

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
2005-2006

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ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The accountability report of the Department of Justice for the year ended March 31, 2006 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 2005-2006. 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.

Murray Scott, M.B.
Minister of Justice

Douglas J. Keefe, Q.C.
Deputy Minister of Justice

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER AND DEPUTY MINISTER

We appreciate this opportunity to share details on some of the activities the Department of Justice undertook in 2005-2006 and to report on our progress in achieving key outcomes. We want to ensure transparency and accountability in our justice system, and this report supports those efforts.

Throughout the 2005-2006 fiscal year, department staff worked with our partners to ensure Nova Scotians can be confident in the safety and security of their communities. Right across this province, close to 1,400 staff worked to ensure the smooth administration of justice, improve the safety of our communities, reduce the harmful impact of crime on victims, and improve access to justice.

Each person played an important role in making sure we provide high-quality services, and we continue to be impressed with their dedication and enthusiasm. A sincere thanks to all staff and partners.

We welcome feedback on our progress and on our programs and services. We also assure you that the safety and security of our citizens continues to be a high priority for the Department of Justice.

Murray Scott, M.B.
Minister of Justice

Douglas J. Keefe, 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 2005-2006, 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 Services; Court Services; Correctional Services; Legal Services; Human Resources; Information Management; and Finance and Administration.

Our Policing and Victim Services initiatives are directed at improving public safety and security and to assisting victims of crime. Through this division, we provide oversight, governance and advice to police, private security services and firearms license holders, and we provide advocacy and avenues to address the concerns of victims of crime. For example, the division acts in an advisory role to all police services and manages contracts with the RCMP and First Nations Policing. We strengthen policing initiatives through the development of standards and training in partnership with stakeholders. We also work with justice partners and the community to deliver programs that meet the needs of crime victims. 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.

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 18 permanently-staffed justice centres and courthouses and 15 satellite courts, staffed only when court is being held. The division also manages the Maintenance Enforcement Program, with six offices across the province.

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, one youth correctional facility in Waterville, and a small satellite youth detention facility for short-term accommodation in Sydney. Twenty-two community corrections offices are also located across the province. There were 9027 court-ordered admissions to Correctional Services in 2005-2006.

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 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner also falls under this department. Investigations are held into all deaths due to violence and culpable negligence, as well as sudden unexplained deaths.

We also coordinate 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 over the next three to five years. 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 2005-2006

The safety and security of our citizens continued to be a high priority for the Department of Justice in 2005-2006. Crime garnered considerable attention this past year, in part by reported increases in rates of violent youth crime and violent victimization, as well as by the public perception of increasing risk of crime and victimization for the public.

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 anticipated in the fall 2006. While that inquiry will provide valuable insight and recommendations on how we can further improve our youth justice system, we continued to take steps to address youth crime, including lobbying for changes to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and developing a youth attendance centre to provide an improved response to youth who are in conflict with the law.

This year's budget also included \$1 million to police as part of our \$6.1 million commitment to Criminal Intelligence Service Nova Scotia. This funding will improve coordination among the RCMP and municipal police so that law enforcement agencies can be more proactive in their fight against organized crime.

Indeed, effective policing is a vital attribute of safe and strong communities. In January 2006, the *Police Act* came into effect. Good governance is critical to effective policing, and this legislation supports the clear connection between governance and policing service. We also proclaimed the *Correctional Services Act*, a bill that reinforces the safety and security of Nova Scotians. The new act allows us to modernize our services to recognize changing needs and issues related to the offender population.

In keeping with our efforts to ensure the safety of our citizens, the department also introduced 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 or illegal liquor, drugs or gaming. A new investigative unit will be established in the upcoming year to support implementation of the act. It will target criminal activities, including the sale of illegal drugs and alcohol, prostitution and illegal gambling.

Another initiative welcomed by police is the electronic supervision program introduced this fiscal year. Nova Scotia is a leader in this area as the first jurisdiction to use global positioning technology to track offenders serving sentences in the community.

Read on to learn more about our government's efforts in 2005-2006 to build a stronger, safer Nova Scotia.

DEPARTMENT PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Priorities:

- a. ***Effectively manage existing and build new facility infrastructure to meet needs:***
including new court facilities in Port Hawkesbury, Bridgewater and Yarmouth; a metro area facilities master plan; ongoing court renovations province wide; continued replacement and/or upgrade of aging correctional facility infrastructure; and expansion of the Supreme Court Family Division province wide.
- A new \$12 million justice centre in Port Hawkesbury officially opened in August 2005, marking the first justice centre opened by the provincial government. The 45,500-square-foot justice centre has: three courtrooms; five holding cells; rooms where lawyers can meet privately with clients; offices for court administration staff, the judiciary and support staff; a law library; and offices for legal aid, the public prosecution service, correctional services and sheriff services. Staff began moving into the justice centre in September. The building was designed by Ojolick Associates - Architects/Planners of Sydney, Nova Scotia. The opening of the new centre also included the establishment of a new office for victim services in the building adjacent to the court. The office provides services to victims of crime in cases appearing before Port Hawkesbury, Port Hood, Arichat, Antigonish and Guysborough courts.
 - Community members got a first look at plans for the new and improved Yarmouth Justice Centre during a public presentation in March 2006. The plans call for a 48,500-square foot building featuring: two courtrooms; interview rooms; secure custody areas; counter service for payments and other court services; jury rooms; and a family education room. The centre will also house justice services such as legal aid, correctional services and public prosecution services. The \$11.5 million facility will be built at 164 Main St. on land donated by the town of Yarmouth. The centre is expected to be complete in summer, 2008.
 - The department continued to develop plans for a new and improved Lunenburg County Justice Centre, with a public presentation planned for May 2006. The plans call for a 52,000-square-foot building featuring: four courtrooms; interview rooms; secure custody areas; counter service for payments and other court services; jury room; and a family education room. The centre will also house new space for legal aid services. The \$12.6 million facility will be built on High Street, adjacent to the Provincial Building in Bridgewater. The centre is expected to be complete in spring 2008.

- ❑ Significant improvements are also being made to the Port Hood courthouse. Over the next two years, the province and the municipality will cost-share \$240,000 in improvements, which will include repair work and redesign of the courthouse. Improvements to the courthouse will include redesign of the courtroom, repairs to the roof, and renovations to ensure that the courthouse remains accessible and safe for employees and clients.
 - ❑ The department has taken preliminary steps toward the construction of a consolidated courthouse in Halifax Regional Municipality to replace the four existing court buildings. However, funding has not yet been approved and no site has been identified.
 - ❑ The department began developing proposals to address aging correctional facilities in Northern Nova Scotia.
 - ❑ The department submitted a proposal to the federal government in June 2004 outlining a plan for expanding the Supreme Court Family Division province wide, which would ensure equal access to justice, eliminate jurisdictional confusion, and strengthen judicial resources. Bill C-51, *An Act to amend the Judges Act, the Federal Courts Act and other Acts*, was introduced in May 2005 by the former federal justice minister. The bill, which went through first reading, dealt with judicial salaries and allowances, judicial annuities, and other benefits. Bill C-51 also proposed a number of court-related reforms, as well as the expansion of unified family courts across the country. The bill allowed for 27 judicial appointments. Of the seven provinces in Canada with unified family courts, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario have submitted proposals to the federal government seeking judges to expand their courts. Nova Scotia continues to advocate for this much-needed expansion with the new federal government.
- b. Effectively manage technology infrastructure and support the development of new tools: digital recording and a docket information system; technology infrastructure upgrades; Justice Enterprise Information Network (JEIN) implementation and additional leveraging of this integrated information network; and expansion of online options for fine and maintenance enforcement payments.**
- ❑ The docket information sharing project, a joint initiative between the judiciary and the Department of Justice, has resulted in an automated scheduling component which enables staff and judges to search a scheduling database that will find available dates and courtrooms quickly. This component, which is linked to the case tracking systems, has been implemented at the Supreme Court and Supreme Court Family Division in Halifax and Sydney. Digital recording has been implemented at the Law Courts in Halifax, Port Hawkesbury and Amherst, and plans are in place to install the equipment in all court locations across the province.

- ❑ Regular annual technology infrastructure upgrades were performed.
- ❑ Correctional Services continues to work on new functionality and enhancements for its components of JEIN.
- ❑ Court Services is in preliminary discussions with the Information Management Division to develop online fine payment options; however, a system is not yet in place.

c. Improve internal access to information for evidence-based decision making: continue developing meaningful justice indicators for strategic and business planning activities at both the departmental and operational levels; explore use of an online accounting system to expedite financial transactions related to Supreme, Family and Probate Courts; expand the materials and tools found on the department's Intranet site, including courts and correctional services manuals.

- ❑ A final list of justice indicators was produced with significant progress made in collecting the necessary data. A draft report is anticipated in fall, 2006 and is meant to serve as a reference tool to help staff identify trends, assess operational performance, identify where additional focus may be required and identify where business goals may need further attention or revision.
- ❑ An online accounting system will be designed by a consultant engaged by the Information Management Division on behalf of the Court Services Division. The system will provide a computerized method of accounting for all financial transactions involving the civil court databases for Small Claims, Supreme, Family and Probate courts. Work will begin in early spring 2006.
- ❑ Correctional Services launched its *Directory of Programs and Services in Nova Scotia* on the intranet. This directory provides staff and the judiciary with a synopsis of programs and services available to offenders from the division, from other government departments and from various community partners.
- ❑ Court Services is currently revising all of its 24 manuals, which will be put on the Intranet. The Provincial Court Manual will be the first to go online in early 2007.

d. Undertake a comprehensive employee wellness initiative:

- ❑ The Department of Justice is helping to set the roadmap for the development of a healthy workplace environment. The Healthy Lifeworks Project is a collaboration between the Public Service Commission, Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection, the Department of Justice, the Atlantic Health and Wellness Institute, Pfizer Canada Inc.,

AstraZeneca Canada Inc. and Sun Life Financial. More than 700 staff at 12 sites have been participating in this project, with the goal of improving individual, organizational and environmental/musculoskeletal health. This project is expected to serve as a model for workplace health practices, both in government and other sectors. Specific project activities undertaken at the department include: on-going meetings of healthy workplace committees that lead wellness activities at project work sites; workshops directed at improving both individual and organizational health practices, including weight loss, injury prevention, nutrition and exercise; and a leadership summit, which captured ideas from each of the work sites about how we can improve our organizational health.

- e. **Strengthen federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) relations:** negotiate FPT agreements focusing on legal aid, First Nations community tripartite, provincial policing and youth justice; play a leadership role in the national justice statistics initiative and the Justice Efficiencies Task Force established by FPT ministers responsible for justice in Canada.*
- In 2005, a unanimous resolution from provincial/territorial ministers called for an immediate federal commitment to civil legal aid services and a return to 50-50 cost sharing for criminal legal aid. Nova Scotia has a long-standing commitment to legal aid for our poorest citizens, with the department spending some \$14 million each year to support public access to legal aid. The 2005-2006 budget saw provincial funding for legal aid increase by \$1.4 million over the year before. The department will continue lobby efforts at FPT meetings. The current agreement expires March 31, 2006.
 - A three-year agreement (to be signed April 1, 2006) is in place for First Nations Policing services within Nova Scotia. The province contributes 48 per cent of the cost of all First Nations Policing, with the federal government contributing 52 per cent.
 - Nova Scotia continued to play an active part in further developing national justice statistics, with the department's deputy minister of justice chairing an FPT committee dedicated to the task. The department also continued to participate in the Justice Efficiencies Task Force.
 - Nova Scotia and other Canadian jurisdictions are also working to prepare for the end of a 20-year contract with the RCMP for policing services. The current multi-million-dollar agreement expires in 2012. While that may seem like a long way off, we need to work now to identify and prepare for Nova Scotia's policing needs in 2012 and beyond.
 - Nova Scotia continued to call for action to enhance public safety by amending the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)* to allow detention and custody sentences for young persons who pose a danger to the public. At all FPT tables, including ministers, deputies and senior officials, the department has argued that the *YCJA* is ineffective in providing

effective measures to deter a small percentage of youth whose behaviours are out of control and jeopardizing public safety.

- ❑ Provincial and territorial ministers were also unanimous in expressing concern and demanding action on gun violence, organized crime, and limiting the use of conditional sentences for serious and violent offences.

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

Priorities:

- a. ***Hold a full, independent and public inquiry into the release of a youth who was later charged and convicted in the death of Theresa McEvoy of Halifax.***
 - ❑ Justice D. Merlin Nunn of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia was appointed inquiry commissioner in June 2005. The inquiry began hearing testimony in October 2005. The inquiry is examining how charges against a youth were handled in the days leading up to his release and circumstances surrounding the fatal collision two days later. The inquiry is also hearing testimony from representatives from the education, health and community services sectors regarding services for youth. Closing submissions are anticipated in June 2006, and the commissioner's report and recommendations are expected in fall 2006. The Department of Justice is taking the lead on responding to the report of the Nunn Commission. An interdepartmental committee has been established to collaborate on the response.
- b. ***Undertake evaluation initiatives to ensure programs meet objectives: Domestic Violence Intervention Act (DVIA) evaluation; Family Violence Tracking Initiative; and strengthen the evaluation function within the Information Management Division.***
 - ❑ Consultants contracted by the department concluded their evaluation of the DVIA with a report to be shared with key stakeholders. 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 findings are based on interviews and focus groups with victims and almost 100 stakeholders, including transition houses, police, victim services and other justice staff, Crown attorneys and men's advocacy groups, as well as written responses from justices of the peace, DVIA coordinators/trainers and child protection workers. The DVIA has been in force since April 2003. It allows victims to apply for 30-day Emergency Protection Orders (EPOs), which allow the justice system to take immediate action to protect a victim of domestic violence in an emergency situation.

- ❑ The department is in the process of wrapping up the third cycle of the Nova Scotia Family Violence Tracking Project, a unique project in Canada which tracks cases of family violence through the criminal justice system. The purpose of this project is to develop and track indicators of the effectiveness of the criminal justice system response to spousal/intimate partner violence in Nova Scotia. This information allows the department to evaluate the implementation of policies at the police, court and corrections levels, as well as inform decision-making for the development and implementation of new initiatives. A final report of study findings is anticipated in late fall 2006.
- ❑ The department's Policy, Planning and Research Branch has increased evaluation capacity, with efforts being made to address priority areas for action.

c. Strengthen the Restorative Justice Program:

- ❑ In 2005-2006, the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program (NSRJ) initiated a research study "Extra-Judicial Sanctions in a Complex Urban Environment" in partnership with the Youth Justice Renewal Initiative through Justice Canada. This project engaged a broad level of community and justice stakeholders to understand the specific issues related to the delivery of the NSRJ Program in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). Findings and recommendations of the research project are to be explored in fall 2006.

d. Address recommendations made in an Employment Systems Review:

- ❑ New equity procedures, diversity training and human resource practices involving recruitment, selection and retention of staff have been put in place as a result of an Employment Systems Review of Correctional Services. Work is ongoing and will continue to evolve to ensure ongoing action in this area.

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

Priorities:

- a. ***Work collaboratively to address youth crime:*** seek changes to the *YCJA (Canada)* and the *Criminal Code (Canada)* that would carry stricter sentences and categorize auto theft as the serious offence it is; monitor implementation of a new community corrections service delivery model and the establishment of youth specialists; continue to pursue establishment of a province-wide Youth Court to ensure effective prosecution of young offenders; implement an updated program strategy for the Nova Scotia Youth Centre; and complete the development of practice and curriculum standards for the Restorative Justice Program.
- ❑ As noted previously, Nova Scotia continued to call for action to enhance public safety, requesting the amendment of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)* to allow detention and custody sentences for young persons who pose a danger to the public. Nova Scotia's justice minister will be meeting with the new federal justice minister in May 2006 to urge the federal government to move forward with amendments to the *YCJA* to ensure adequate protection of the public. The department will continue to ensure the issue remains on all FPT tables.
 - ❑ The department explored several new youth initiatives in 2005-2006, including the possibility of initiating a restorative justice program for children under 12 and an attendance centre to provide an improved response to youth in conflict with the law. Further developments on both initiatives are anticipated in 2006-2007.
 - ❑ A new senior probation officer with community corrections is now directly responsible for a seven-person youth specialist team in Halifax Regional Municipality. Youth specialists have also been identified in each of the eight operational areas outside the Halifax Regional Municipality. The senior probation officer provides general oversight to all community-based youth supervision activities and initiatives with a view to ensuring consistency of approach and application of best practices. The senior probation officer also works closely with Nova Scotia Youth Centre staff to establish and maintain strong linkages with community corrections to ensure the smooth transition of youth from custody to community.
 - ❑ The department continues to pursue the establishment of a province-wide Youth Court. Discussions were held with the chief judge of the Provincial Court. It is anticipated this decision will be made in tandem with an expansion of the Supreme Court Family Division.

- ❑ Programs provided through the Nova Scotia Youth Facility were reviewed. Revisions to some programs were completed with more revisions planned for 2006-2007. Program materials and staff training were also updated with additional work to take place in 2006-2007. There is now an overall increase in program options to meet the changing needs of the fewer, but more challenging, youth offenders.
- ❑ In 2005, the department concluded a two-year research and development project on Restorative Justice Best Practice and Curriculum Standards for the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice (NSRJ) Program. The research project surveyed provincial, national and international restorative justice best practices and literature and consulted closely with provincial restorative justice practitioners as well as the NSRJ Program Management Committee. The resulting NSRJ Program “Best Practice Standard” and seven-module “Learning Companion Series” will be the focus of a two-day training event for provincial restorative justice practitioners scheduled for fall 2006.
- b. *Enhance the training opportunities provided to justice workers: work through the Justice Learning Centre to launch new training in areas such as performance management, leadership development, JEIN, sheriff officer training, facilitation and conflict resolution; pursue joint initiatives such as domestic violence education, including hosting forums that encourage system-wide thinking and collaboration; promote respectful workplace, wellness and communication strategies to help employees make constructive choices; and continue development of operational training, including a focus on policies and procedures orientation, safety, security and programming.***
- ❑ In the 2005-2006 fiscal year, training and development opportunities for justice workers have been enhanced through a range of activities, including ongoing performance management training; development of justice leadership training; discussion groups for senior leaders; sheriff officer training in partnership with the Nova Scotia Community College; facilitation of planning workshops for justice clients; partnering on facilitation and logistics for a police leadership forum; development of a “Leading a Respectful Workplace” train-the-trainer program for all of government; and hosting a Wellness Leadership Summit.
- ❑ Correctional Services staff attended 244 training events in 68 different topic areas resulting in staff receiving 29,177 hours of training. Training was provided by in-house peer part-time trainers and was purchased from the Public Service Commission, the Justice Learning Centre and outside training providers.
- c. *Enhance relationships and establish shared priorities with justice partners: establish an IM Subcommittee of the Justice Partners Forum; further develop strategic partnerships in the areas of programming and reintegration planning for offenders with***

police services, non-governmental organizations, the Tripartite Aboriginal Justice Forum, and the Children and Youth Action Committee (CAYAC).

- ❑ The IM Subcommittee of Justice Partners Forum is well established and considering opportunities for information management improvements across the justice system, including collaboration around electronic ticket information.
 - ❑ Correctional Services worked with Coverdale Court Services and the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia to augment program opportunities for girls and women. Coverdale, in addition to working with girls and women in the community in Halifax Regional Municipality, visits and provides programs for women in custody at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility and girls at the Nova Scotia Youth Facility. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia visits and provides programs for women in custody at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility and provides program opportunities for women under community supervision in the Halifax Regional Municipality.
 - ❑ The department continues to support the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network, which provides a number of services, including a court worker program, victim assistance and youth diversion, under the tripartite justice process.
 - ❑ The department participated in a review of the Children and Youth Action Committee. A work plan based on the report will be completed in 2006-2007.
 - ❑ A police/probation partnership has also been established to monitor conditional sentence house arrest cases.
- d.** ***Proactively address privacy issues**, with increasing concerns around protection and access to private records: adopt a new corporate privacy impact assessment tool; and develop and distribute access and privacy educational materials (FOIPOP).*
- ❑ The Office of the FOIPOP Coordinator adopted and provided training on the use of a new corporate privacy impact assessment tool; developed and distributed access and privacy educational and training materials; and consulted with representative organizations of non-government public bodies, municipalities and the private sector with respect to legislation to deal with the ramifications of the *U.S. Patriot Act*.
- e.** ***Work collaboratively to address public safety concerns**: draft legislation to provide extra-jurisdictional authority for peace officers; work with public safety partners to improve response to organized crime/terrorist threats and gang-related activity; assess mechanisms to better use strategic input from stakeholders; develop/enhance and*

introduce a new certification/decertification process and standards for Canadian Firearms Safety Course instructors; and develop a proposal regarding legislative reform of the private security industry.

- ❑ The department introduced and passed the *Cross-Border Policing Act* based on uniform legislation being introduced across Canada. The act makes it easier for police to investigate crimes that cross provincial boundaries. The legislation has the support of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and other law enforcement organizations. It's another public safety measure to help police investigate criminal activity that involves suspects in other jurisdictions. The legislation sets out appointment procedures, responsibilities of police officers, and civilian oversight procedures.
- ❑ In 2005-2006, the Nova Scotia government announced a \$6.1 million investment over four years to support safe communities by bringing the province's municipal police forces into a national system of intelligence-based policing. Criminal Intelligence Service Nova Scotia offices will be fully operational by April 2006. The additional funding will help improve the coordination and analysis of intelligence so law enforcement agencies can be more proactive in their fight against organized crime. Priorities include marijuana grow operations, illegal use of prescription drugs, smash and grab tobacco rings, the sale of illegal drugs, electronic fraud, murders linked to bike gangs, and border security. Criminal Intelligence Service Nova Scotia is one of nine provincial bureaus that operate under a national umbrella. More than 380 law enforcement agencies are members of Criminal Intelligence Service Canada.
- ❑ The department hosted a one-day Police Leadership Forum in June 2005 as an opportunity for leaders in policing to discuss the strategic direction of public safety in our province; policing trends that are on the horizon; and how collaborative efforts can address such trends in order to be better prepared for the future.
- ❑ A Public Safety Organizational and Strategy Development Project sponsored by the Emergency Management Office and the departments of Justice and Transportation and Public Works is also underway. The purpose of the project is to strengthen our security and emergency preparedness and response capabilities. A 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 enhancement.
- ❑ The Provincial Firearms Office developed a project plan with the Nova Scotia Community College to revamp the certification and delivery process for the firearms safety course instructors.
- ❑ A project plan has been developed proposing legislative reform of the private security industry. The plan calls for a discussion paper to be circulated to stakeholders in fall 2006.

- ❑ Due to substantial growth in private security services, the Security Programs Office introduced a summary offence ticket regime for violations under the *Private Investigators and Private Guards Act*, which will be put into effect in the new fiscal year. A compliance officer position has also been established to assist the office. The computer system has also been updated to improve case management.

*f. **Work collaboratively to address family violence:** examine approaches to expedite the processing of high-risk cases involving spousal/intimate partner violence; expand the province's family law centres; expand the availability of the department's Respectful Relationships Program; and work with the Department of Community Services to enhance delivery of men's treatment programs.*

- ❑ The department continued to work with the departments of Community Services and Health through the Deputy Ministers' Leadership Committee on family and intimate partner violence to ensure interdepartmental coordination. The committee is exploring options for joint initiatives.
- ❑ Another initiative was the development of a new resource guide to assist police in their response to spousal/intimate partner violence. The police pocket guide, which consists of 135 pages of key information, resources and contacts, was provided to domestic violence educators at a training session hosted by the Justice Learning Centre. The guide includes a variety of information, including a police response checklist, risk assessment, emergency protection orders, as well as the high-risk case coordination protocol framework.
- ❑ The department opened a Family Law Information Centre in Halifax in April 2005. The centre makes free legal information available to clients. It also provides basic assistance with such family law topics as court processes and forms, how to find a lawyer, and alternatives to court. A similar Family Law Information Centre opened at the Sydney Justice Centre in January 2005. Further expansion of family law centres, at this time, depends on whether expansion of the Supreme Court Family Division proceeds.
- ❑ The department trained additional facilitators to deliver the Respectful Relationships program offered through Correctional Services. As a result, the program was available in more communities in 2005-2006. Respectful Relationships is a program for men with court-ordered conditions to attend a domestic violence program.
- ❑ The department explored ways to more effectively administer and deliver men's treatment programs and is working to ensure information is shared between the departments of Justice and Community Services at the local level.

g. *Work collaboratively to provide support for children and other vulnerable witnesses: promote effective criminal justice system partner response in relation to proposed federal legislation (Bill C-2), which provides for increased access to testimonial aids and expands provisions allowing for the appointment of counsel to conduct cross-examination in cases where the accused is self represented.*

- The department, through the work of the Child Victim Witness Committee, supported implementation issues associated with federal legislation, which was proclaimed in two phases: November 1, 2005 and January 3, 2006. Information was disseminated to all justice partners on the requirements of provisions in the act. Funding was accessed through the federal Policy Centre on Victim Issues to facilitate purchase of closed-circuit television equipment in court locations throughout the province. Members will report on action taken among justice partners relating to proclamation of the new provisions.

h. *Enhance supervision strategies for offenders with the implementation of an electronic monitoring pilot project.*

- Mammoth Inc. of Halifax and iSECUREtrac Corp. of Nebraska was awarded the contract to provide equipment and monitoring services for electronic supervision of offenders in Nova Scotia. iSECUREtrac will provide the GPS wireless technology equipment and Mammoth Inc. will provide the monitoring services. The initial implementation will involve up to 25 offenders and will take place in Halifax Regional Municipality beginning in April 2006. Offenders who are subject to a sentence order containing conditions for house arrest and electronic supervision will be the initial target group. The system will consist of an ankle bracelet and a GPS recording device worn by the offender. The system will track the wearer's movement and report back to a central monitoring system. Movement of the offender will be monitored 24 hours per day.

Nova Scotia will become the first jurisdiction in Canada to use GPS (global positioning system) satellite technology to monitor offenders under conditional sentences.

Additional initiatives undertaken in 2005-2006 relating to this strategic direction include:

- Organizations from across Nova Scotia participated in a symposium to discuss ways of shutting down illegal marijuana grow operations that are costing Canadians money and threatening the safety of their communities. The symposium, held in June 2005 and hosted by the department, looked at ways communities, law enforcement agencies and legislators can reduce the harmful and costly impact of grow operations. Presentations at the symposium were made by representatives of the RCMP in New Brunswick, the GrowBusters community project in Vancouver, and the Safer Communities initiative in Manitoba.

- ❑ Government introduced the *Safer Communities and Neighborhoods Act*, which will empower Nova Scotians to seek community safety orders to shut down criminal activities that adversely affect their neighbourhoods. Complaints could lead to a court order to shut down illegal liquor, drug, prostitution and gaming locations. The legislation also makes it easier for inspectors to get inside so-called "fortified buildings" that are often used to hide evidence of illegal activities. There are hefty fines under the new legislation. For example, anyone caught trying to transfer ownership of a property without telling the buyer about an existing community safety order could be fined to a maximum of \$20,000 and one year in custody.
- ❑ The departments of Justice and Community Services began working with their partners on a safer, stronger communities initiative, initially focusing on those areas experiencing high crime rates and significant socio-economic challenges. Several working groups have been established to explore enforcement, community development and communications issues. The department also began working with Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection on a drug strategy.
- ❑ In January 2006, the *Police Act* came into effect. Good governance is critical to effective policing, and this legislation supports the clear connection between governance and policing service. It defines the roles and responsibilities of the minister, police chiefs and municipal police boards. It also authorizes the creation of police advisory boards in communities served by the RCMP to provide advice to the RCMP and municipalities regarding law enforcement and crime prevention.
- ❑ Government also introduced a new *Correctional Services Act* that recognizes changing needs and issues related to today's offender population. The new act allows us to modernize our services to recognize changing needs and issues related to the offender population. About 40 per cent of those being held in custody are on remand waiting to appear in court. And offenders who likely would have been held in custody three or four years ago are now in the community because of the more frequent use of conditional sentences. This places added responsibilities on our managers and staff. The legislation also provides greater protection for victims and their families. Corrections staff will be able to tell them where an offender is being held in custody, the terms of a conditional release or parole, and other details surrounding the offender's release. Another provision will make it mandatory for people to provide information to probation officers so they can prepare their pre-sentence reports for the courts. The act also defines procedures to protect the dignity and privacy of female offenders.
- ❑ An amended *Flea Markets Regulation Act* was passed in spring 2004 to enhance effective enforcement and prosecution of crimes committed in the industry, especially related to stolen goods. Extensive consultations were completed to develop regulations before the act was proclaimed in spring 2005. Additional meetings were also held with a stakeholder

committee to deal with enforcement/prosecution issues. Enforcement strategies were initiated in late summer and early fall 2005.

- ❑ Following a review of Buy and Sell legislation from across the country, a draft discussion document has been developed and, once finalized, will be forwarded to key stakeholders for input.
- ❑ A restitution issue analysis document has identified barriers for victims of crime accessing restitution. The department formed a committee in March 2006 to examine processes to reduce barriers. A How to Access Restitution Information Guide for victims was printed for distribution in March 2006.
- ❑ Amendments have been made to the *Maintenance Enforcement Act* to strengthen enforcement powers. Three additional staff have been hired to work in the newly established reciprocal unit located in the Sydney office. The reciprocal unit will enforce orders on cases where the payor has moved to Nova Scotia from a reciprocating jurisdiction, and it will monitor cases that Nova Scotia has sent to other jurisdictions for enforcement because the payor is now residing in that jurisdiction. One staff was added to the enrollment unit to help speed the enrollment of cases and one enforcement officer was added to the metro office.
- ❑ Municipal police agencies throughout Nova Scotia will be able to purchase modern Breathalyser units and upgrade their radio systems, thanks to \$160,000 in provincial funding. The province will pay for new Datamaster Breathalysers, or will reimburse police agencies that have already purchased the equipment. Three units will be funded in Halifax, two in Cape Breton, and one each in Springhill, Pictou County, Amherst, Truro, Bridgewater and Kentville. The improved radio technology will link municipal police with the RCMP and emergency providers through a province-wide mobile radio network.
- ❑ Sixteen and 17 year olds in Nova Scotia will be treated as adults in court if they are charged under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, with new legislation passed in May 2005. Amendments also call for tougher penalties for stealing motor vehicles. Drivers of all ages can have their licences revoked for two years for stealing a vehicle or taking one without an owner's consent or knowledge. Second-time offenders will face a five-year suspension, up from the current two years. Amendments will also require police to impound a motor vehicle used to race. On a first offence, the vehicle will be impounded for 24 hours, and 30 days for a second offence.
- ❑ Legislation that would allow Nova Scotia to attempt to recover millions of dollars in health-care costs for tobacco-related illnesses was introduced in October. *The Tobacco Damages and Health-care Costs Recovery Act* is similar to legislation in British Columbia, which was recently declared constitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada. All nine justices sided with British Columbia against an appeal launched by the tobacco

industry. The province will assign a team of lawyers to prepare a case that would form the basis of any future legal action.

Strategic Direction #4: People make constructive choices.

Priorities:

- a. *Improve public access to information, including Internet expansion:*** complete revision and consolidation of Regulations of Nova Scotia with online access; continue implementation of the Self-represented Litigants Report, including developing information material for self-represented litigants; provide web-based access for clients to create Small Claims Court claims; and undertake a complete review of the Department of Justice public website.
- A new work plan for the Revised and Consolidated Regulations of Nova Scotia Project has been developed, as the initial time projection for project completion was too optimistic given the scope of the project. New editing guidelines and procedures have been developed, and the editing process is ongoing. The new projection is for completion within four years.
 - Work continued on the implementation of the recommendations of the Self-represented Litigants in Nova Scotia: Needs Assessment Study. This project work included the production of information brochures available at court sites throughout the province and on the department's website.
 - An online Small Claims Court forms program was launched in March 2006, increasing accessibility for claimants who can now prepare claims using an interactive computer program.
 - A redesigned Department of Justice public website with improved client usability, functionality and information was implemented.
- b. *Undertake new initiatives to reach out to communities:*** French language services in response to new legislation regarding the delivery of language services by the public service; Mi'kmaq services, including building on the Aboriginal Court Worker Program, which provides assistance to those accused of a crime; and continued development of an interpretation policy to formalize the process of providing interpreters.
- French services, including support for French trials, continue to be available for all criminal cases. If a French-speaking person wants to access court services in French and no French-speaking staff are present, court staff will work with French-speaking staff in

another location to provide service in French. New initiatives in this area include the hiring of a departmental French Services Coordinator in summer 2006, and a number of staff will be starting French language training in fall 2006.

- ❑ Court Services continues to work with the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network to support the Aboriginal Court Workers Program.
- ❑ A draft policy to formalize the process of providing interpreters has been developed by Court Services but has not yet been finalized.

Additional initiatives undertaken in 2005-2006 in support of this strategic direction include:

- ❑ The department introduced legislation in October that would allow the court to decide cases with claims valued at up to \$25,000 instead of the current \$15,000. Increasing the limit to \$25,000 will help people avoid the more costly option of starting a legal action before the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. It's another step that will streamline our justice system and help people resolve disputes in a more timely fashion. The Small Claims court provides a quick, informal and cost-effective method for deciding claims. It is not necessary for the participants to hire lawyers. Proceedings are also less formal than in other courts. Cases are heard by adjudicators who are lawyers, not judges.
- ❑ Amendments to the *Enforcement of Canadian Judgments and Decrees Act* will make it easier to recognize and enforce civil orders of protection issued in other Canadian provinces. It will also make sure consumers in Nova Scotia are treated fairly if a judgment is issued against them in another province.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

<i>Budget Variance (000's)</i>	<i>Allocations</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Increase (Decrease)</i>
<i>Court Services</i>	<i>\$29,219</i>	<i>\$28,923</i>	<i>(\$296)</i>
<i>The savings are due to vacant positions, a decrease in grants along with an increase in fees and less chargeables. These items more than offset the increase in operating costs. The variances resulted in a net under expenditure of \$296,000.</i>			
<i>Correctional Services</i>	<i>\$19,135</i>	<i>\$21,215</i>	<i>\$2,080</i>
<i>The increase was the result of a \$1,973,200 million payout of the Nova Scotia Youth Facility Mortgage along with an increase for building maintenance, heating fuel and electricity.</i>			
<i>Policing & Victim Services</i>	<i>\$25,547</i>	<i>\$26,129</i>	<i>\$582</i>
<i>Expenditures were over budget due to pay increases for the RCMP Policing Contract and an increase in grants to cover the cost of data masters, black boxes and Breathalysers to Municipal Police Departments.</i>			
<i>Nova Scotia Legal Aid</i>	<i>\$14,037</i>	<i>\$14,436</i>	<i>\$399</i>
<i>Legal Aid was over budget due to an increase in grants to cover computer purchases.</i>			
<i>Office of the Chief Medical Examiner</i>	<i>\$2,018</i>	<i>\$2,167</i>	<i>\$149</i>
<i>Increased fees provided to medical examiners and pathologists for cases and an increase in equipment expenses resulted in this over expenditure.</i>			
<i>Administration</i>	<i>\$17,891</i>	<i>\$11,892</i>	<i>(\$5,999)</i>
<i>Expenditures were under budget mainly as a result of vacant positions in Legal Services and Finance and Administration as well as an increase in recoveries, mainly due to insurance settlement of \$5,000,000.</i>			
<i>Gross Expenditures</i>	<i>\$210,505</i>	<i>\$217,926</i>	<i>\$7,421</i>
<i>Net Program Expenses - Net of Recoveries</i>	<i>\$107,847</i>	<i>\$104,761</i>	<i>(\$3,086)</i>
<i>Funded Staff (FTE's)</i>	<i>1,376</i>	<i>1,358</i>	<i>(18.0)</i>

MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

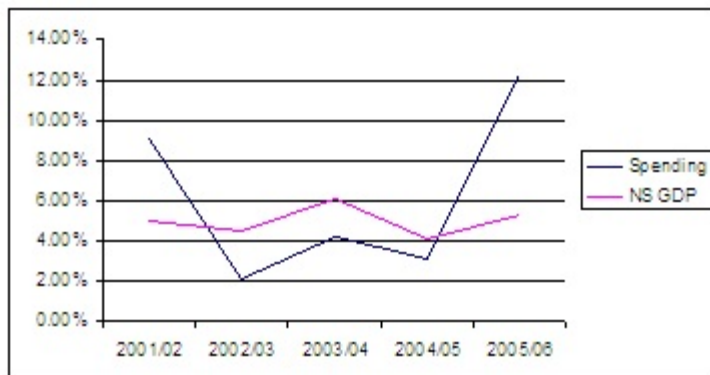
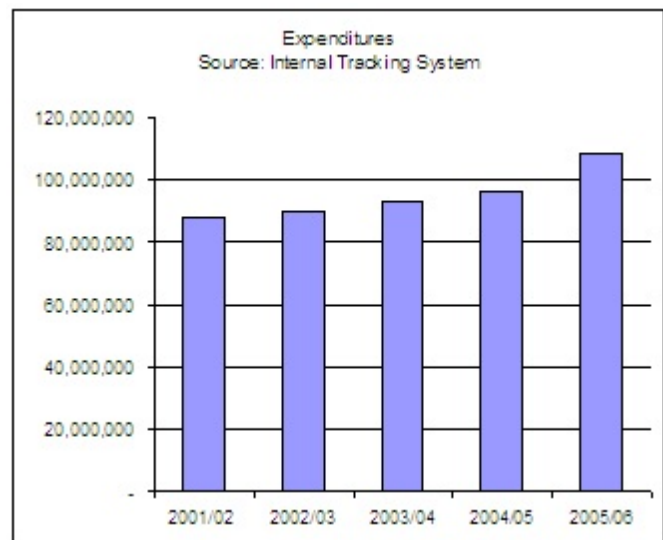
The Department of Justice introduced new measures in the 2005-2006 business plan to better link outcomes with strategic directions and to reflect a broader departmental and societal approach than the program-type measures we had tracked in previous years. Some measures are still being fine tuned as we work to clarify definitions and gather the relevant data.

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 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 2005-2006, the provincial cost of providing justice in Nova Scotia has been increasing. Spending amounted to \$108,064,921 in 2005-2006. (*Excludes federal and municipal contributions.*) Between 2002-2003 and 2004-2005, the rate of growth in justice spending was lower than the rate of growth in Nova Scotia GDP (expenditure-based). However, in 2005-2006, the rate of growth in justice spending surpassed the rate of growth in Nova Scotia GDP. This indicates that a rising proportion of economic resources is being devoted to justice. Details follows:



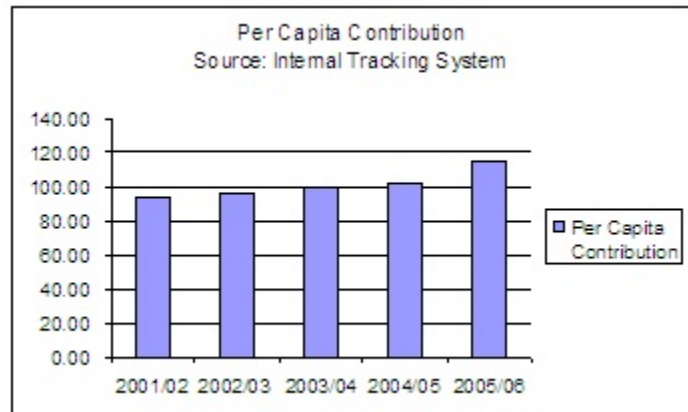
- Average provincial spending over last five years: \$95,036,412 (2001-2002 to 2005-2006)
- Average rate of growth in spending between 2001-2002 to 2005-2006: 6.16%
- Average rate of growth in NS GDP between 2001-2002 to 2005-2006: 4.99%

Where do we want to be in the future? The target is 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.

(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 \$115.22 in 2005-2006.

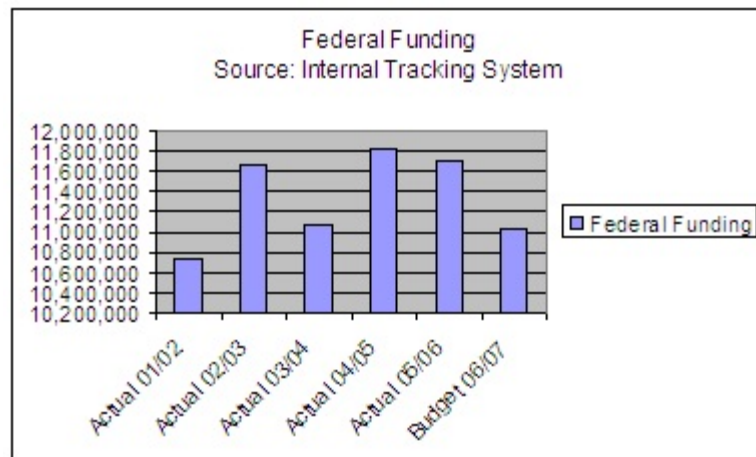


Where do we want to be in the future? The department initially set a target that would see per capita costs on par with the national average. Due to difficulties comparing justice spending nationally, this target has since been dropped from the department’s business plan. A new target will be determined in the near future.

(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 2005-2006, the department received \$11,714,677 in federal funds for justice initiatives, which is a slight drop over the year before (\$11,829,716).



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 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 2006 survey indicate a very high level of satisfaction (100%) with the work performed by the Legal Services Division. This result is consistent with other client surveys done in the past.



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

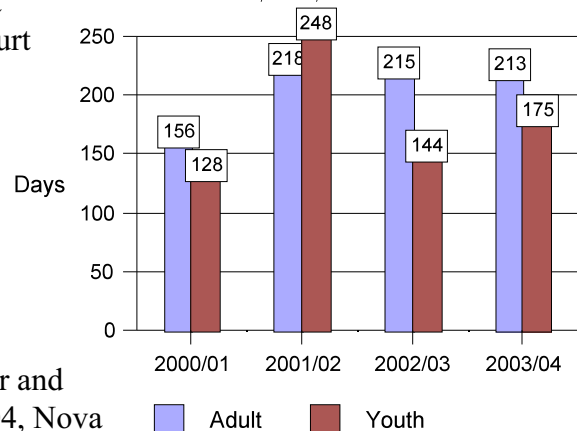
What does this measure tell us?

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, adult cases took an average of 213 days to process, an increase of 57 days since 2000-2001. The Canadian average is 220 days. Youth cases took an average of 175 days to process in 2003-2004. The Canadian average is 141 days. For youth court, this marked an increase of 31 days from the previous year and an increase of 47 days since 2000-2001. In 2003-2004, Nova Scotia had the third highest average elapsed time in adult court and 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. Further examination of processing time in youth court reveals that it took on average 144 days in 2003-2004 for a youth case to be processed. This excludes restorative justice as well as bench warrants. 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.

Average Court Case Processing Times

Source: STC, CCJS, ACCS & YCS



Where do we want to be in the future? The target is to meet the Canadian average elapsed time to complete a case in criminal court in any given year. A study is planned for 2006-2007 to review workload volume and case complexity.

(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? Efforts are now underway to gather benchmark data with anticipated reporting in next year’s accountability report.

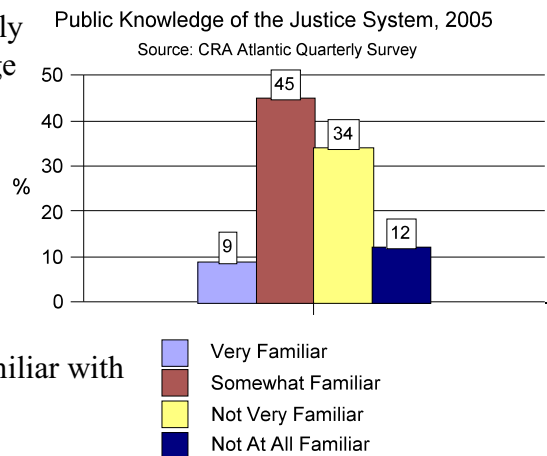
Where would we like to be in the future? To be determined.

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 provides an indication of the public’s knowledge of the justice system. These figures are based on 2005 data.

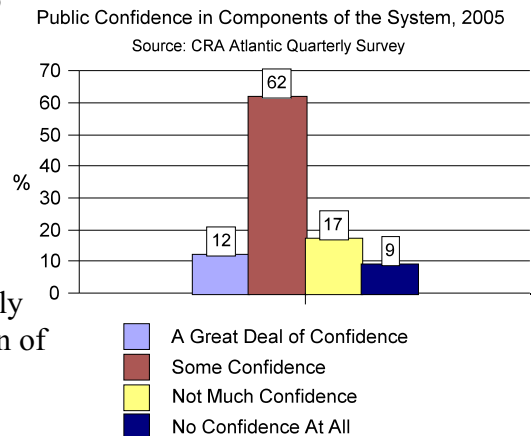
Where are we now? In 2005, a large proportion of the public indicated they were somewhat familiar with the justice system (45%). Another 34% indicated they were not very familiar with the justice system. A minority of the public indicated they were not at all familiar with the justice system (12%).



Where do we want to be in the future? The goal is to maintain/increase public knowledge of the justice system, with another survey to follow in May 2006.

(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 data.

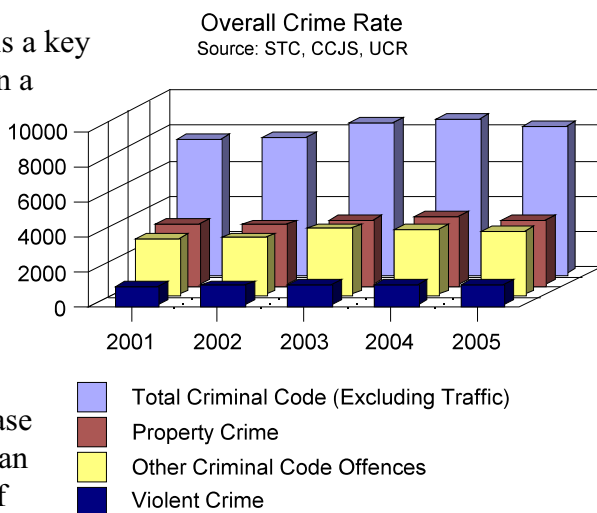
Where are we now? In 2005, the majority of the public indicated they had “some confidence” (62%) in components of the justice system. A smaller proportion had “a great deal of confidence” (12%), while 9% indicated they had no confidence in the justice system.

Where do we want to be in the future? The goal is to maintain/increase public confidence in the justice system, with another survey to follow in May 2006. Initiatives such as those outlined in this accountability report and new ones we are proposing in 2006-2007 will see even closer cooperation between our justice partners and the larger social systems to both respond to crime and the conditions that create crime. These efforts should help to build public confidence in the justice system.

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 crime rate increased steadily between 2001 and 2004. Despite a decrease in 2005, the total crime rate in 2005 was higher than in 2001 for all major crime categories. The rate of violent crime and other *Criminal Code* offences increased between 2001 and 2003 but declined during the last two years. The rate of property crime has fluctuated over the past five years; however, the rate in 2005 was higher than in 2001.

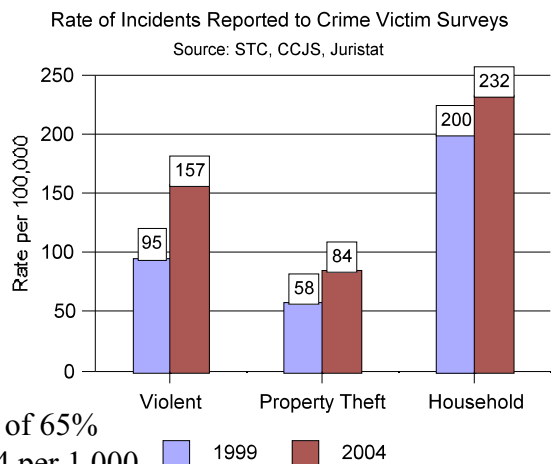
Where do we want to be in the future? The goal is to reduce rates below the national average, with a summary comparing Nova Scotia and Canada figures below:

Crime Statistics (2005) per 100,000	Total crimes of violence	Total property crime	Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> (excl. traffic)
Nova Scotia	1138	3626	3581	8345
Canada	943	3738	3081	7761

Currently, Nova Scotia is below the national property 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.

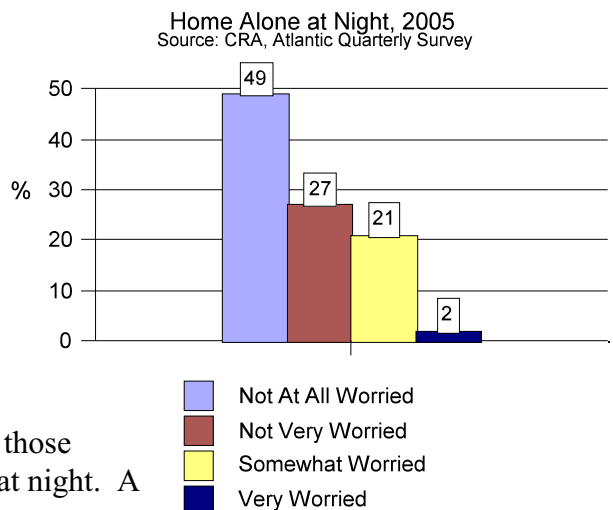
Where do we want to be in the future? The goal is to reduce rates below the national average, with a summary comparing Nova Scotia and Canada figures below:

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.

(11) PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF SAFETY IN THE HOME

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



Where are we now? In 2005, nearly half (49%) of those surveyed were not at all worried when home alone at night. A

smaller proportion indicated they were somewhat worried (21%) or very worried (2%) when home alone at night.

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 2006.

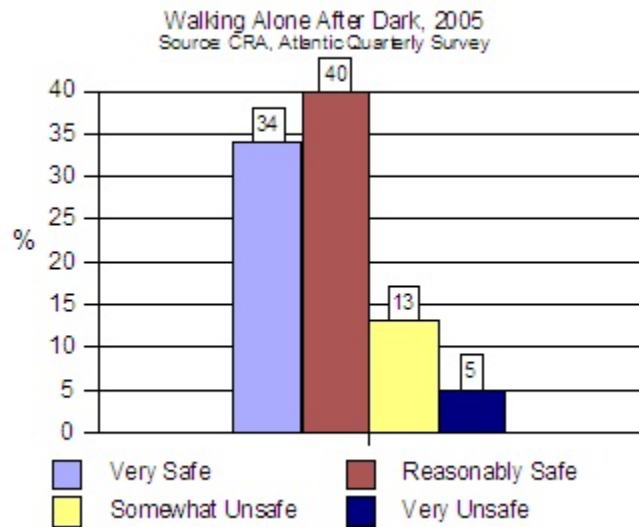
(12) PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF SAFETY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

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

Where are we now?

In 2005, 74% of those surveyed felt very safe or reasonably safe walking alone after dark.

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 2006. As noted previously, initiatives such as those outlined in this accountability report and new ones we are proposing in 2006-2007 will see even closer cooperation between our justice partners and the larger social systems to both respond to crime and the conditions that create crime.



(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? Only one major incident in a correctional facility was reported in 2005-2006. The incident occurred at the Cape Breton Correctional Facility which involved an aggravated assault.

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/staff: 2005-2006: 2
- From sheriffs’ custody: 2005-2006: 0

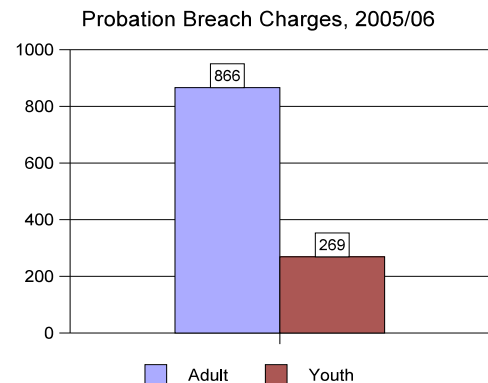
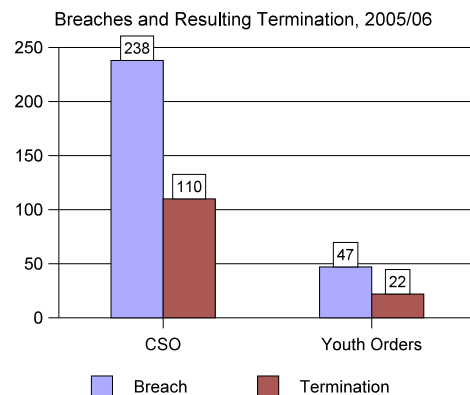
Where do we want to be in the future? Our goal is to have no escapes in any these areas.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: People make constructive choices.

(15) CONDITIONAL SENTENCE BREACHES

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

Where are we now? During 2005-2006, there were 238 conditional sentence breaches before the courts. Of these, 110 resulted in termination, meaning the balance of the sentence was served in a custodial facility. There were 47 youth orders breached. Of these, 22 resulted in youth deferred custody and supervision orders being terminated, so the youth served the balance under a custody and supervision order.



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

(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, there were 1,176 persons charged with breach of probation. Of these, 866 were adults and 269 were youth. These charges can be laid by Correctional Services staff or police agencies.

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

(17) PERCENTAGE OF INCARCERATED ADULT OFFENDERS WHO RE-OFFEND WITHIN ONE YEAR; and (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 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 is also planning to collect data from offenders through a 'one-day snapshot' survey, which will also gather information on previous involvement with the justice system. The department anticipates being able to report on this measure in the next Accountability Report.

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

What does this measure tell us? This measure captures the percentage of family cases that reach a consent order through conciliation/mediation. A consent order is any order issued by the court that has been 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 department's Court Services Division is currently working to accurately capture this data. Once an accurate system is established, the department will report on this measure.