all communities across Nova Scotia.

At the national level, we continued to push for changes to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and to call for an immediate federal commitment to legal aid. We also expressed support for federal changes to the *Criminal Code of Canada* to strengthen the criminal justice system's response to serious and violent offenders.

Read on to learn more about our government's efforts to build a stronger, safer Nova Scotia throughout the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

DEPARTMENT PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Strategic Direction #1: A justice system that is properly administered and cost effective.

Priorities:

a. *Constructing and managing facility infrastructure initiatives, with the following priorities pursued in 2006-2007:*

- Construction of the Lunenburg County Justice Centre and the Yarmouth Justice Centre:* Construction started on these new centres in the 2006-2007 fiscal year with expected completion in summer 2008. Community members were given a first look at plans for the new and improved Lunenburg County Justice Centre during a public presentation in May 2006, while plans for the Yarmouth Justice Centre were unveiled in March 2006. The buildings will feature courtrooms, interview rooms, secure custody areas, counter service for payments and other court services, jury rooms and a family education room. The centres will also house justice services such as legal aid and public prosecution services. The Yarmouth facility is being built at 164 Main St., on land donated by the town of Yarmouth, while the Lunenburg facility is being built on High Street, adjacent to the Provincial Building in Bridgewater.
- Renovating the New Glasgow Justice Centre:* The department continues to look at options to address this issue.
- The department also continued to promote the new Halifax Consolidated Courthouse concept.
- Developing proposals to upgrade or replace aging correctional facility infrastructure in northern Nova Scotia:* A tender was issued in September 2006 for costing to replace aging and inadequate correctional facilities in Cumberland and Antigonish. The department has also engaged in site selection discussions with municipalities.

b. Engaging staff with programs and training to address their needs, with the following priorities pursued in the 2006-2007 fiscal year:

- Justice was fortunate to have been selected in 2005 to pilot a wellness initiative sponsored by the Atlantic Health and Wellness Institute. As part of the pilot, employees at 12 different sites have been actively working with and engaging staff in health and wellness initiatives.
- A new and improved Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHS) is being rolled out across the department. OHS reviews were also conducted, with a particular focus on Correctional Services and the Provincial Firearms Office.
- The department completed an action plan with respect to policies and practices in recruitment, hiring, selection, retention, career development, promotion, discipline and termination in response to the Employment Systems Review of Correctional Services.
- The Justice Learning Centre continued to provide training and facilitation activities within the Department of Justice, including leadership development, performance management and orientation programs. “Leading a Respectful Workplace,” “Domestic Violence Educators Training” and “Bias Free Policing” are examples of special courses offered.
- The Correctional Services Division delivered in excess of 26,000 hours of training to divisional staff in a wide range of skills areas.
- In partnership with the federal Department of Canadian Heritage and under the Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages and the *Contravention Act* Agreement, Justice provided specialized French legal terminology training to employees throughout the province for improved bilingual services.

c. Developing and implementing an internal communications plan to promote effective communication across the department, provide more opportunities for staff input, and ensure all employees are aware of and involved in corporate initiatives and priorities.

- As part of the business planning process, the department produced and distributed a brochure for staff. The senior team also conducted visits and made presentations to field offices to engage in one-on-one communications.

- ❑ The Policing and Victim Services Division continued to strengthen and expand operational planning by engaging its staff in the planning and communication of divisional and corporate initiatives and planning. Quarterly strategic updates ensures effective internal communication.
- ❑ Correctional Services implemented staff engagement processes with respect to vision and value statements, annual planning as well as specific areas, e.g. adult offender handbook and the development of policies and standard operating procedures.

d. Improving operational effectiveness, including court administration efficiencies, establishing audit services capacity and strengthening and expanding operational planning throughout the department.

- ❑ Court Services administration efficiencies included developing on-line accounting processes for Civil Index and Probate; beginning the process of moving all court manuals on line and exploring on-line interactive training; and completing the document information sharing project and digital recording across the province.
- ❑ Justice created a new internal audit and quality assurance function early in 2007, with a mandate to help monitor internal processes and promote continuous improvement. An initial concentration is being placed on revenue/fee collection in field offices and the operation of trust accounts in Court Services and Corrections.
- ❑ Policing and Victim Services implemented a computer-automated system to identify priority and strategic target dates, as well as to prompt review, status updates and completion of objectives.

e. Negotiating federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) agreements, including:

- ❑ *Youth justice:* The department continued to negotiate with the federal government regarding contributions to youth justice services and programs, receiving an offer from Justice Canada for a new five-year agreement for 2007 to 2012 period. The agreement is expected to be signed early in fiscal 2007-2008. The last agreement expired on March 31, 2006.
- ❑ *Exchange of Services with Correctional Services Canada:* Negotiations for an updated agreement were concluded. The agreement, which will be retroactive to April 1, 2007 once it is signed by both governments, provides payments when specific types of federal offenders are housed in provincial correctional facilities pending transfer to the penitentiary or as a result of a formal transfer to a

provincial correctional facility; provincial offenders are formally transferred to a penitentiary; and transportation of federal offenders to federal penitentiaries. By agreement, funding is set at a fixed amount per offender transferred and updated annually.

- ❑ *Legal aid:* Nova Scotia announced an additional \$500,000 for legal aid in the 2006-2007 budget. It also continued to urge the federal government to match Nova Scotia's increased support for legal aid. Base federal funding continues to decrease as the agreement shifts to a more per capita-based formula. The current agreement expired on March 31, 2007. Discussions are ongoing for a new five-year agreement.
- ❑ *Supreme Court (Family Division) expansion:* The department submitted a proposal to the federal government in June 2004 outlining a plan for an expanded Family Division province-wide, which would ensure equal access to justice, eliminate jurisdictional confusion and strengthen judicial resources. The minister and deputy minister raised the issue at face-to-face meetings with federal colleagues in 2006-2007 but progress has yet to be made.
- ❑ *Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) policing:* The terms of this agreement require the RCMP to provide provincial policing services to the province. Since the implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Service Exchange, local policing costs are recovered from municipal units. Preliminary discussions have commenced with respect to a new agreement in 2012.

Additional negotiations were also undertaken, including:

- ❑ *Contravention Act Agreement:* This federal agreement provides funding to ensure that persons who violate federal regulatory offences in Nova Scotia have equal access to service in both official languages. It also provides funding for staff, reporting, signs, training, forms, and any other administrative costs incurred to implement the agreement.
- ❑ *Gun Control:* The department negotiated a two-year federal-provincial Financial Contribution Agreement for the administration of the *Firearms Act* in the province of Nova Scotia.

f. Responding to recommendations arising from an evaluation of the Domestic Violence Intervention Act.

- ❑ An extensive evaluation of the *Domestic Violence Intervention Act* was undertaken with a report released to key stakeholders in September 2006. Over 50

recommendations have been made, including suggested legislative improvements, clarifications regarding roles of designates and the need for additional information for victims and education for service providers. The consultants concluded the DVIA is successful in accomplishing its goals. Victims feel safer and appear to be safer. It's being used to secure personal safety and economic well being. And our partners consider it a useful tool in helping to address domestic violence. Court Services has been reviewing all recommendations in detail and acting on ways to improve implementation of the act.

g. Improving internal information processing and sharing, including:

- Enhancing electronic document handling and records management through a shared directory initiative and a modernization of the Standard for Operational Records (STOR) system:* This multi-year project was launched in this fiscal year.
- Identifying information system improvements across justice partner organizations through a permanent Information Management (IM) Forum:* The department continued to meet and work with justice partners to make system improvements.

h. Building institutional capacity to better support partnership relationships: Each part of the justice system – the police, prosecution, defence bar and judiciary – has an independent authority. Recognizing that effectiveness depends not only on how each plays its part but also how all play their parts together, the department continued to host justice partner forums to explore issues of mutual concern. This principle extends beyond the justice system to the larger social system and society as a whole. To support dialogue and cooperation among community agencies, municipalities and citizens, the department also supported the work of the Minister's Task Force on Safer Streets and Communities. This group of 25 volunteers lead a comprehensive consultation process with Nova Scotians and their efforts will inform the development of a provincial crime prevention/reduction strategy.

Strategic Direction #2: There is public confidence in the justice system.

Priorities:

a. Representing the government before the Nunn Commission, which is leading a public inquiry.

- Departmental lawyers represented the province before the Nunn Commission, which examined both the specific circumstances surrounding the release of a young offender from custody, as well as Nova Scotia's youth criminal justice system. The commission tabled its final report in late 2006 and the province continues to make steady progress on the implementation of all recommendations. For justice, this includes working with partners to determine ways to reduce the time it takes a youth's case to proceed through the courts. Investment in court-ordered assessments was made to help in the short term, while longer-term solutions continue to be explored. The department is also consulting with the Associate Chief Judge and justices of the peace to develop a provincial training plan for police and other justice partners to ensure criminal procedures and processes are well understood.
- In keeping with the Nunn recommendations, the department also expanded rehabilitative services for young offenders under community supervision, with the opening of the Halifax Youth Attendance Centre in February 2007. The centre provides one-stop access to programming for youth under court-ordered community supervision in HRM and includes a day school for 12 full-time students, which will increase to 20 students in 2007-2008. Staff from the centre also provide evening, weekend and summer programming at various locations for approximately 220 youth under court-ordered community supervision. Programs include education, counseling, job readiness training, anger management and addictions education. Key partners at this location include the IWK Health Centre and the Department of Community Services. As well the Department of Education is providing some monetary support for teacher salaries.
- In January 2007 Correctional Services also launched services for youth bail supervision in HRM for eligible youth who are subject to court-ordered judicial interim release orders. Services include intensive supervision and referrals to supports, including referrals to programs provided at the Halifax Youth Attendance Centre and other locations in HRM.
- The department also continued to collaborate with Community Services, Education, Health and Health Promotion and Protection on a strategy for youth at risk.

b. Undertaking research, assessment and evaluation initiatives to support justice policies, programs and services, including:

- ❑ *A court case processing study to better understand why case processing times are increasing:* A committee is in place to identify and address roadblocks to case processing, with an initial focus on youth court cases in response to recommendations made by the Nunn Commission. The group's research shows that 71 percent of youth case processing time is spent at the pre-trial stage. Efforts to reduce delays pre-trial include providing information to youth and their parents about preparing for court and tracking disclosure to identify and correct bottle necks.
- ❑ *An examination of remands to better understand why they are increasing:* Given the increase in remands and the potential impact on both the administration of justice and the remanded person, the Department of Justice undertook a study of the issue. The data indicate the nature of the custodial population has changed in Nova Scotia over the past 15 years. Given the complexity of the potential causes of higher remand rates, discussion is needed with justice partners to more fully understand what has led to higher remand rates in order to determine potential solutions.
- ❑ *Developing a snapshot of offenders in custody and under community supervision:* The department developed and distributed a survey to offenders in October 2007, with work now underway to analyze the data collected through the "one-day snapshot" survey.
- ❑ *Assessing progress in the province-wide implementation of the High-risk Domestic Violence Case Coordination Protocol Framework:* A study was done to assist government in monitoring the implementation and operation of the framework, which was signed in spring 2004 by the Ministers of Justice and Community Services. The main components of the assessment included a literature review, document review, solicitation of stakeholder feedback and a review of relevant statistical information. The department worked closely with domestic violence coordinators in police detachments to develop consistent, comprehensive data coding and classification. Additionally, an assessment of the functionality of the High Risk Protocol Framework was conducted. Recommendations on further implementation of the protocol have been identified and an action plan will be developed.
- ❑ *Assessing implementation of governance training to police boards and identifying gaps to strengthen public accountability in policing:* The department developed provincial guidelines and a training strategy to provide relevant education for municipalities and advisory boards policed by the RCMP. Municipal agencies are now working to develop local plans.

- ❑ *Examining court processing options for cases of spousal/intimate partner violence from a cross-jurisdictional perspective:* The department undertook an examination of the current situation in Nova Scotia and assembled research from across the country regarding specialized domestic violence courts and other court-based alternatives which are in place to address the issue of domestic violence. Results from the paper suggest there is room for improving the way domestic violence cases are processed through the courts given increases in court processing times, decreases in conviction rates and increases in the percentage of cases being withdrawn and dismissed.

c. Completing implementation of a self-audit process to be undertaken by police agencies to enhance the department's auditing responsibilities with respect to municipal police agencies.

- ❑ The department developed a standardized auditing process and successfully completed the required training for policing consultants and police officers. Compliance reviews are now underway.

Strategic Direction #3: People are and feel safe and secure.

Priorities:

a. Taking action in response to youth crime, including:

- ❑ *Continuing to push for changes to the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA):* Nova Scotia has been calling for changes to the YCJA since 2005 and it continued to request those amendments at every opportunity. That included meeting directly with the federal Minister of Justice to discuss pre-trial detention provisions of the YCJA and raising the issue at various forums, including deputies' meetings, ministerial meetings and meetings with senior officials. Although disappointed with the lack of progress by the federal government, Nova Scotia will continue to advocate for changes to better protect Nova Scotians and serve young people in conflict with the law. Required changes have been repeatedly outlined by others as well, including other provinces, youth criminal justice experts, the public through the Minister's Task Force and Commissioner Nunn's recommendations.
- ❑ *Informing the development of early intervention methods to prevent youth crime by distributing results of a research study that provides a statistical profile of youth crime and explores risk and protective factors:* Concern by the Department of Justice, stakeholders and the general public about youth crime in Nova Scotia

prompted the department to provide a snapshot on youth justice. The resulting paper presents statistical information on youth criminal activity and system responses, an overview of risk and protective factors, insights on effective interventions, perspectives from government officials and others providing youth services, as well as programming information. The paper was presented to the Nunn Commission in an effort to help inform discussion on early prevention/intervention efforts that could assist in preventing youth crime.

- ❑ *Establishing additional information-sharing protocols with school boards for youth under correctional supervision:* No additional school boards requested information sharing protocols during 2006-2007.
- ❑ *Implementing a new program model for the Nova Scotia Youth Facility in response to custodial sentencing patterns of the YCJA:* All operational and scheduling changes to the continuous intake program model have been implemented. Programs in substance abuse education, anger management and education have been enhanced, and the cognitive skills program is under review.
- ❑ *Investigating the establishment of an attendance centre for youth offenders:* Government accepted the department's proposal to establish an attendance centre for young offenders under court-ordered community supervision. As noted earlier, the centre opened in February 2007 and provides one-stop access to programming for youth under court-ordered community supervision in HRM. Expansion of programs already in place at Centre 24-7 in the Valley and at the Cape Breton Youth Resource Centre in Sydney will be considered following a review and assessment of the Halifax Youth Attendance Centre model.
- ❑ *Considering expansion of the Restorative Justice Program for youth under 12:* The department worked with community-based agencies to assess need and capacity issues related to children under 12 at risk and their families. It also supported an evaluation of a pilot project of the Island Community Justice Society in Sydney and its application of a modified restorative justice process. An interim report is to be completed by August 31, 2007 with a final report due October 31, 2007. Consultation will follow.

b. Improving the supervision of offenders, including:

- ❑ *Implementing an Electronic Monitoring pilot for offenders in Halifax Regional Municipality, including testing the technology and program model to assess whether to move beyond a pilot:* The department launched the initiative in May 2006, making Nova Scotia the first province in Canada to use a global positioning system (GPS) to monitor offenders. The system consists of an ankle bracelet and a GPS recording device worn by the offender. The system tracks the wearer's movement and reports back to a central monitoring system. Movement of the

offender is monitored 24 hours per day. Mammoth Inc., of Halifax, and iSECUREtrac Corp., of Nebraska, were awarded the contract to provide equipment and monitoring services for electronic supervision of offenders in Nova Scotia. The program has since been implemented across the province. The electronic supervision project is one of many justice initiatives meant to enhance the security of Nova Scotians.

- ❑ *Completing regulations to enable proclamation of the Correctional Services Act:* The Correctional Services Regulations and the Sharing of Health Information Regulations were completed and they, together with the *Correctional Services Act*, came into force on July 1, 2006. The new act and its regulations allow the department to modernize services to recognize changing needs and issues related to the offender population. The legislation also provides greater protection for victims and their families. The act also defines procedures to protect the dignity and privacy of female offenders.
- ❑ *Tightening processes used in conditional sentencing, including developing a tool to enable courts to assess candidates' suitability for conditional sentencing, and strengthening partnerships with the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) and police to improve response to house arrest provisions:* A conditional sentencing protocol was developed and implemented in partnership with police agencies and the Public Prosecution Service to coordinate monitoring, supervision and enforcement of house arrest cases.

c. Addressing Nova Scotia's future policing needs, including:

- ❑ *Preparing a strategic plan to address the future policing needs in the province:* The department undertook research on current policing service delivery in Nova Scotia as part of the plan for reaching a recommendation on police service in 2012 when the current Provincial Police Services Agreement expires. Strategic benchmarks have also been identified and a steering committee is in place to guide future work. Consultation with stakeholders is anticipated in 2007-2008, and an environmental scan is in progress.
- ❑ *Assessing and using mechanisms to obtain strategic input from policing and public safety stakeholders through annual meetings of the Police Leadership Forum:* A second Police Leadership Forum took place in November 2006 with a follow up report issued to participants in February.

d. Strengthening public safety and security policies and procedures, including:

- ❑ *Assessing the effectiveness of the province's Public Safety Anti-terrorism (PSAT) initiative:* The Public Safety Organizational and Strategy Development Project sponsored by the Emergency Management Office and the departments of Justice and Transportation and Public Works got underway. The purpose of the project is to develop and consider strategic and organizational options that may strengthen our security and emergency preparedness and response capabilities. The resulting study will provide a critical examination on how we have been meeting emergency and security mandates (including responsibilities and resources) and will identify options for security management services.
- ❑ *Determining appropriate levels of court security:* The department began an extensive review of security services at court facilities throughout the province. As part of this review, the Court Services Division conducted site inspections and in-person consultations. It also distributed a survey to over 300 clients. Recommendations have been drafted with a plan now being developed to act on the review.

e. Initiating private security reform, including developing a discussion paper and launching a consultation process to further modernize and strengthen standards within the private security industry.

- ❑ A discussion paper was circulated to stakeholders in January 2007 regarding legislative reform of the private security industry. An analysis of written submissions is being conducted and additional regional stakeholder meetings are also planned to help inform legislative options.

f. Helping build safer, stronger communities by performing an environmental scan of crime in Nova Scotia, and facilitating consultations and partnerships to help address the social causes of crime.

- ❑ The Minister announced the creation of a Task Force on Safer Streets and Communities in May 2006, which was driven by the government's concern about crime and its effects on Nova Scotians. The task force is comprised of 25 volunteers who initiated an extensive consultation with Nova Scotians to gather information on community programs, government services, legislation and policing initiatives and to identify and promote programs that are making a positive difference in communities. They hosted more than 40 public meetings and are now reviewing the feedback received. They will bring ideas back to the department to help inform development of a provincial crime prevention strategy. To support the work of the task force, regional crime profiles were developed and

distributed to those participating in the consultations. The work of this task force will complement the existing efforts of all partners, and will help address current concerns while charting a course to prevent crime in the future.

- ❑ Justice and Community Services worked on a safer, stronger communities initiative with an initial focus on areas experiencing high crime rates and significant socio-economic challenges.
- ❑ The *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* was proclaimed in January, 2007. Under the act, complaints from community members can result in court orders to close locations that are home to prostitution or illegal liquor, drugs, or gaming. A new Public Safety Investigative Section was established to work with communities on community enforcement orders. A complaint line has been activated for citizens (1-877-35-SAFER).
- ❑ The department is working with law enforcement and other key partners to develop a drug strategy tailored to meet the needs of Nova Scotians. The strategy focuses on prevention, enforcement, reduction of harms, and treatment. A steering committee is in place and roundtable sessions with various departmental representatives are planned for April 2007.
- ❑ The Deputy Ministers' Leadership Committee on Family Violence continued as a vehicle to enable enhanced collaboration among Justice, Community Services and Health. A recent report shows improvements in the justice system's response to family violence in Nova Scotia. The report analyzed data from the 2000 - 2003 period to help inform improvements to the criminal justice system in cases of domestic violence. The report also compares data from two earlier reports to evaluate the justice system's response, while identifying what is working well and what needs to be addressed. The Family Violence Tracking Project is one of several provincial activities addressing family violence. Other initiatives include funding to police to enhance coordinated case management and family violence training for police, corrections, sheriff services, courts, victim services, military police, legal aid, transition house representatives, Public Prosecution Service and Department of Community Services staff.

g. Proactively addressing privacy issues, including:

- ❑ *Introducing legislation to address privacy concerns arising from a review of the ramifications of the U.S. Patriot Act:* New provincial legislation proclaimed in November 2006 will better ensure that Nova Scotians' personal information is not disclosed under the U.S. Patriot Act. The new *Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act* outlines a series of requirements and penalties that protect personal information from inappropriate disclosure. The act provides

protection regarding storage, disclosure and access to personal information outside of Canada in the custody or under the control of a public body or municipality. Under the act, the minister of Justice must be notified if there is a foreign demand for disclosure of any personal information of Nova Scotians. It also requires that service providers storing information only collect and use personal information necessary for their work for a public body or municipality.

- ❑ *Testing and implementing a new corporate privacy impact assessment tool:* This tool has been implemented to ensure active risk management of the impact of program changes on the protection of personal information.
- ❑ *Implementing a privacy policy:* The policy is designed to strengthen internal practices associated with the protection of personal information, and will be supported with a privacy impact assessment tool and a protocol to respond to personal information breaches. It will be rolled out across government in 2007-2008.

h. Discussion paper concerning possible pawn shop, buy-sell and second-hand businesses legislation

- ❑ Following a review of buy and sell legislation from across the country, a discussion document was released for public input in May 2006 with consultations ending in August. A committee of police, Public Prosecution Service and government staff made recommendations for legislation designed to cut down on the sale of stolen goods in pawn and second-hand shops. The recommended legislation would lead to a standardized electronic tracking system for items sold to pawn and second-hand stores to help identify stolen goods.

Additional initiatives undertaken in 2006-2007 relating to this strategic direction include:

- ❑ Responding to increasing concerns around violent crime and victimization, government announced additional investment in enforcement beyond what it stated in its corporate plan with a commitment to fund 250 new police officers over four years starting in 2007-2008. Consultation with law enforcement was undertaken in the fall to help determine distribution of additional officers. The allocation of the initial round of officers was finalized in November 2006. A steering committee is in place to plan for the allocation of the remaining officers. Adding new officers is a key initiative as part of the provincial government's efforts to improve the safety and security of Nova Scotia's communities.
- ❑ The province introduced *The Protection from Illegal Drugs Act* to ensure the province is in a position to act quickly should law enforcement and other

stakeholders identify gaps associated with the production and distribution of various products, e.g. legitimate pharmaceuticals and agricultural products being used for illegal purposes such as the making of meth. To date, there is some evidence of the drug's existence in the province, e.g. samples seized indicate traces of meth. The bill also requires people to notify authorities if they become aware of the loss or theft of certain ingredients, materials or equipment and if they have reason to believe that the health or safety of any child has been or is at risk from the production, manufacture, growth or use of illegal drugs. Once the act is proclaimed, government will be ready to respond immediately to reduce the negative consequences associated with certain products being used to produce illegal drugs.

- ❑ The department continued to invest in Criminal Intelligence Service Nova Scotia (CISNS), with \$6 million being spent over four years (2005-2008), bringing municipal police forces and correctional services into a national system of intelligence-based policing. CISNS offices throughout the province became fully operational in April 2006, and the organization released its first report in December 2006. The report provides details surrounding organized crime in Nova Scotia and the criminal markets within which organized crime groups typically operate. The report is intended to raise public awareness and provide tips to all Nova Scotians on ways to identify and help fight organized crime in their neighbourhoods. A copy of the report is available on the website at www.gov.ns.ca/just/publications/publications.asp .
- ❑ The department established a provincial Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes Program that offers cash rewards of up to \$50,000 for information leading to arrests and convictions in cases of unsolved crime. In October 2006, police agencies across the province were invited to refer cases to the program. Any member of the public who has information surrounding one of the cases in the program can call a toll-free line. An individual coming forward with information is expected to provide their name and contact information. In addition, this person may also be called to testify in court. Under this program, a major unsolved crime is defined as an unsolved homicide, found unidentified human remains where there are suspicious circumstances and missing persons cases where there are suspicious circumstances. Details about the program can be viewed on line at www.gov.ns.ca/just/divisions/polvs/rewards .
- ❑ The department continued to express support for much-needed criminal justice reforms, including mandatory minimum prison sentences for designated crimes; strengthening *Criminal Code of Canada* provisions dealing with dangerous offenders; and raising the age of consent from 14 to 16 years of age.
- ❑ The province introduced legislation to designate a special day to commemorate peace officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The *Police and Peace*

Officers Memorial Day Act designates the third Sunday of October as a day to commemorate those who have given their lives protecting others.

- ❑ The department provided additional funding to support law enforcement needs in Aboriginal communities. It also hired additional police officers to address Internet and technology-based offences.
- ❑ The province also took steps to ensure criminals do not profit by exploiting their criminal behaviour. The new *Criminal Notoriety Act* prevents criminals from making money by selling their stories and/or memorabilia from their crimes.
- ❑ People who use a motor vehicle in the commission of an offence or who steal gas will lose their drivers' licences, under new legislation that takes effect in July 2007. Under *An Act to Further Discourage Criminal Offences Involving the Use of a Motor Vehicle*, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles will be notified when someone convicted of a crime has used a motor vehicle to commit the offence, leading to the suspension of the person's licence. The act also requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to revoke the licence of a driver convicted under the Criminal Code for stealing gasoline or diesel fuel.

Strategic Direction #4: People make constructive choices.

Priorities:

- a.** ***Improving public access to information***, including improving access to French language services, including implementing a new *Contraventions Act* agreement; supporting self-represented litigants; and providing web-based access to court services:
- ❑ Nova Scotians will have greater access to bilingual hearings through amendments to the *Provincial Court Act* introduced in November 2006. The amendments will allow an out-of-province judge to be appointed to hear a case in provincial court, a particularly important option in the case of a French-language trial. Currently Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick have similar legislation. The Nova Scotia judiciary was consulted on the proposed amendment.
 - ❑ Court Services continued to develop and provide support materials for self-represented litigants, including designing interactive forms.

- ❑ *Providing web-based access to court services:* Approved internal staff within Court Services now have web-based access to Oracle-based applications such as the Justice Enterprise Information Network, Civil Index I and II and EMA.
- ❑ Within Policing and Victim Services, the Provincial Firearms Office has published its fourth provincial bulletin; the Private Security Programs Office published and distributed two newsletters; and the Provincial Victim Services Program obtained six kiosks to be used for public awareness campaigns.

b. Implementing expansion of the Supreme Court (Family Division) province wide, subject to federal legislation and funding.

- ❑ As noted earlier, the department submitted a proposal to the federal government in June 2004 outlining a plan to expand Family Division province-wide, but progress has not yet been made. The province did introduce amendments to the *Provincial Court Act* that will allow judges appointed to Provincial Court to also hear family matters. In Nova Scotia, Provincial Court deals with criminal cases and Family Court hears family matters. The amendments will allow Provincial Court judges to hear both. The amalgamation does not affect the family division of the Supreme Court in Halifax, Sydney and Port Hawkesbury, where those judges have sole responsibility for family cases.

c. Developing additional programs for offenders, with an emphasis on education and spiritual services in facilities:

- ❑ Program restructuring at the Nova Scotia Youth Facility allowed for a teacher to be assigned to each unit thereby increasing offender access to education programs. While literacy and numeracy continued to be a focus, additional public school program courses were offered to meet the educational needs of youth and to facilitate transition to community-based education programs.
- ❑ Two teachers were hired to work from the Halifax Youth Attendance Centre. These teachers deliver the public school curriculum. They also work to increase community education opportunities for youth who have had difficulties in the public school system.
- ❑ Opportunities for youth to participate in career development continue to be expanded. Over half (56%) of youth who participated in a work experience project at Centre 24-7 and the Nova Scotia Youth Facility are currently employed.

- ❑ Approval for assistive technology programs and training for teachers was obtained. This will increase opportunities to improve and maintain the ability of individuals who have special needs and to address barriers to learning.
- ❑ Staff developed and cooperated with community contractors to implement two new programs, Images for Life and Elizabeth's Place, specifically focussed on women's issues. In addition, staff developed a new spirituality of addictions program, Pathways to Wholeness, for male offenders.
- ❑ An additional chaplain was also acquired to provide group and one-on-one counselling to both male and female offenders.
- ❑ With the opening of the Halifax Youth Attendance Centre, a spiritual advisor referral program has been established based on expressed need.
- ❑ Additional spiritual services from Aboriginal and Muslim community resources have also been identified and accessed for offenders.
- ❑ An extensive spiritual care plan was developed for all adult and youth facilities with implementation targets set for 2007-2008.
- ❑ The Antigonish and Cumberland correctional facilities began delivering a variety of offender programs in 2006-2007, specifically: life skills, substance abuse management and anger management, and the remaining adult correctional facilities added substance abuse and anger management programs to their roster of programs.

d. Implementing a new pre-sentence report format to assist in sentencing:

- ❑ A review of Correctional Services' pre-sentence report content, format and associated policy and procedures was completed. Following consultation with staff and a review of best practices, including a study which sought the input of the judiciary in Nova Scotia, the committee concluded the pre-sentence report content and format continued to be relevant and appropriate to the needs of the court and community corrections' case management. The review committee recommended, and it has been accepted, that an ongoing review committee, composed of senior probation officers, probation officers and clerical staff, be established to review the pre-sentence report content, format and associated policy and procedures on a bi-annual basis to ensure it remains current.

e. *Undertaking studies on youth and adult recidivism* to assess how the system is promoting offender accountability, responsibility and rehabilitation:

- ❑ Staff are participating in a recidivism working group with the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), which is working to develop an accurate definition of recidivism. Nova Scotia is working to ensure provincial data is included when a pilot begins. The department anticipates being able to report on this measure in the next Accountability Report.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

<i>Budget Variance (\$000's)</i>	<i>Estimates</i>	<i>Actual 2006/07</i>	<i>Variance Increase (Decrease)</i>
<i>Court Services</i>	<i>31,124</i>	<i>29,473</i>	<i>(1,651)</i>
<i>Correctional Services</i>	<i>20,969</i>	<i>20,814</i>	<i>(155)</i>
<i>Policing & Victim Services</i>	<i>28,357</i>	<i>27,267</i>	<i>(1,090)</i>
<i>Nova Scotia Legal Aid</i>	<i>15,334</i>	<i>15,446</i>	<i>112</i>
<i>Office of the Chief Medical Examiner</i>	<i>2,312</i>	<i>2,750</i>	<i>438</i>
<i>Administration</i>	<i>18,371</i>	<i>16,436</i>	<i>(1,935)</i>
<i>Net Program Expenses - Net of Recoveries</i>	<i>116,467</i> =====	<i>112,184</i> =====	<i>(4,283)</i> =====
<i>Gross Expenditures</i>	<i>224,202</i>	<i>232,740</i>	<i>8,538</i>
<i>Funded Staff (FTE's) 2006-2007</i>	<i>1,474</i>	<i>1,437</i>	<i>(37.0)</i>

Program	Explanation for budget variance
<i>Court Services</i>	The savings are due to vacant positions, a decrease in operating costs along with an increase in fees. The variances resulted in a net under expenditure of \$1,651,000.
<i>Correctional Services</i>	The savings are due to vacant positions and delays in the start-up of the bail supervision, youth attendance centre and electronic monitoring programs along with higher than anticipated recoveries. These items more than offset the increase in operating costs.
<i>Policing & Victim Services</i>	Expenditures were under budget due to numerous vacancies in the division along with savings as a result of a delayed start of the Public Safety Investigative Unit. There were decreases in operating costs for First Nations policing and professional services in policing administration.
<i>Nova Scotia Legal Aid</i>	Legal Aid was over budget due to an increase in expenses related to innovation projects.
<i>Office of the Chief Medical Examiner</i>	Increase in professional services, mainly due to fees provided to pathologists for medical examiner's cases.
<i>Administration</i>	Administration was under budget due to a decrease in professional services and salary savings from vacant positions.

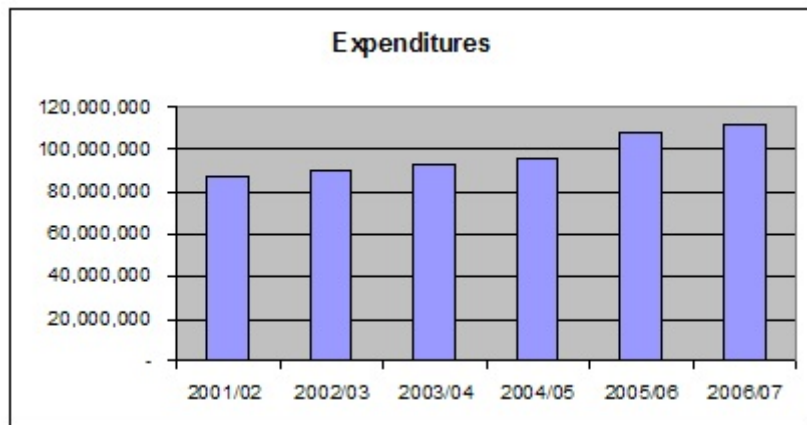
MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

The Department of Justice introduced new measures in its 2005-2006 business plan to better link outcomes with strategic directions and to reflect a broader departmental and societal approach than the program-type measures we had tracked in previous years. Some measures were still being fine tuned throughout the 2006-2007 fiscal year as we worked to clarify definitions and gather the relevant data with more changes to be introduced in the 2007-2008 business planning cycle.

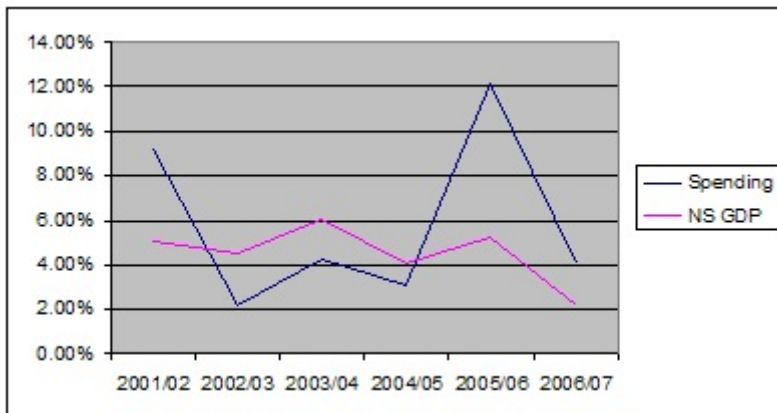
STRATEGIC DIRECTION: A justice system that is properly administered and cost effective.

(1) PROVINCIAL COSTS OF PROVIDING JUSTICE SERVICES

What does this measure tell us? This measure captures the provincial costs of providing justice services, including corrections, courts, policing, the chief medical examiner's office, legal aid and public prosecution. It also compares the average rate of spending on justice to the average rate of growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



Where are we now? Between 2001-2002 and 2006-2007, the provincial cost of providing justice in Nova Scotia has been increasing. Spending amounted to \$112,460,262 in 2006-2007 (excluding federal and municipal contributions), representing a 4% increase over the year before. The average rate of growth in spending between 2002-2003 to 2006-2007 was 5.15%, while the average rate of growth in NS GDP during the same time period was 4.41%. During the base-year period, the average rate of growth in spending was 4.65% while the average rate of growth in NS GDP was 4.92% (2000-2001 to 2004-2005).



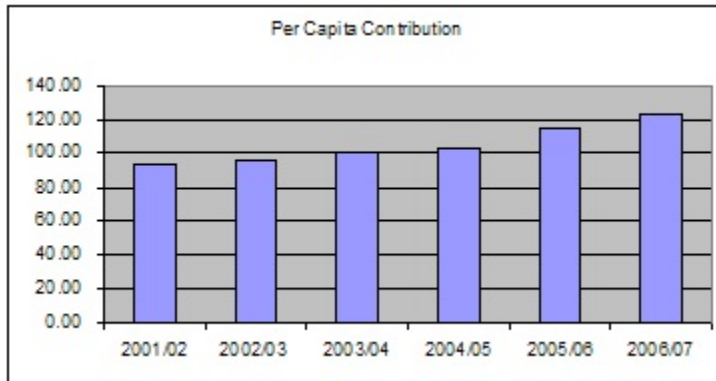
Where do we want to be in the future? The target was to achieve an average rate of growth in spending (over a five-year period) less than the average rate of growth in NS GDP. A five-year period was chosen to account for periods of significant growth, e.g. major

capital investment in any given year. In the upcoming year, the target is to adopt a realistic approach to managing the growing costs of programs and services. We have determined that this measure is not effective and it has therefore been dropped from the 2007/2008 Business Plan.

(2) PER CAPITA COSTS OF PROVIDING JUSTICE SERVICES

What does this measure tell us? This measure outlines the provincial per capita cost (cost per Nova Scotian) of providing justice services. Provincial costs of providing justice services include corrections, courts, policing, chief medical examiner’s office, legal aid and public prosecution. *(Figures exclude federal and municipal contributions.)*

Where are we now? The provincial per capita cost of providing justice services in Nova Scotia



has been increasing since 2001-2002. Per capita costs amounted to \$123.11 in 2006-2007, which is up from the base year (\$102.74 for 2004-2005).

Where do we want to be in the future? The department is continuing to track data associated with these indicators and will work to establish a target once more trend data is available.

(3) FEDERAL FUNDS LEVERAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT

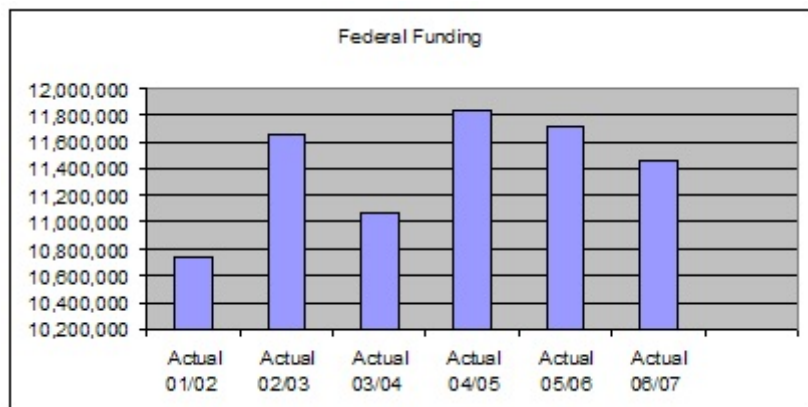
What does this measure tell us?

This measure indicates the amount of federal funds leveraged by the department for justice initiatives, including youth criminal justice, legal aid, court services and gun control.

Where are we now? In 2006-2007, the department received \$11,460,723 in federal funds for justice initiatives, which is a 3% drop over the 2004-2005 base year (\$11,829,716). Federal funding for justice initiatives was cut across the country. In Nova Scotia, the drop in federal funding impacted on Nova Scotia Legal Aid investment funding and on the bridge funding for the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

Where do we want to be in the future?

Our target is to maintain/increase efforts to leverage federal funds. The department continues to lobby



the federal government for increased funding, particularly in the area of legal aid.

(4) CLIENT SATISFACTION WITH LEGAL SERVICES

What does this measure tell us? This benchmark measure captures client satisfaction with legal services. In this case, clients consist of government departments and agencies that rely on the department's legal services staff.

Where are we now? Results from a 2005-2006 survey of deputy ministers across Nova Scotia government departments indicate a very high level of satisfaction (100%) with the work performed by the Legal Services Division. This result is consistent with other internal client surveys done in the past, which used a different methodology.

Where do we want to be in the future? The target for this measure is to maintain client satisfaction.



(5) CASE PROCESSING TIMES IN CRIMINAL COURT

What does this measure tell us?

This measure indicates the average amount of time it takes to process adult and youth cases in criminal court from first to last appearance.

Where are we now? In 2003-2004 (the latest year for which figures on criminal court case processing times are available from CCJS), adult cases took an average of 213 days to process, representing an increase of 57 days since 2000-2001. In 2003-2004, Nova Scotia had the third highest average elapsed time in adult court.

This same study reported that youth cases took an average of 175 days to process in 2003-2004, the highest average elapsed time in youth court in Canada. Elapsed time in youth court is somewhat exaggerated by the inclusion of restorative justice as well as bench warrants. When these were excluded, it took on average 144 days in 2003-2004 for a youth case to be processed. (Excluding restorative justice is valid because other jurisdictions do not include restorative justice in their elapsed time estimates. Excluding bench warrants was done because it is the new methodology being employed by CCJS.)

Where do we want to be in the future? The target was to meet the Canadian average elapsed time to complete a case in criminal court in any given year, which remains the same for adult court cases. However, in response to the Nunn Commission, an initial processing target for youth

court cases has been set at 98 days. This target was set in consultation with justice partners, who have been identifying and addressing roadblocks to court processing.

(6) CASE PROCESSING TIMES IN FAMILY/CIVIL COURT

What does this measure tell us? This measure indicates the average amount of time it takes to process family and civil cases from first to last appearance.

Where are we now? According to CCJS figures in 2005-2006, a profile of active general civil cases indicated that overall approximately 58% of the cases took 3 months or less from the date of case initiation to the date that a statement of defence was filed. In Nova Scotia slightly more than half the cases (56%) took 12 months or less from the date of case initiation to the date of first disposition. Statistical information is not yet available for the date from case initiation to the date of the first trial event.

A profile of family law cases indicated that overall approximately 49% of cases took 3 months or less from the date of case initiation to the date that a statement of defence was filed. In Nova Scotia approximately 29% of cases took 12 months or less from the date of case initiation to the date of the first trial event. In Nova Scotia approximately 65% of all cases took 12 months or less from the date of case initiation to the date of first disposition.

Where would we like to be in the future? The 2005-2006 figures will serve as benchmark data, with targets to be determined in future years.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: There is public confidence in the justice system.

(7) PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

What does this measure tell us? The Atlantic Quarterly Survey, undertaken in Spring 2005 (base year) and Spring 2006, provides an indication of the public's knowledge of the justice system.

Where are we now? A decline from 54% to 48% of Nova Scotians who consider themselves to be at least somewhat familiar with the justice system is a statistically significant decline. Overall results follow:

Year	Very familiar with the justice system	Somewhat familiar with the justice system	Not very familiar with the justice system	Not at all familiar with the justice system	Don't know/no answer
2005	9%	45%	34%	12%	0%
2006	7%	41%	37%	14%	1%

Where do we want to be in the future? The goal is to increase public knowledge of the justice system, primarily through the Minister's Task Force on Safer Streets and Communities and through the development of a crime prevention reduction strategy. Another Atlantic Quarterly Survey will be conducted in May 2007.

(8) PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

What does this measure tell us? The Atlantic Quarterly Survey provides an indication of the public's perception of confidence in the justice system. These figures are based on 2005 and 2006 data.

Where are we now? Overall results have not changed in a statistically significant manner between 2005 (base year) and 2006. We are therefore on target. Overall results follow:

Year	A great deal of confidence in the justice system	Some confidence in the justice system	Not much confidence in the justice system	No confidence at all in the justice system	Don't know/no answer
2005	12%	62%	17%	9%	1%
2006	10%	66%	15%	7%	2%

Where do we want to be in the future? The goal is to maintain/increase public confidence in the justice system over the 2005 base year, with another survey to follow in May 2007.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: People are and feel safe and secure.

(9) OVERALL CRIME RATE

What does this measure tell us? The crime rate is a key indicator of social and economic well-being within a society. It indicates how many criminal incidents have been reported to the police

for violent, property, drug, and other offences, excluding *Criminal Code* traffic offences. The number is standardized per 100,000 of the population so we can compare rates across communities.

Where are we now? The overall crime rate in Nova Scotia dropped 2% last year, following a 5% decline in 2005. Small drops were reported for total violent crimes, property crimes as well as “other” Criminal Code offences in 2006. The overall crime rate in Nova Scotia has decreased by about 20% since peaking in 1991.

Where do we want to be in the future? The goal is to reduce rates below the national average. Currently, Nova Scotia is below the national property crime rate. A summary comparing 2005 and 2006 figures for Nova Scotia and Canada follows:

Crime Statistics per 100,000	Total violent crime rate			Total property crime rate			Other <i>Criminal Code</i> rate			Total <i>Criminal Code</i> rate (excl. traffic)		
	2006	2005	% change	2006	2005	% change	2006	2005	% change	2006	2005	% change
Nova Scotia	1135	1154 (r)	-2%	3514	3579 (r)	-2%	3420	3471 (r)	-2%	8069	8204 (r)	-2%
Canada	951	950 (r)	stable	3588	3737 (r)	-4%	2980	3086 (r)	-3%	7518	7772 (r)	-3%

(r) = 2005 figures revised to reflect most recent data from StatsCanada.

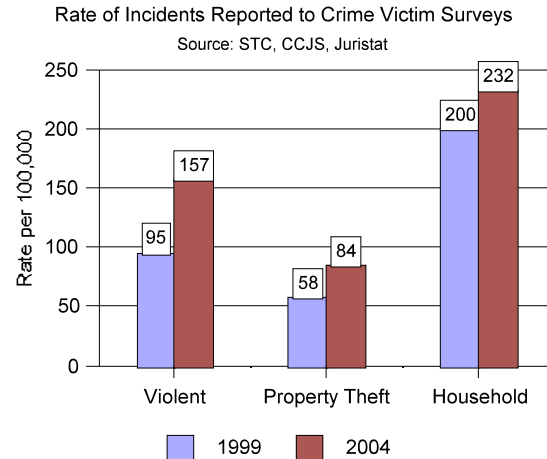
During the past two years, the overall crime rate in Nova Scotia has been decreasing at relatively the same pace as the national level. However, we have generally been at or slightly above the national average over the past 10 years. Crime rate statistics are influenced by many factors such as reporting by the public to police and police practices. While the target is to reduce crime, increased police resources and public confidence could result in an increase in the number of crimes coming to the attention of police, which will impact the official crime rate.

(10) OVERALL VIOLENT VICTIMIZATION RATE

What does this measure tell us? This measure tracks the rate of violent victimization as reported through the General Social Survey (GSS) which, in 2004, sampled about 24,000 individuals aged 15 years and older. The GSS records respondents’ personal accounts of criminal victimization incidents.

Where are we now? The rate of violent victimization, property theft and household victimization increased between 1999 and 2004.

In 2004, the rate of violent victimization was 157 per 1,000 population, an increase of 65% from 1999. The rate of theft of personal property was 84 per 1,000 population, an increase of 45% from 1999. The rate of household victimization was 232 per 1,000 population, an increase of 16% from 1999.



Where do we want to be in the future? The goal is to reduce rates below the national average, with a summary comparing Nova Scotia and Canada figures below:

Victimization rates (2004)	Violence	Property	Household
Nova Scotia	157 per 1,000 population	84 per 1,000 population	232 per 1,000 households
Canada	106 per 1,000 population	93 per 1,000 population	248 per 1,000 households

Currently, Nova Scotia is below the national victimization rate for both property and household crime. The next GSS will be conducted in 2009.

(11) PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF SAFETY IN THE HOME

What does this measure tell us? The Atlantic Quarterly Survey, undertaken in Spring 2005 (base year) and Spring 2006, provides an indication of the public's perception of safety in the home.

Where are we now? Overall results have remained relatively stable. In 2006, half (50%) of those surveyed indicated they were not at all worried when home alone at night (49% in 2005). A smaller proportion (29%) indicated they were not very worried (27% in 2005). Another 18% indicated they were somewhat worried (21% in 2005) or very worried (3%); (2% in 2005).

Where do we want to be in the future? The target is to maintain/increase perceptions of safety in the home, with a follow up survey planned for May 2007.

(12) PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF SAFETY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

What does this measure tell us? The Atlantic Quarterly Survey, undertaken in Spring 2005 (base year) and Spring 2006, provides an indication of the public's perception of safety in the neighbourhood.

Where are we now? Overall results have remained relatively stable. In 2006, 72% of those surveyed felt very safe or reasonably safe walking alone after dark (74% in 2005). Another 15% felt somewhat unsafe (13% in 2005) or very unsafe (7%); 5% in 2005. Another 6% indicated they do not walk alone at night (7% in 2005 with another 1% indicating "don't know/no answer").

Where do we want to be in the future? The target is to maintain/increase perceptions of safety in the neighbourhood, with a follow up survey planned for May 2007.

(13) MAJOR INCIDENTS WITHIN FACILITIES

What does this measure tell us? This measure tracks major incidents within correctional facilities, which have been defined as follows: purposeful damage to property in excess of \$5,000; or an unnatural death has occurred; or an aggravated assault has been committed by an offender against another person resulting in a hospital admission; or a disturbance of four or more offenders, over a protracted period of 60 minutes or longer, and a) necessitating the hold or call back of staff, with an expenditure of more than \$1000, or b) exceeding the resource capacity of the facility, requiring emergency police services to respond to the identified threat.

Where are we now? The Cape Breton Correctional Facility reported two major incidents, both aggravated assaults by offenders on another person in 2006-2007. The previous year (base year), the Cape Breton Correctional Facility had one major incident (an aggravated assault). No major incidents as defined above were reported in the Antigonish, Central Nova Scotia, Cumberland and Southwest Nova Scotia correctional facilities in 2006-07, nor did they have any in 2005-2006. The Nova Scotia Youth Facility did not report any major incidents in 2006-2007, nor did they have any in 2005-2006.

Where do we want to be in the future? Our goal is to have no major incidents in any of our facilities.

(14) ESCAPES FROM FACILITIES/ESCAPES FROM STAFF WHILE BEING ESCORTED IN THE COMMUNITY, AND ESCAPES FROM SHERIFFS' CUSTODY

What does this measure tell us? The number of escapes from facilities, escapes from staff while being escorted in the community, and escapes from sheriffs' custody in a year provides information on security levels and measures.

Where are we now?

- ❑ Escapes from facilities/correctional staff:
2004-2005: 6 (base year)
2005-2006: 2
2006-2007: 0

- ❑ From sheriffs' custody:
2004-2005: 0 (base year)
2005-2006: 0
2006-2007: 0

Where do we want to be in the future? Our goal is to have no escapes in any these areas.

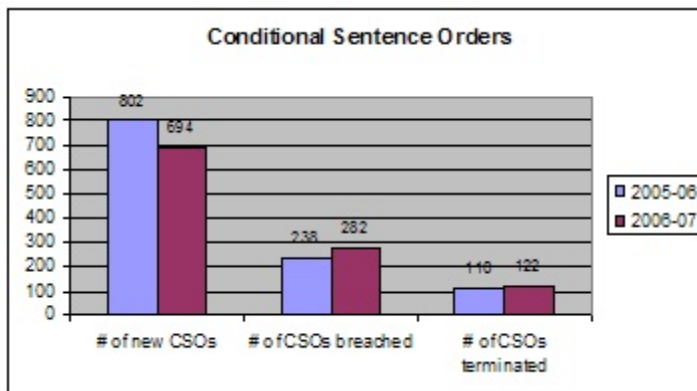
STRATEGIC DIRECTION: People make constructive choices.

(15) CONDITIONAL SENTENCE BREACHES

What does this measure tell us? This measure tracks conditional sentence breaches (CSOs) as an indicator of offender accountability. CSOs were previously listed as “conditional release violations”.

Where are we now? During 2005-2006 (base year), there were 802 adult conditional sentence orders given by the courts. In 2006-2007 this number dropped to 694.

In 2005-2006 there were 238 allegations of breach of a conditional sentence before the courts; also in the same period 110 allegations of breaches resulted in the conditional sentence being terminated and the balance of the sentence was served in a correctional facility. In 2006-2007 the number of breaches was 282, and the number of terminations was 122.



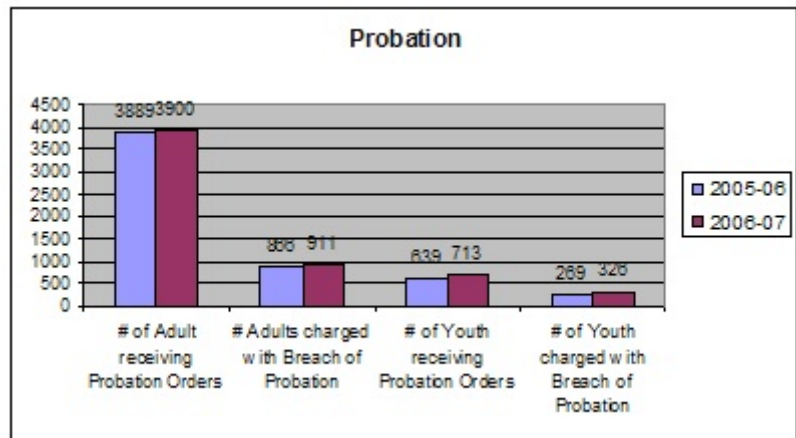
The breaches and terminations in any given year may relate to new orders issued the preceding year. Similarly, while most of the terminations related to breaches in the same period, in some cases the allegation of the breach may have been made in the preceding fiscal year. Also please note the number of allegations of breach does not equate to the number of people, as one person can receive more than one order and one order can be breached many times.

Where do we want to be in the future? No specific target has been set for conditional sentence breaches. The number of breaches is a function of a variety of factors including: the number of orders in effect in any given year (which is not the same as the number of new orders issued during that year); the enforcement tools used by staff, e.g., electronic supervision; and the choices made by offenders to comply with the conditions ordered by the court. The identification of an appropriate target is still under review.

(16) PROBATION BREACH CHARGES

What does this measure tell us? This measure tracks probation breaches as an indicator of offender accountability.

Where are we now? During 2005-2006 (base year), 3,889 adults and 639 young persons received probation orders. During that same time period, 866 adults and 269 youth were charged with breach of probation. In 2006-2007, 3,900 adults and 713 young persons received probation orders. During that same time period, 911 adults and 326 youth were charged with breach of probation.



Breach of probation charges may relate to probation orders issued in preceding years and not necessarily the orders issued in the same year. Breaches may be laid by Correctional Services staff or police agencies. One probation order can be breached many times.

Where do we want to be in the future? No specific target has been set for probation breaches. The number of breaches is a function of a variety of factors including: the number of orders in effect in any given year (which is not the same as the number of new orders issued during that year); and the choices made by offenders to comply with the conditions ordered by the court. The identification of an appropriate target is still under review.

(17) PERCENTAGE OF INCARCERATED ADULT OFFENDERS WHO RE-OFFEND WITHIN ONE YEAR

What does this measure tell us? This measure is intended to capture information on recidivism as an indicator of offender accountability.

Where are we now? Staff are participating in a recidivism working group with the CCJS, which is working to develop an accurate definition of recidivism. Nova Scotia is working to ensure provincial data is included when a pilot begins. The department also collected data from offenders through a 'one-day snapshot' survey on October 7, 2006, the data of which is currently being analyzed and which includes indicators of recidivism. The department anticipates being able to report on this measure in the next Accountability Report.

Where do we want to be in the future? The department expects that its work with the CCJS, as well as the snapshot survey of offenders that was conducted, will yield sufficient data to allow us to report on this measure in the next Accountability Report.

(18) PERCENTAGE OF INCARCERATED YOUNG OFFENDERS WHO RE-OFFEND WITHIN ONE YEAR

What does this measure tell us? This measure is intended to capture information on recidivism as an indicator of offender accountability.

Where are we now? Staff are participating in a recidivism working group with the CCJS, which is working to develop an accurate definition of recidivism. Nova Scotia is working to ensure provincial data is included when a pilot begins. The department also collected data from offenders through a 'one-day snapshot' survey on October 7, 2006, the data of which is currently being analyzed and which includes indicators of recidivism. The department anticipates being able to report on this measure in the next Accountability Report.

Where do we want to be in the future? The department expects that its work with the CCJS, as well as the snapshot survey of offenders that was conducted, will yield sufficient data to allow us to report on this measure in the next Accountability Report.

(19) FAMILY CASES THAT REACH CONSENT THROUGH CONCILIATION/MEDIATION

What does this measure tell us? This measure captures family cases that reach consent through conciliation/mediation, e.g. consent orders mutually agreed to by the two parties without an actual court hearing. It is an indicator of the effective use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Where are we now? The number of consents reached as a result of conciliation in 2006-2007 were 496 compared to 540 in 2005-2006 and 427 in 2004-2005. A percentage is not available at this time because the overall caseload cannot yet be determined until all other possible outcomes of conciliation are tracked.

Where do we want to be in the future? The identification of an appropriate target is still under review by the department, as there are a wide variety of reasons why family cases may not reach resolution.