

# Welcome Deputy Minister of Justice

February 2026



Department of Justice  
Canada

Ministère de la Justice  
Canada

Canada



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## Introduction

The Department of Justice Canada is a medium-sized government department, comprising approximately 5,400 employees. Roughly half of the Department's staff are legal counsel and the other half is composed of a broad range of professionals: policy analysts, strategic advisors, researchers, social scientists, program managers, paralegals, communications specialists, executives and administrative personnel.

In addition to its headquarters in Ottawa, the Department provides services across the country through six regional offices: Atlantic Region, Quebec Region, Ontario Region, Prairie Region, British Columbia Region and Northern Region. Staff from these regional offices generally provide legal services and support to federal departments and agencies outside of the National Capital Region.

The Department was officially established in 1868, when the *Department of Justice Act* was passed in Parliament. The Act lays out the roles and responsibilities of the Department as well as those of the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada.

The Department supports the dual roles of the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada. Under Canada's federal system, the administration of justice is an area of shared jurisdiction between the federal government and the provinces and territories. The Department supports the Minister of Justice in his responsibilities for over 50 federal statutes, for advancing policy in areas such as criminal law (including youth criminal justice), federal family law, human rights law, official languages, Indigenous justice, public law and private international law, as well as ensuring a bilingual and bijural national legal framework.

The Department also supports the Attorney General of Canada as the chief law officer of the Crown, both in terms of the ongoing operations of government and of the development of new policies, programs and services for Canadians. The Department responds to the legal needs of federal departments and agencies by providing legal advice, representing the Crown in all litigation and drafting all federal legislation.



The Department of Justice fulfils three distinct roles within the Government of Canada, acting as the following:

- A policy department with broad responsibilities for overseeing all matters relating to the administration of justice that fall within the federal domain—in this capacity, it helps to ensure a fair, relevant and accessible justice system for all Canadians;
- A provider of a range of legal advisory, litigation and legislative services to federal government departments and agencies; and
- A central agency responsible for supporting the Minister in advising Cabinet on all legal matters, including the constitutionality of government initiatives and activities.

# Roles and responsibilities of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

## Overview

The [Department of Justice Act](#) created the Department of Justice, over which the Minister of Justice presides, and sets out the powers, duties and functions of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. The Act provides that the Minister of Justice is also the Attorney General of Canada.

The Minister of Justice is the legal member of Cabinet and is responsible for justice policy development, including the development of new programs and services for Canadians.

The Attorney General of Canada provides legal services to the Government. The Attorney General of Canada also oversees federal prosecutions within the framework of the [Director of Public Prosecutions Act](#) for which they are supported by the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, which is independent from the Department of Justice.

## Minister of Justice

The Minister of Justice has both a policy role and a legal role. As a member of Cabinet—a political and deliberative body—the Minister of Justice exercises their political judgment. As the legal member of Cabinet, the Minister is responsible to see that the administration of public affairs is in accordance with the law, to advise the Crown on legal matters and to uphold the rule of law by providing legal advice, which must be independent and non-partisan.

The Minister of Justice is responsible, in whole or in part, for over 50 federal statutes, including the [Criminal Code](#). The Minister is responsible for advancing policy in areas such as criminal law, youth criminal justice, Indigenous justice, federal family law, human rights law, privacy law, official languages law and judicial affairs. The Minister ensures that Canada's national legal framework is bilingual and bijural and that it is not inconsistent with the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#). The Minister is responsible for funding programs that contribute to building a more effective justice system and support Indigenous communities, victims of crime, people with lower incomes, families and young people. The Minister also supports projects that help Canadians understand the law and access the justice system in both official languages.



Because of the important role that the provinces and territories have with respect to the administration of justice, there is considerable collaboration between the Department and provincial and territorial governments with respect to policy development and programs.

The Minister also has some very specific responsibilities. For example, the [Extradition Act](#) and the [Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act](#) give the Minister of Justice responsibility for extradition and mutual legal assistance. The *Criminal Code* also gives the Minister of Justice the authority to review a conviction to determine whether there may have been a miscarriage of justice.<sup>1</sup>

Under section 4.1 of the *Department of Justice Act*, the Minister must examine every regulation sent to the Clerk of the Privy Council and every government bill introduced in the House of Commons to consider whether it is inconsistent with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and report any inconsistency to the House of Commons. No Minister of Justice has ever tabled such a report.

Under section 4.2 of the *Department of Justice Act*, the Minister must table, before the House of Parliament where the government bill originated, a Charter Statement identifying a government bill's potential effects on the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Furthermore, the Minister of Justice is responsible for several organizations that operate at arm's length from the Minister and the Department, referred to collectively as the Justice portfolio independent organizations, such as the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, the Courts Administration Service and the Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada.

## Attorney General of Canada

The Attorney General of Canada is the chief law officer of the Crown. In carrying out this role, the Attorney General represents the Crown and not individual departments or agencies of the Government and, therefore, seeks to protect interests for the whole of government. The Attorney General acts in the public interest, including upholding the Constitution, the rule of law and respect for the independence of the courts. The Attorney General conducts litigation on behalf of the Government and provides legal advice and legislative services to federal departments and agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> Former Bill C-40, [Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission Act](#) (David and Joyce Milgaard's Law), received Royal Assent on December 17, 2024. Part XXI.1 of the *Criminal Code* is amended and a new Part XXI.2 is added establishing an independent Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission to replace the role of the Minister. These amendments came into force on March 6, 2025, but the Commission is not yet operational.

All ministers are expected to ensure that the legal issues and risks associated with proposals being brought forward for Cabinet consideration are clearly identified and fully considered and that the proposals are compliant with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The Attorney General of Canada and the Department of Justice provide support to the whole of government in this regard.

Most civil litigation involving the federal government is handled by litigators in the Department of Justice. While other departments generally act as “instructing clients”, the Attorney General of Canada ultimately represents the Government of Canada as a whole and not individual departments or agencies. Legal positions and strategies must take into account government-wide considerations that may transcend individual cases. There are often many policy, financial and operational considerations involved in determining what litigation position, among viable legal arguments, should be taken in a particular case. The Attorney General consults other ministers in defining the public interest in civil litigation.

The Attorney General of Canada is also responsible for federal prosecutions. Most functions related to prosecutions are primarily discharged by the Director of Public Prosecutions under the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act*. The Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions are bound by the constitutional principle that the prosecutorial function be exercised in the public interest and independent of partisan concerns or direction. In assessing the public interest, the Attorney General may, under the “Shawcross Doctrine”, consult with other Cabinet ministers on matters of policy but is not obliged to do so and may not be directed in their decision. The conduct of such ministerial consultations is subject to any guidelines and protocols issued by the Attorney General of Canada such as the [\*Protocol for the Conduct of Ministerial Public Interest Consultation by the Attorney General of Canada in the Exercise of the Attorney General of Canada’s Authority under the Director of Public Prosecutions Act\*](#).

Similarly, the Director of Public Prosecutions and Crown counsel working under the Director of Public Prosecutions often need to consult with officials in government departments and agencies who may have information or expertise that may be relevant to the Director of Public Prosecutions’ determination of whether it is in the public interest to prosecute a case. Consultation ensures that Crown counsel have access to a wide range of viewpoints and information so that their decisions are made with full knowledge of all the circumstances. However, prosecutorial independence means that government departments, including those with investigative authorities, cannot instruct the Director of Public Prosecutions that a certain course of action must be followed. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has issued [guidelines](#) to its prosecutors on the conduct of such consultations.



The Director of Public Prosecutions acts as the Deputy Attorney General of Canada in initiating and conducting federal prosecutions on behalf of the Attorney General of Canada. Under the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act*, the Director of Public Prosecutions must notify the Attorney General of Canada about important questions of general interest that cases might present.

Under the Act, the Attorney General of Canada may issue [directives](#) to the Director, which may be general or about specific prosecutions. When a directive is issued, it is published in the Canada Gazette. When a general directive is issued, it is preceded by consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Under the Act, the Attorney General of Canada may also, after consulting the Director of Public Prosecutions, assume the conduct of a prosecution. This is also done through a transparent process where the Attorney General of Canada must publish a notice of the intent to assume conduct of a prosecution in the Canada Gazette. The Attorney General of Canada may also, after notifying the Director of Public prosecutions, intervene in criminal proceedings on questions of public interest, such as the constitutionality of legislation.

The powers of the Attorney General of Canada under the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act* to direct or assume the conduct of a prosecution would be exercised only in exceptional cases. Publishing public notices provides for transparency as well as accountability for the Attorney General of Canada in their decision-making.



## Overview of the Department of Justice

### Office of the Deputy Minister and Associate Deputy Ministers

Appointed pursuant to subsection 3(1) of the *Department of Justice Act*, the Deputy Minister is responsible for the management and direction of the Department.

Under subsection 3(2) of the *Department of Justice Act*, the Deputy Minister is *ex officio* the Deputy Attorney General of Canada, except in respect of the powers, duties and functions that the Director of Public Prosecutions is authorized to exercise or perform under subsection 3(3) of the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act*.

The Deputy Minister supports the Minister to achieve the Government's objectives through four broad roles: Manager of the Department, Chief Policy Advisor, Accounting Officer and Management of Litigation.

#### Manager of the Department

As the Department's top public servant, the Deputy Minister has overall responsibility for managing the Department of Justice.

In addition, as a member of the community of deputy ministers and deputy heads, the Deputy Minister of Justice shares responsibility with colleagues in other government departments and agencies for contributing to the overall leadership of the public service under the direction of the Clerk of the Privy Council.

#### Chief Policy Advisor

The Deputy Minister acts as principal policy advisor to the Minister on matters within the Minister's responsibility and authority. They coordinate policy development and ensure the departmental implementation of the Minister's initiatives and priorities. They also advise on coherent policy development and management of the Minister's portfolio.



## Accounting Officer

The [Financial Administration Act](#) provides that deputy ministers and deputy heads of government entities are designated accounting officers for their organizations. Under the legislation, the responsibilities of accounting officers arise within the framework of ministerial responsibility and accountability to Parliament. Accounting officers are required to appear before parliamentary committee to answer questions regarding the responsibilities and duties relating to departmental management. These responsibilities include managing departmental resources in accordance with legislation, and federal government policies and procedures, maintaining effective systems of internal control, and approving departmental accounts.

## Management of Litigation

The Deputy Attorney General oversees and directs all litigation conducted by or on behalf of the Crown, including litigation under the [Extradition Act](#) and the [Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act](#).

Following the creation of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada in 2006, the Deputy Attorney General retained a role as advisor to the Attorney General with respect to the exercise of powers reserved to the Attorney General under the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act* and may be called upon to intervene in proceedings raising questions of public interest or assume the conduct of a prosecution.

In addition, certain decisions in litigation matters involving international relations, national defence and national security are made by the Deputy Attorney General. This includes the delegation of authority to officials within the Department who may authorize disclosure of information under [section 38 of the Canada Evidence Act](#). This provision governs the protection and disclosure of information that is sensitive or potentially injurious to international relations or national defence or national security if released.



## Associate Deputy Ministers

Appointed pursuant to subsection 3(3) of the *Department of Justice Act*, the Associate Deputy Ministers have the rank and status of a deputy head of a department and perform such powers, duties and functions under the Deputy Minister.

While the Deputy Minister leads the Department and remains accountable for all decisions and actions taken within the Department, all sectors and portfolios of the Department report to the Deputy Minister and Associate Deputy Ministers.

### **Isabelle T. Jacques**

Associate Deputy Minister of Justice



### **Samantha Maislin Dickson**

Associate Deputy Minister of Justice



## Office of the Deputy Minister and Associate Deputy Ministers' Team

### Chief of Staff, Director General & Senior General Counsel

The Office of the Deputy Minister and Associate Deputy Ministers is overseen by the Chief of Staff, Director General and Senior General Counsel, acting as a strategic advisor to the Deputy Ministers to support the advancement of priorities, manage cross-functional initiatives, increase organizational effectiveness, ensure strategic alignment across the organization, and enhance executive decision-making.

#### **Julie Adair**

Chief of Staff, Director  
General & Senior General  
Counsel



## Legal Team

The members of the Legal Team advise on a broad range of high-priority files and support the Office of the Deputy Minister and Associate Deputy Ministers in providing timely and responsive legal advice. They contribute to the implementation of departmental and Government of Canada priorities. They attend briefings of the Minister's Office on behalf of the Deputy Ministers to ensure continuity and consistency in the provision of legal advice. They work closely with each other and with the rest of the Deputy Ministers' Office and support departmental sectors in providing strategic legal advice to the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Ministers to ensure the Department is providing legal advice from a whole-of-government perspective.

**Mary Roberts**  
Manager, Acting Senior  
Counsel



**Tyler Paquette**  
Departmental Advisor,  
Acting Senior Counsel



## Ministerial Secretariat

The Ministerial Secretariat provides advisory and executive services to support the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General of Canada and Associate Deputy Ministers in fulfilling their responsibilities to Parliament and Cabinet, in advancing ministerial and departmental initiatives and priorities and in meeting their obligations and commitments to the Canadian public, key partners and stakeholders, provinces and territories and the Government of Canada.

This includes providing strategic advice, guidance and executive operational services in support of Cabinet and parliamentary activities, legislation and regulation, correspondence, outreach campaigns, invitations, briefing needs as well as managing a wide array of Justice portfolio organizations issues such as Governor in Council appointments. The Ministerial Secretariat also provides executive operational and advisory support on various aspects such as transition-related activities, proactive disclosure legislative requirements and compliance under the [Access to Information Act](#) and [Privacy Act](#).

The team is headed by the Senior Director's Office and is composed of three units who work in close collaboration with the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Ministers, departmental sectors, Justice portfolio organizations, and other government departments and central agencies with a view to enhancing information-sharing and supporting decision-making across the Department.

**Yanike Legault**  
Senior Director,  
Ministerial  
Secretariat



**Zachary Healy**  
Director, Cabinet  
and Parliamentary  
Affairs



**Mélanie Bélanger**  
Manager, Ministerial  
Liaison Unit



**David Boucher**  
Manager, Ministerial  
Correspondence  
Unit



## **Cabinet and Parliamentary Affairs Unit**

The Cabinet and Parliamentary Affairs Unit (CPAU) monitors and manages Cabinet and parliamentary activities as well as acts as the primary liaison between the Minister's Office and the Department on these matters. The CPAU provides integrated strategic advice on parliamentary procedures and Cabinet process and develops strategies, approaches, parliamentary plans and recommendations to advance the Cabinet, parliamentary, legislative and regulatory agenda, including on the Department's overall strategic framework.

The CPAU prepares, coordinates and reviews briefing materials for the Minister's use at Cabinet and before Parliament. It also manages all Parliamentary Returns, the tabling before Parliament of annual reports and other special reports and documents such as Charter Statements, serves as the departmental liaison with parliamentary committee clerks in managing parliamentary relations and provides support for Question Period.

## **Ministerial Liaison Unit**

The Ministerial Liaison Unit (MLU) serves as the primary liaison for information going to and coming from the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Ministers. The MLU provides executive operational and administrative services related to briefing needs, including domestic and international meetings and events such as federal-provincial-territorial meetings. The MLU also oversees the organization of departmental briefing meetings for the Minister and their Office.

The MLU also provides strategic advice, recommendations and guidance to enhance coordination and horizontal sharing of information to support decision-making and risk management across the Department and reports on all matters related to the management and flow of information.

## **Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

The Ministerial Correspondence Unit (MCU) manages, develops and implements departmental systems, processes and procedures for the preparation, production, review, analysis and approval of replies to correspondence for the signature of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and the Deputy Ministers.



The MCU provides strategic advice, recommendations and reports on all matters related to the management of correspondence, including managing strategic assessments of incoming requests to the Minister and the Deputy Ministers from the public, federal-provincial-territorial representatives, Parliamentarians, and key stakeholders, as well as monitoring and identifying trends that may require special responses. The MCU also supports departmental outreach campaigns addressed to various stakeholders done by massive mail out exercises.

## Business Management Unit

The Business Management Unit provides integrated and strategic business and operational support to the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Ministers, including analyzing business needs and issues and recommending approaches and initiatives to align plans with departmental business strategies and goals, as well as, the provision of day-to-day financial, human resources, information management, administrative and other support services.

### **Adam Seaby**

Director



## Members of the Executive Committee and their Areas of Responsibility

### Business and Regulatory Law Portfolio



**Michael Sousa**  
Assistant Deputy Minister

The Business and Regulatory Law Portfolio provides a full range of strategic legal services to approximately 40 client departments, agencies and other federal entities, through 12 departmental Legal Services Units (LSUs). The LSUs play a key role in supporting their clients' policy, operational and legislative priorities by providing integrated legal advisory services and litigation and drafting support services.

The 12 LSUs are co-located with their respective client departments, and provide legal support to a wide variety of other departments and agencies:

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, including the Canadian Food Inspection Agency;
- Canadian Heritage, including Library and Archives Canada, Women and Gender Equality Canada and Sport Canada;
- Competition Bureau;
- Employment and Social Development Canada / Veterans Affairs Canada;
- Environment and Climate Change Canada, including Parks Canada and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada;
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada, including the Canadian Coast Guard;
- Global Affairs Canada, supporting the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and International Development;
- Health Canada, including the Public Health Agency of Canada;



- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, including the Canadian Space Agency, and the National Research Council Canada;
- Natural Resources Canada;
- Public Services and Procurement Canada / Shared Services Canada; and
- Transport Canada / Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada.

The Portfolio also includes two centres of expertise. The Centre of Expertise in Procurement Law (COEPL), housed in the Public Services and Procurement Canada / Shared Services Canada LSU, has the exclusive mandate for providing procurement legal advice to all Department of Justice clients. The COEPL also conducts the litigation of procurement complaints before the Canadian International Trade Tribunal. The Assistant Deputy Minister's Office also houses a centre of expertise in business and technology law, with particular expertise in legal issues relating to artificial intelligence and technology and provides specialized legal support in this area to the Department of Justice and clients across the government.

## Central Agencies Portfolio



**Riri Shen**  
Assistant Deputy Minister

The Central Agencies Portfolio manages the legal issues related to several of the central agency functions of government. The Portfolio provides advisory, legislative and litigation services in a wide range of areas including:

- Financial institutions;
- Pension and benefits;
- Federal financial transfers to the provinces and territories;
- Tax policy, trade issues, securities and capital markets regulation;
- Money laundering, terrorist financing and financial administration;
- Crown corporations;
- Information and privacy;
- Digital government and official languages;
- Public service employment and labour law; and
- Development and implementation of the federal budget.

The Portfolio's main clients are the Department of Finance, the Treasury Board Secretariat, the Public Service Commission, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions of Canada, the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada, and the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada.

The Portfolio also provides specialized labour and employment litigation and advisory services to the entire core public administration as well as all separate agencies.



## Communications Branch



**Charles Stanfield**  
Acting Director General

The Communications Branch provides advisory and planning services to support the Minister of Justice as principal spokesperson for the Department in communicating departmental policies, programs, priorities and decisions to the public. Services are provided in media relations, media monitoring and analysis, issues management, strategic communications advice, event coordination and support and digital engagement.

The Branch develops communications plans, news releases, media lines, speeches, graphic design and digital content across multiple platforms. The Branch partners with other government departments and agencies to ensure that litigation communications are well-coordinated, clear and effective in communicating the Crown's position on legal matters. The Branch is also responsible for coordinating paid advertising, public opinion research, online consultations and publishing activities.

The Branch is headed by the Director General's Office and is composed of three main units who support the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Ministers and senior departmental officials in ensuring that communications with the public are well coordinated, effectively managed and responsive to the needs of the audience:

- Corporate, Consultations and Policy Communications Unit;
- Employee Communications and Digital, Creative and Language Services Unit;
- and
- Public Affairs and Regional Coordination Unit.

## Indigenous Rights and Relations Portfolio



**Laurie Sargent**  
Assistant Deputy Minister

The Indigenous Rights and Relations Portfolio provides legal advisory and litigation support services on a wide range of Aboriginal law, Indigenous rights and Northern Affairs matters to the whole of government. In particular, the Portfolio works to support the policy, operational, and legislative priorities of its two major clients, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Indigenous Services Canada, including to improve strategic management of legal and litigation risks. The Portfolio also supports the Minister of Justice on Indigenous justice policy and reconciliation-related matters and in fulfilling their responsibilities under the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#).

The Portfolio plays a leadership role in coordinating and integrating Justice Canada's advice on Indigenous legal and policy issues across Justice Canada in the advisory, negotiations, litigation, and policy contexts.

The Portfolio is composed of the following units:

- Aboriginal Law Centre;
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada/Indigenous Services Canada Legal Services Unit;
- Indigenous Justice Revitalization Centre;
- Strategic Planning and Business Management Unit; and
- United Nations Declaration Act Implementation Secretariat.

## Internal Audit and Evaluation Sector



**Tricia Goulbourne**  
Chief Audit and Evaluation Executive

The Internal Audit and Evaluation Sector supports the Department by providing independent and objective assurance to management on the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management, internal control and governance processes. The Sector also ensures that programs, policies and initiatives continue to be relevant, effective and efficient. The Sector is composed of the following units:

### Internal Audit Branch

The Internal Audit Branch conducts assurance and advisory engagements, which add value by assessing and contributing to the continuous improvement of the Department's risk management, internal control, and governance processes.

### Evaluation Branch

The Evaluation Branch carries out objective and credible evaluations of the Department's policies, programs, operations and services, and provides advice regarding departmental and program-level performance measurement.

### Professional Practices Branch

The Professional Practices Branch acts as the liaison between the Department and external assurance providers, including central agencies. It also conducts sector planning and delivers the quality assurance program.

## Management Sector



**Bill Kroll**  
Assistant Deputy Minister and  
Chief Financial Officer

The Management Sector provides a suite of internal services to assist the Department in meeting its policy and program priorities, building a workplace of choice, and delivering high-quality legal services to the Government of Canada. The Sector is composed of the following units:

### Finance and Planning Branch

The Finance and Planning Branch supports the Deputy Minister's role as Chief Accounting Officer. It provides objective advice on the overall stewardship of the Department's financial management and its performance, and it develops and provides guidance on corporate documents such as Memoranda to Cabinet, Treasury Board submissions, Departmental Plans, and Departmental Results Reports. The Branch is also responsible for procurement in the Department.

### Human Resources Branch

The Human Resources Branch provides human resources management, including learning and leadership development, official languages, recruitment, compensation, labour relations, classification, and talent/performance management, and offers services to foster a respectful, healthy and safe work environment.

### Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Secretariat

The Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Secretariat supports the Department in becoming a representative, diverse and inclusive organization by developing and implementing frameworks, processes, training and tools to eradicate systemic racism and discrimination in our organization and in the provision of services.



### Legal Practices Branch

The Legal Practices Branch promotes and ensures consistency, efficiency, continuous improvement, and innovation in federal legal practices through the development of tools and analytics. The Branch supports the professional needs of Justice's legal professionals, including timekeeping, reporting, case management, and Corporate Counsel Office services. The Branch also supports legal knowledge management, paralegal services, and leads the Department in the use of business analytics and artificial intelligence.

The Branch also assumes responsibility for access to information and privacy services, including certain aspects of proactive disclosure.

### Information Solutions Branch

The Information Solutions Branch provides advice, guidance and solutions to the Department in the areas of information management, information technology, including its security, library services, and Open Government.

The Branch also provides select services to the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, the Office of the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime, and the Law Commission of Canada.

### Corporate Services Branch

The Corporate Services Branch implements the Department's Safety and Security Program and manages accommodations and facilities nationally. It also provides a full range of integrated strategic and business management services to the Management Sector and serves as an executive support mechanism for many of the Department's corporate governance functions.

## National Litigation Sector



**Shane Spelliscy**  
Assistant Deputy Attorney General

The National Litigation Sector supports the Government and mitigates risks and manages the law before, during, or as a result of litigation. The Attorney General of Canada has responsibility for all litigation for or against the Crown, any department, or Crown agent corporations, but not for criminal prosecutions, which are handled by the Public Prosecution Service of Canada. The litigation function within the Department of Justice is managed by the Sector at headquarters, the regional offices, and some specialized departmental Legal Services Units. The Assistant Deputy Attorney General has functional and coordination responsibility for all litigation conducted by or on behalf of the Department of Justice.

The National Litigation Sector is also responsible for extradition; mutual legal assistance requests and related litigation; the review of alleged miscarriages of justice applications;<sup>2</sup> national security litigation; class action and mass litigation to which Canada is a party; the Agent Affairs Program; and litigation support services and technology.

The Assistant Deputy Attorney General is the Government's chief legal adviser in matters relating to litigation by and against the Crown.

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<sup>2</sup> Former Bill C-40, *Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission Act* (David and Joyce Milgaard's Law), received Royal Assent on December 17, 2024. Part XXI.1 of the *Criminal Code* is amended and a new Part XXI.2 is added establishing an independent Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission to replace the role of the Minister. These amendments came into force on March 6, 2025, but the Commission is not yet operational.



**Elizabeth Richards**  
Chief General Counsel

The Chief General Counsel reports directly to the Deputy Minister and serves as a national resource and pre-eminent authority on issues related to litigation and its practice. They are a direct resource to the Deputy Ministers, offering advice, and strategic guidance on a wide range of highly complex, cross-cutting matters and issues which are national in scope, have the broadest government, societal, economic and legal implications, to ensure that legal and litigation advice is coordinated and responsive to Government interests.

The Chief General Counsel leads teams in the conduct of highly complex and significant litigation and negotiations of national interest, profile, risk and impact. In this capacity, they are a mentor to counsel across the country, sharing their vast experience relating to oral and written advocacy, providing assistance with complex procedural and strategic issues and advice on various aspects of cases, including points of law, preparation of arguments and case strategy.

## Regional Offices

The regional offices form part of the National Litigation Sector and provide litigation and advisory services to federal departments and agencies operating across the country.

### Atlantic Region



**David Hansen**  
Regional Director General

The Atlantic Regional Office, located in Halifax, provides legal services to federal departments and agencies in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador. The Atlantic Regional Office's areas of practice include litigation, Aboriginal law, commercial law, real property, public safety, defence, immigration, public law, regulatory law, and tax law services. Regional counsel represent the Government of Canada at various tribunals and all levels of court in the four Atlantic provinces.

### Quebec Region



**Valérie Tardif**  
Regional Director General

The Quebec Regional Office has an office in Montreal and another in Ottawa. It is composed of lawyers – members of the Quebec Bar, notaries – members of the Chambre des notaires, and other legal and administrative professionals. The Quebec Regional Office provides legal services to federal departments and agencies in Quebec. Regional counsel represent the Attorney General of Canada in proceedings before Quebec provincial tribunals, administrative tribunals and the Federal Courts, as well as before the Supreme Court of Canada. It deals with cases involving issues in many areas of law affecting the Crown and falling under private law, governed by Quebec civil law, and/or Quebec public law.



## National Capital Region - Civil Litigation Section



**Catherine Lawrence**  
Director General

The Civil Litigation Section, located in Ottawa, provides litigation services to all federal departments and agencies in Ottawa, Eastern Ontario and Northern Ontario. The Civil Litigation Section's areas of practice include administrative law, constitutional law, immigration law, corporate and commercial law, privacy law, national security law and aboriginal law before all levels of provincial, territorial and federal courts, commissions of inquiry, federal and provincial administrative tribunals, and international panels.

## Ontario Region



**Carla Lyon**  
Regional Director General

The Ontario Regional Office, located in Toronto, provides legal services to federal client departments and agencies throughout Ontario. The Ontario Regional Office's areas of practice include civil litigation, immigration law, extradition, Aboriginal law, public law, and tax law services with some advisory services, primarily in the area of real property. Ontario Regional Office counsel represent the Government of Canada before various federal and provincial administrative tribunals and all levels of federal and provincial courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada.

## Prairie Region



**Voula Karlaftis**  
Regional Director General

The Prairie Regional Office provides legal services to federal departments and agencies operating in offices in Alberta (Calgary and Edmonton), Saskatchewan (Saskatoon), and Manitoba (Winnipeg). The Prairie Regional Office's main areas of practice are civil litigation involving Aboriginal law, tax law, regulatory law, public law, immigration law, and extradition and advisory services. Regional counsel represent the Government of Canada before various tribunals and all levels of court.

## British Columbia Region



**Ken Manning**  
Regional Director General

The British Columbia Regional Office is located in Vancouver, with a satellite office in Victoria. The Regional Office provides legal services to more than 40 federal departments and agencies in British Columbia. The British Columbia Regional Office's areas of practice are Aboriginal law, tax law, public safety, defence and immigration, extradition, central agency, business and regulatory matters. Regional counsel represent the Government of Canada before various tribunals and all levels of court.

## Northern Region



**Alex Benitah**  
Regional Director General

The Northern Regional Office has offices in the Northwest Territories (Yellowknife) and in Yukon (Whitehorse); it also has lawyers co-located with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada in Nunavut (Iqaluit). The Northern Regional Office provides litigation and advisory services to federal departments operating in the three northern territories. Its main areas of practice are in relation to Aboriginal law, public safety, real property, business and regulatory matters. Regional counsel represent the Government of Canada before various tribunals and all levels of court.

## Privy Council Office Legal Services Sector



**Jodie van Dieen**  
Counsel to the Clerk of the Privy Council  
and Assistant Deputy Minister

The Privy Council Office (PCO) Legal Services Sector provides legal advice and services to PCO and its portfolio Ministers, in support of Cabinet and the whole-of-government decision-making.

The Sector advises PCO on the operation of the Cabinet decision-making system as well as on a wide range of program, policy, legislative and litigation activities. For example, the Sector supports PCO on matters involving Governor in Council and Senate appointments, House of Commons and Senate agenda and activities, intergovernmental relations, and other policy matters facing the Government.

In addition, the Sector serves as a centre of expertise on legal issues surrounding confidences of the King's Privy Council. In this regard, the Sector supports the Clerk of the Privy Council as custodian of confidences and in the exercise of the Clerk's statutory duties in the context of judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings, and pursuant to requests for access to confidences.

The Sector also supports PCO in litigation respecting their responsibilities related to Parliament (the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons), elections (the Minister of Democratic Institutions), intergovernmental matters (Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs), and PCO decisions under the [Access to Information Act](#) and the [Privacy Act](#). The Sector also provides legal support to the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General.

## Policy Sector



**Owen Ripley**  
Senior Assistant Deputy Minister

The Policy Sector supports the Minister in their responsibility for policy leadership in the areas of criminal law, youth criminal justice, victims' rights, Indigenous justice, family law and access to justice. The Sector does this primarily by developing policy advice and options in relation to legislation such as the [Criminal Code](#), the [Youth Criminal Justice Act](#) and the [Divorce Act](#). To support better decision-making, the Sector develops and advances the Department's research plan, including data collection.

The Sector administers the Department's funding programs (grants and contributions) to support a variety of public policy objectives, including access to justice, support for victims, training and Indigenous and community justice. Funding is delivered through provinces and territories, Indigenous governments and partners, as well as civil society organizations.

The Sector supports the Minister of Justice in provincial, territorial and international engagement. On the international front, the Sector coordinates the Department's work to provide technical assistance to other countries looking to develop their justice systems.

The Sector is comprised of the following units:

- Criminal Law Policy Section;
- Family Law and Youth Justice Policy Section;
- Programs Branch;
- Policy Integration and Coordination Section;
- International Development Section; and
- Access to Justice Secretariat.

## Public Law and Legislative Services Sector



**Sarah Geh**  
Assistant Deputy Minister

The Public Law and Legislative Services Sector provides specialized legal advisory services and policy advice across government and plays a fundamental role in drafting and developing federal legislation and regulations.

The Sector has centres of legal expertise in the following areas:

- Constitutional, administrative and international law
- Human rights law;
- Information and privacy law;
- International trade and investment law;
- Judicial affairs;
- Official languages law; and
- Legislative and regulatory law.

### Legislative Services Branch

The Legislative Services Branch drafts bills and regulations in both official languages harmoniously with Canada's two legal systems.

### Secretariat of the Action Committee on Modernizing Court Operations

The Secretariat is housed in the Judicial Affairs Section of the Sector and supports the work of the Committee, co-chaired by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and the Chief Justice of Canada.



## Public Safety, Defence and Immigration Portfolio



**Alain Langlois**  
Assistant Deputy Minister

The Public Safety, Defence and Immigration Portfolio provides advisory, legislative and litigation services in the following main areas of expertise: national security law, corrections and conditional release, immigration and refugee law, border law, national defence law, law enforcement, and international criminal law.

The Portfolio's main client departments and agencies are:

- Public Safety Canada;
- Correctional Service of Canada;
- Parole Board of Canada;
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP);
- Canadian Security Intelligence Service;
- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA);
- Department of National Defence;
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC); and
- Communications Security Establishment Canada.

The Portfolio is also responsible for the Department of Justice's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes (CAHWC) Section, which offers legal support to the CAHWC Program partners (CBSA, IRCC and the RCMP) in fulfilling their mandate to deny safe haven in Canada to individuals believed to have committed or been complicit in war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide.



## Tax Law Services



**Jade Boucher**  
Assistant Deputy Minister

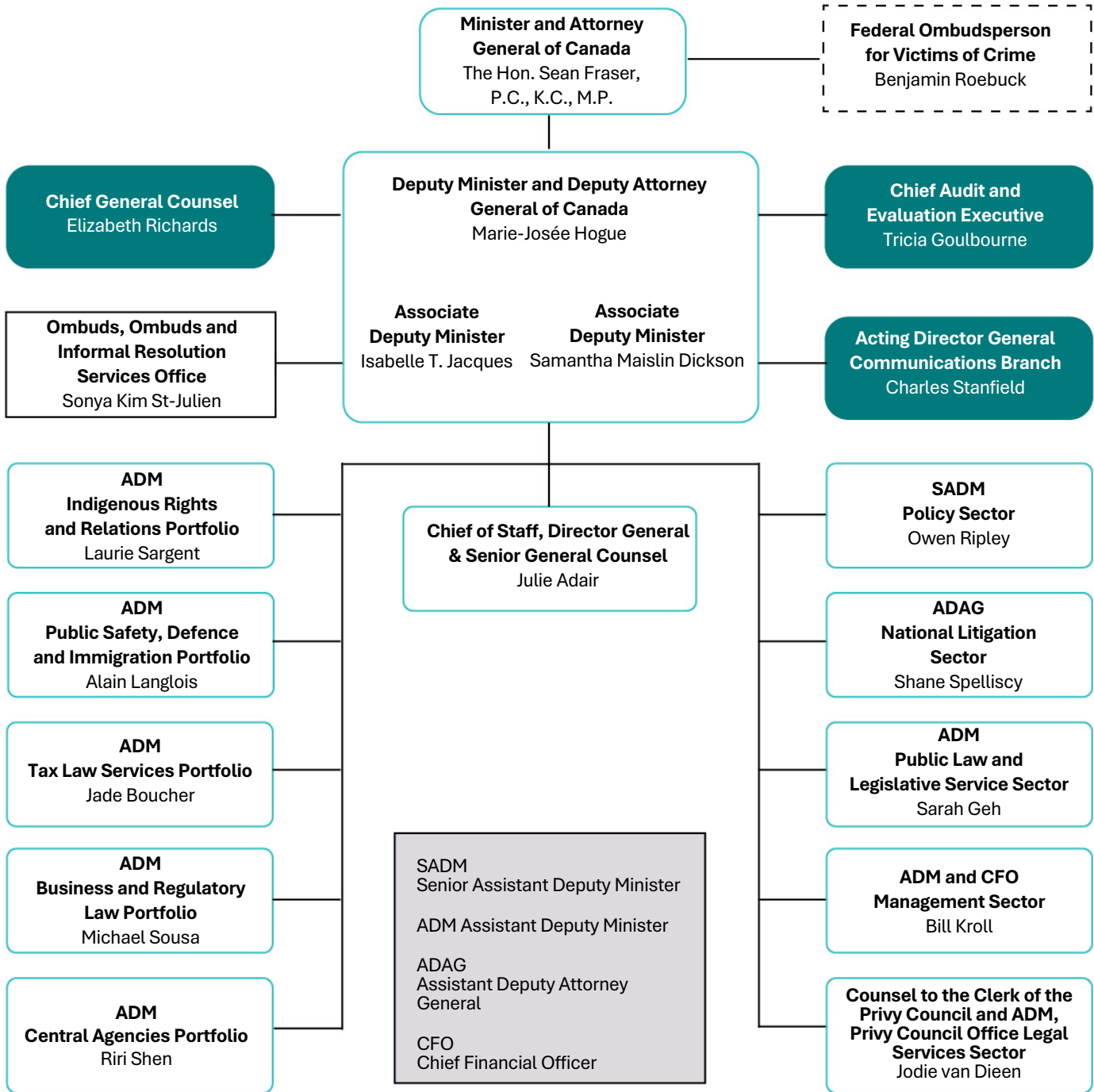
The Tax Law Services Portfolio provides advice and litigation services to the Canada Revenue Agency and is responsible for the management of the law in all areas of tax law.

The Portfolio's experience encompasses areas of practice such as:

- Taxation law;
- Collections, bankruptcy and insolvency;
- Charities law;
- Access to information and privacy;
- Administrative law; and
- Ministerial governance.

The Portfolio provides legal services across the country in coordination with the Department's regional offices. Its in-depth expertise in tax law and related areas allows the Portfolio to mobilize resources best suited to respond to the evolving legal needs of the Canada Revenue Agency.

# Organizational Chart



## Overview of Resources<sup>3</sup>

In order to make expenditures, the government must receive Parliament's approval, either through previously adopted legislation or, on an annual basis, through the introduction and passage of appropriation bills. Prior to the introduction of each appropriation bill, the President of the Treasury Board tables an Estimates publication (Main or Supplementary) before Parliament to provide information and details on spending authorities sought. The Estimates consist of three parts.

Part I of the Estimates process is the Government Expenditure Plan. It provides a summary and highlights of year-over-year changes in departmental spending and transfer payments in order to provide perspective on the major issues influencing government planned spending.

Part II of the Estimates process is the Main Estimates, known traditionally as the "Blue Book". It directly supports the appropriation acts for the Main Estimates. The publication provides a listing of the resources required by individual departments and agencies for the upcoming fiscal year in order to deliver the programs for which they are responsible. It identifies the spending authorities (votes) and the amounts to be included in subsequent appropriation bills that Parliament will be asked to approve to enable the government to proceed with its spending plans.

Part III of the Estimates process is the Departmental Expenditure Plans, which consist of two documents: Departmental Plans (DP) and Departmental Results Reports (DRR).

- DPs are expenditure plans for each appropriated department and agency (excluding Crown corporations). They describe departmental priorities, strategic outcomes, programs, expected results and associated resource requirements, covering a three-year period beginning with the year indicated in the title of the report.
- DRRs are individual department and agency accounts of actual performance, for the most recently completed fiscal year, against the plans, priorities and expected results set out in their respective DPs. DRRs inform parliamentarians and Canadians of the results achieved by government organizations for Canadians.
- DPs and DRRs are tabled before Parliament by the President of the Treasury Board and are referred to parliamentary committees to be studied.

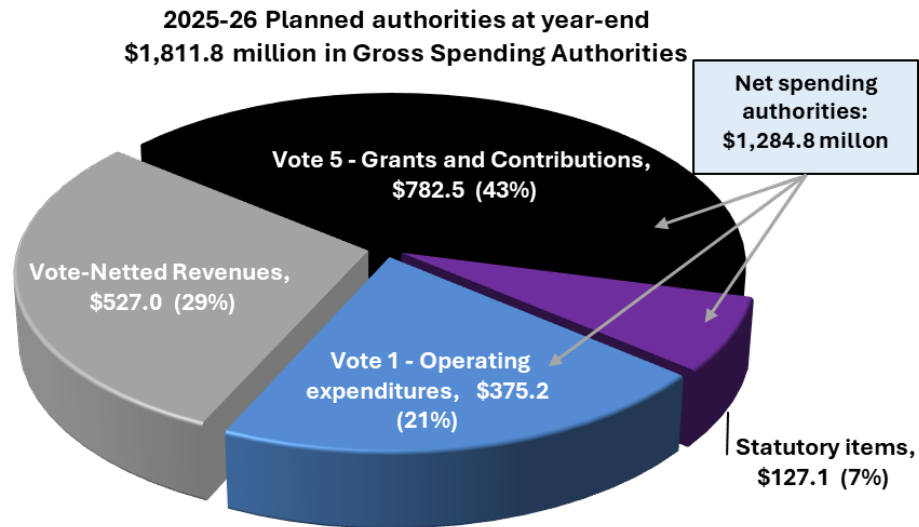
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<sup>3</sup> [Treasury Board Secretariat, Planned Government Spending](#)

## 2025-26 Financial Resources

The Department of Justice Canada's total estimated spending authority for 2025-26 is based on the 2025-26 Main and Supplementary Estimates (B) and (C) (which is upcoming) and amounts to \$1,811.9 million. Of that, \$1,284.9 million is received through the Voted and Statutory Authority and \$527.0 million in Vote-Netted Revenue to allow the Department to collect revenue from other government departments and agencies for all types of legal services delivered, including advisory, litigation, and legislative/regulatory drafting.

### Justice Estimated Spending by Vote



Note: Amounts are presented in millions of dollars. Total may not add up due to rounding.

### Operating Resources (Vote 1)

Operating resources in the amount of \$375.3 million, supplemented by revenues of \$527.0 million, account for approximately 50 percent of the Department's total estimated spending authority. These resources pay for salaries and other operating costs such as training, travel, service contracts, maintenance, and supplies.

## **Grants and Contributions (Vote 5)**

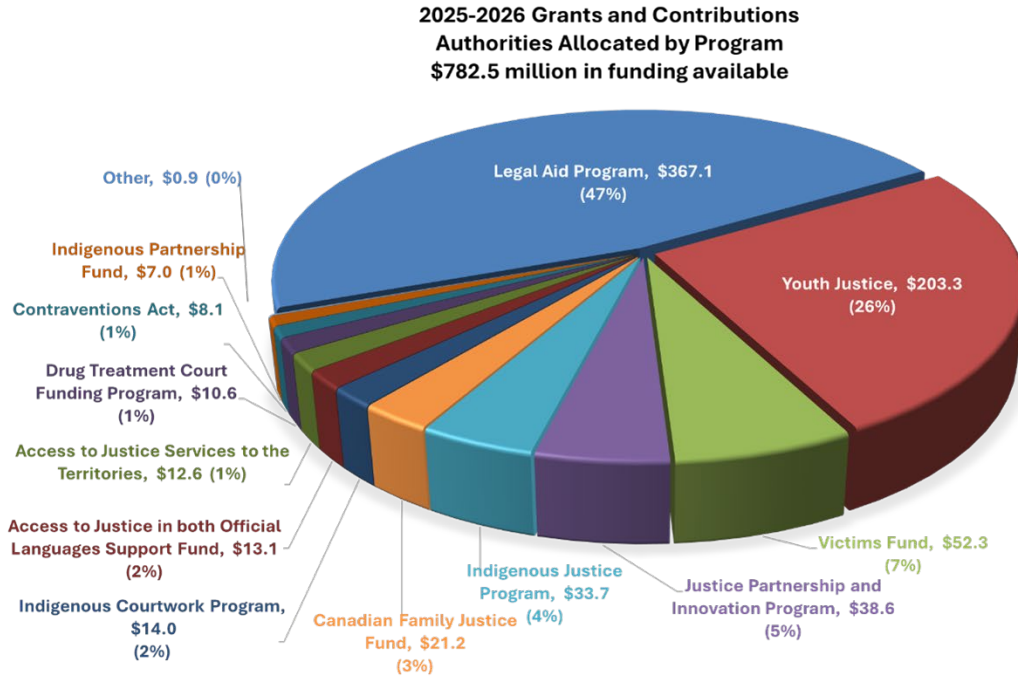
Grants and contributions account for \$782.5 million, 43 percent of the overall spending authority. Contribution programs related to Youth Justice and Legal Aid account for approximately 73 percent of the total grants and contributions. Grants and Contributions are funding that is transferred to provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and private recipients.

## **Statutory Resources**

Statutory resources amount to \$127.1 million, most of which are for the Employee Benefit Plan.

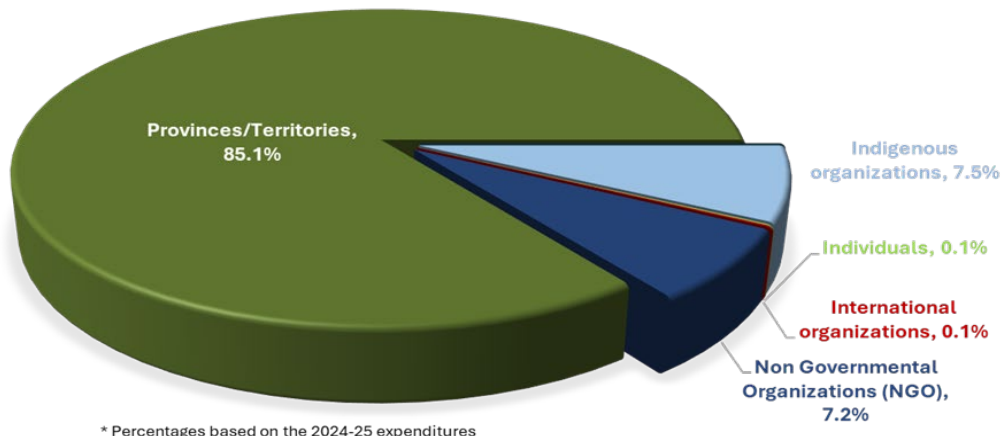
## Justice Estimated Vote 5 (Grants and Contributions) Spending by Programs

The Department of Justice provides funding to community organizations and other levels of government that are working to support its mandate, mission and values. The Department’s funding programs are designed to support Indigenous communities, victims of crime, people with low incomes, families, and young people. The Department also supports projects that help Canadians understand the law and access the justice system in both official languages.



Note: Amounts are presented in millions of dollars. Total may not add up due to rounding.

## Grants and Contributions Allocation by Type of Recipients



## Legal Aid Program (\$367.1 million)

The Legal Aid Program consists of five components and delivers funding through contribution agreements. The five components are described below.

### Criminal Legal Aid (\$222.3 million)

Criminal legal aid funding provides access to legal services for economically disadvantaged persons in Canada. It promotes access to justice and helps to ensure that the Canadian justice system is fair, efficient and accessible.

Responsibility for the provision of criminal justice is divided between the federal government, under its constitutional authority for criminal law and procedure, and the provincial governments, under their authority for the administration of justice and for property and civil rights. While provinces and territories are responsible for the delivery of legal aid services, the Department provides contribution funding towards the cost of adult and youth criminal legal aid services in the provinces, and criminal and civil legal aid services in the territories. Canada's contribution covers about one-third of total national costs.

The annual federal criminal legal aid base funding to the provinces is \$136.8 million on an ongoing basis. To assist jurisdictions in the delivery of criminal legal aid services, Budget 2024 provided additional funding of \$440.0 million over five years starting in 2024-25, increasing total funding to the provinces in 2025-26 to \$222.3 million. The legal aid funding to the territories is captured under the Access to Justice Services Agreements.

### Immigration and Refugee Legal Aid (\$130.4 million)

Immigration and refugee legal aid funding is provided to the eight jurisdictions that deliver such services: British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Immigration and refugee legal aid supports fair, effective, and efficient decision-making on asylum and certain immigration claims by helping individuals present the relevant facts of their case in a clear and intelligible manner. Further, ensuring claimants feel that they have experienced a fair process helps to decrease the number of costly appeals, both at the Immigration and Refugee Board, and at the Federal Court, which in turn contributes to the fairness and efficiency of the asylum system.



Since 2015-16, immigration and refugee legal aid funding has been increased each year in an effort to address increased demand. Since 2019-20, the federal government has provided up to \$55 million annually and \$83.1 million in 2023-24 in an attempt to cover 100 percent of anticipated costs. Budget 2024 announced an additional \$273.7 million over five years starting in 2024-25 and \$43.5 million ongoing. Budget 2025 announced additional funding, from which the Department is seeking \$182.3 million over three years from 2025-26 to 2027-28.

#### Legal Advice for Complaints of Workplace Sexual Harassment (\$5.0 million)

The Legal Advice for Complainants of Workplace Sexual Harassment component of the Legal Aid Program supports projects that provide legal information, advice, and ancillary services to persons who have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace, regardless of their economic status. Funding was available from 2019-20 to 2023-24 and Budget 2024 renewed funding over three years starting in 2024-25.

#### State-Funded Counsel (\$3.4 million)

The State-Funded Counsel component of the Legal Aid Program supports proceedings involving national security issues, including terrorism-related cases, and proceedings where the Federal Crown has been ordered to fund counsel by a court. This includes orders for defence counsel granted in serious federal cases where counsel is necessary to ensure a fair trial and where the accused lacks the resources to pay for counsel and is ineligible for criminal legal aid, and orders for *amicus curiae*.

#### Impact of Race and Culture Assessments (\$6.0 million)

The Legal Aid Program's Impact of Race and Culture Assessments (IRCAs) initiative addresses the over-representation of Black and other racialized individuals in the criminal justice system by providing reports to help justice professionals better understand how poverty, marginalization, racism, and social exclusion have contributed to an individual's contact with the criminal justice system. The Department contributes to the cost of preparing IRCA reports in seven jurisdictions (Nova Scotia, Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Yukon). The program also funds organizations to train IRCA assessors and to provide continuing professional development courses to justice system professionals.



## Youth Justice (\$203.3 million)

The Department supports three youth justice funding programs.

### Youth Justice Services Program (\$185.0 million)

The Youth Justice Services Funding Program is a cost-shared contribution program with all provinces and territories for the delivery of youth justice services. The objective of the Program is to support the policy directions of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. Priority funding areas include diversion/extrajudicial measures and extrajudicial sanctions programs; rehabilitative and reintegration services; judicial interim release programs; reports and assessments; intensive support and supervision and attendance programs; and conferencing and other community-based sanctions.

### Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision Program (\$11.0 million)

The Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision Program provides funding to provinces and territories to ensure they have the capacity to assess and provide specialized therapeutic treatment to young persons with mental health issues who have committed serious violent offences and are sentenced to an intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision order as per paragraph 42(2)(r) and subsection 42(7) of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. When resources permit, the Program also supports provinces and territories in providing treatment to young persons with mental health issues who have committed violent offences but were not sentenced under the aforementioned provisions.

### Youth Justice Fund (\$7.3 million)

The Youth Justice Fund is a discretionary demand-driven grants and contributions program that supports projects that encourage a more effective youth justice system, respond to emerging youth justice issues, and enable greater citizen and community participation in the youth justice system. The Fund supports the development, implementation, and evaluation of pilot projects that provide programming and services for youth in conflict with the law. It supports professional development activities, such as training and conferences, for justice professionals and youth service providers. Additionally, it funds research on the youth justice system and related youth justice issues. Community organizations, Indigenous organizations, educational institutions, other levels of government, and individuals are all eligible for funding.



### **Victims Fund (\$52.3 million)**

The Victims Fund provides grants and contributions funding to victims of crime, provinces, territories, and non-governmental organizations to develop or enhance victim services and to research victim-related issues.

The Fund provides support to a wide range of organizations and types of victims. For example, the Fund supports Child Advocacy Centres, which address the needs of children, youth, and their families in cases where abuse is suspected, by providing child-friendly facilities where they can seek services, ideally under one roof. The Fund also supports provincial and territorial victims' services and supports projects that help victims of various types of crime, such as human trafficking and sexual assault, among others. The Fund supports Family Information Liaison Units and community-based support for families of missing and murdered Indigenous women or girls and supports projects related to victims and survivors of hate crimes (new in 2024-25) for which funding of \$29.5 million over six years was announced in Budget 2024.

Two elements of the Fund also provide support directly to individual victims. The Victims Abroad component provides financial assistance to Canadians who are victims of serious violent crime abroad and who do not have other means. The Parole component provides financial assistance to federally registered victims who wish to attend the parole hearings of their offenders.

### **Justice Partnership and Innovation Program (\$38.6 million)**

The Justice Partnership and Innovation Program provides resources to facilitate access to justice through various means, including the development of new approaches, the dissemination of law-related information, and the testing of pilot projects. The overall goal of the Program is to contribute to increasing access to the Canadian justice system and strengthening the Canadian legal framework. The Program's components include the Family Violence Initiative; core funding for Public Legal Education and Information organizations; the Public Legal Education and Information - Workplace Sexual Harassment component; Community Justice Centres; Independent Legal Advice and Other Justice System Supports for Victims of Intimate Partner Violence; Legal Services and Supports for Racialized Communities; and, new in 2024-25, legal information and advice under the Tenant Protection Fund, for which funding of \$15 million over five years was announced in Budget 2024.



## Indigenous Justice Program (\$33.7 million)

Operating since 1991, the Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) is a federally led initiative delivered in partnership with all provinces and territories aimed at addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system, both as offenders and as victims. Through its Community-Based Justice Fund, the IJP directly supports 214 community justice programs in roughly 650 communities across the country. Funded programs work to address root causes of crime and deliver programming that reflects the justice values, traditions, and culture of their communities. Their activities can fall at any point along the justice continuum including prevention, pre-charge diversion, post-charge diversion, post-sentence, and reintegration. Programs also deliver civil and family mediation services to prevent and address conflict among community members. In providing alternatives to mainstream justice processes, these programs use restorative and traditional Indigenous justice processes that focus on repairing harm and bringing together the victim, the offender, and the community. IJP programs work in close partnership with justice officials, including police, the Crown, and judges. Furthermore, under its Community-Based Fund, the IJP has dedicated funding for the provision of *Gladue* Casework/Aftercare supports for individuals who have had a *Gladue* Report, to enhance the capacity of Indigenous communities to provide community-based sentencing and options.

The Capacity-Building Fund supports capacity-building efforts in Indigenous communities, particularly those building increased knowledge and skills for the establishment and management of community-based justice programs.

Budget 2024 announced \$41.4 million over five years and \$8.3 million ongoing for the Indigenous Justice Program, to renew Budget 2021 funding for Program Integrity and Civil and Family Mediation programming. Civil and Family Mediation funding supports Indigenous communities in resolving conflicts to prevent their escalation (including those involving at risk youth), and in providing opportunities for parents to resolve their disputes more peacefully.

The IJP is also delivering time-limited funding ending March 31, 2027, to support capacity building and engagement throughout the development and initial implementation of the Indigenous Justice Strategy, and project funding to address the Call to Action 50 (CTA 50). Project funding for CTA 50 will support the development, use and understanding of Indigenous laws and access to justice in accordance with the unique cultures of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

## **Canadian Family Justice Fund (\$21.2 million)**

The Canadian Family Justice Fund facilitates access to the family justice system for families experiencing separation and divorce through various services, programs, and information resources. The Fund addresses the following priorities: fostering federal, provincial and territorial collaboration; supporting the well-being of family members; reaching diverse and underserved populations; supporting alternatives to court for family law matters; and improving and streamlining family justice system links/processes.

The Fund comprises two components. The Family Justice Activities component supports provincial and territorial programs and services assisting families experiencing separation and divorce. Examples include parent information programs, mediation, administrative child support recalculation, and maintenance enforcement programs. The Projects component supports provincial and territorial governments, not-for-profit organizations, associations, academic institutions, and individuals. Examples of activities include informing Canadians about family law issues and developing new strategies, models, and tools intended to improve access to family justice. The fund also includes a time-limited component that provides support for Supervised Parenting Time Services (ending March 31, 2026).

## **Indigenous Courtwork Program (\$14.0 million)**

The Department contributes funding through the Indigenous Courtwork Program (ICW) to all provinces and territories (with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador) for the provision of Indigenous Courtwork services in justice proceedings. ICW has two funding streams:

- Stream 1: Funding is provided directly to the provinces on a 50:50 cost-shared basis, and to territories through Access to Justice Service Agreements (with no cost-sharing requirement).
- Stream 2: Funding has no cost-sharing requirement and can be provided directly to Indigenous organizations for time-limited projects that meet the mandate of the ICW.

The ICW's objective is to ensure that Indigenous people in contact with the justice system (whether as accused persons, victims, witnesses, or family members) have access to fair, equitable, and culturally relevant treatment throughout the justice process. Indigenous Courtworkers assist offenders by ensuring that they understand the process, including their rights, as well as any responsibilities and/or direction given by the court. In addition, as "friends of the Court", Indigenous Courtworkers provide the court with information needed



for sentencing and bail purposes, and connect victims, witnesses, and family members to culturally safe assistance and resources.

The Indigenous Courtwork Program received ongoing funding through Fall Economic Statement 2020 to support the development of *Gladue* reports, and through Budget 2024 for family courtwork services to support Indigenous persons involved with family court/child protection proceedings.

Annually, approximately 230 Indigenous Courtworkers provide services to over 75,000 Indigenous adults and youth involved with the justice system (as accused persons, victims, witnesses, and family members) in 450 communities across Canada.

### **Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund (\$13.1 million)**

The Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund provides funding for projects facilitating access to justice in both official languages through various means, such as the creation of legal and linguistic tools, workshops and training for bilingual lawyers and justice system stakeholders, the development of training materials and the provision of public legal education and information. The activities and projects are aligned with the Government's commitment to advancing the equality of status and use of English and French by enhancing the vitality of English and French linguistic minority communities and supporting their development, taking into account their uniqueness, diversity, and historical and cultural contributions to Canadian society, and fostering the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society. The Support Fund is part of Canada's [Action Plan for Official Languages 2023 2028: Protection-Promotion-Collaboration](#).

### **Access to Justice Services Agreements for the Territories (\$12.6 million)**

The Access to Justice Services Agreements are contribution agreements between the federal government and Canada's three territories. They are the means by which the federal government supports the territories in delivering access to justice-related services, which include legal aid (both criminal and civil), Indigenous courtwork services, and public legal education and information. The Agreements provide consolidated program funding for each of these three program areas. This consolidated approach ensures accountability, while allowing the territories the flexibility to deliver justice-related programs that respond to the unique needs and circumstances of their communities. Budget 2024 provided additional funding of \$440 million over five years for legal aid starting in 2024-25, increasing the total criminal legal aid funding provided to the territories in 2025-26 through these agreements from \$5.6 million to \$10.1 million.



## Drug Treatment Court Funding Program (\$10.6 million)

The Drug Treatment Court Funding Program contributes funding to participating provinces and territories for the development, delivery, expansion and evaluation of drug treatment courts. These are dedicated courts with the objective of reducing crime committed as a result of a substance use disorder through court-monitored treatment and community services support. Drug treatment courts provide an alternative to incarceration for eligible adult offenders. The Drug Treatment Court Funding Program is part of the [Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy](#).

The provinces and territories continue to implement the incremental funding of \$28 million over five years, and \$7 million a year ongoing, received for the program through Budget 2021 to support the operation, expansion and creation of drug treatment courts.

## Implementation of the Official Languages Requirements under the Contraventions Act (\$8.1 million)

The [Contraventions Act](#) provides an alternative to the summary conviction process as set out in [Part XXVII of the Criminal Code](#) for the prosecution of federal regulatory offences that are minor in nature. This is accomplished by designating these offences as “contraventions” and allowing for their prosecution through a ticketing scheme. This approach ensures a more effective application of federal statutes and reduces the workload of the courts by allowing for the voluntary payment of fines in lieu of prosecuting these offences through the *Criminal Code* summary conviction process.

The *Contraventions Act* Fund provides funding to provinces, territories and municipalities who, on behalf of the federal government, administer federal contraventions through ticketing regimes. The Fund supports measures to ensure that the language rights provided by [sections 530 and 530.1 of the Criminal Code](#) and [Part IV of the Official Languages Act](#), for persons who are prosecuted for contraventions of federal statutes or regulations, are respected. Such measures include the hiring of bilingual staff, language training, and bilingual signage and documentation.



### Indigenous Partnership Fund (\$7.0 million)

The [\*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act\*](#) (UN Declaration Act) received Royal Assent on June 21, 2021, and is a key building block in recognizing, respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the rights of Indigenous peoples, including rights to self-determination and self-governance. The Indigenous Partnership Fund facilitates consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples in implementing the UN Declaration and the UN Declaration Act. Specifically, it supports consultation and cooperation between the Department of Justice and/or Government of Canada and Indigenous governments and organizations on three legislated requirements: 1) Measures to ensure that the laws, programs and policies of Canada are consistent with the UN Declaration; 2) Development, implementation, monitoring, review and updating of an action plan to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration; and, 3) Development of annual reports on progress.

### Other (\$0.9 million)

This category is used for presentation purposes in the chart and groups the following programs with annual contributions under \$5.0 million.

#### Hague Conference on Private International Law (\$0.3 million)

The purpose of the Hague Conference is to work for the progressive unification of the rules of private international law. The Department pays an annual assessed contribution to enable Canada to meet its financial obligations to the Conference, as well as to help fulfil Canada's international policy objectives by participating in the work of the organization. The unification of private international law has great importance, both in a national and international context, particularly because it facilitates the resolution of disputes involving two or more jurisdictions that may have conflicting legal rules relating to various private law matters. The development of uniform legislation reduces the risks of such conflicts.

#### Integrated Market Enforcement Teams Reserve Fund (\$0.2 million)

The Integrated Market Enforcement Teams Reserve Fund funds extraordinary prosecution expenses incurred in integrated market enforcement team-generated cases of national significance being prosecuted by provincial attorneys general. These Teams are special RCMP-led units that investigate capital markets fraud.



The Reserve Fund provides funding for expenses incurred as a result of (1) exceptional court ordered disclosure; (2) specialized contracts, for example, forensic experts and language/interpretation; and (3) technical and/or equipment requirements including scanning equipment, computers, and audio/video technology.

#### International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) (\$0.2 million)

The purpose of UNIDROIT is to examine ways of harmonizing and coordinating the private law of States and groups of States, and to gradually prepare for the adoption by the various States of uniform rules of private law. The Department pays an annual assessed contribution to enable Canada to meet its financial obligations to UNIDROIT, as well as to help fulfil Canada's international policy objectives by participating in the work of the organization.

#### Special Advocates Program (\$0.1 million)

The Special Advocates Program was established to support the Minister of Justice in implementing the 2008 amendments to the [\*Immigration and Refugee Protection Act\*](#). These amendments created a special advocates regime, which ensures a *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* compliant procedure for removing inadmissible non-Canadians from Canada while using and protecting national security information. Special advocates are appointed by a court or tribunal to protect the interests of named persons during *in camera* *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* Division 9 proceedings. Infrequently, these proceedings are used to permit the use of national security information to determine detention and the substantive merits of admissibility proceedings.

The Program ensures that the Minister of Justice meets the following requirements of the amended Act: establishing a list of persons who may be appointed as special advocates; publishing the list in a manner that facilitates public access to it; and ensuring that special advocates are provided with adequate administrative support and resources.



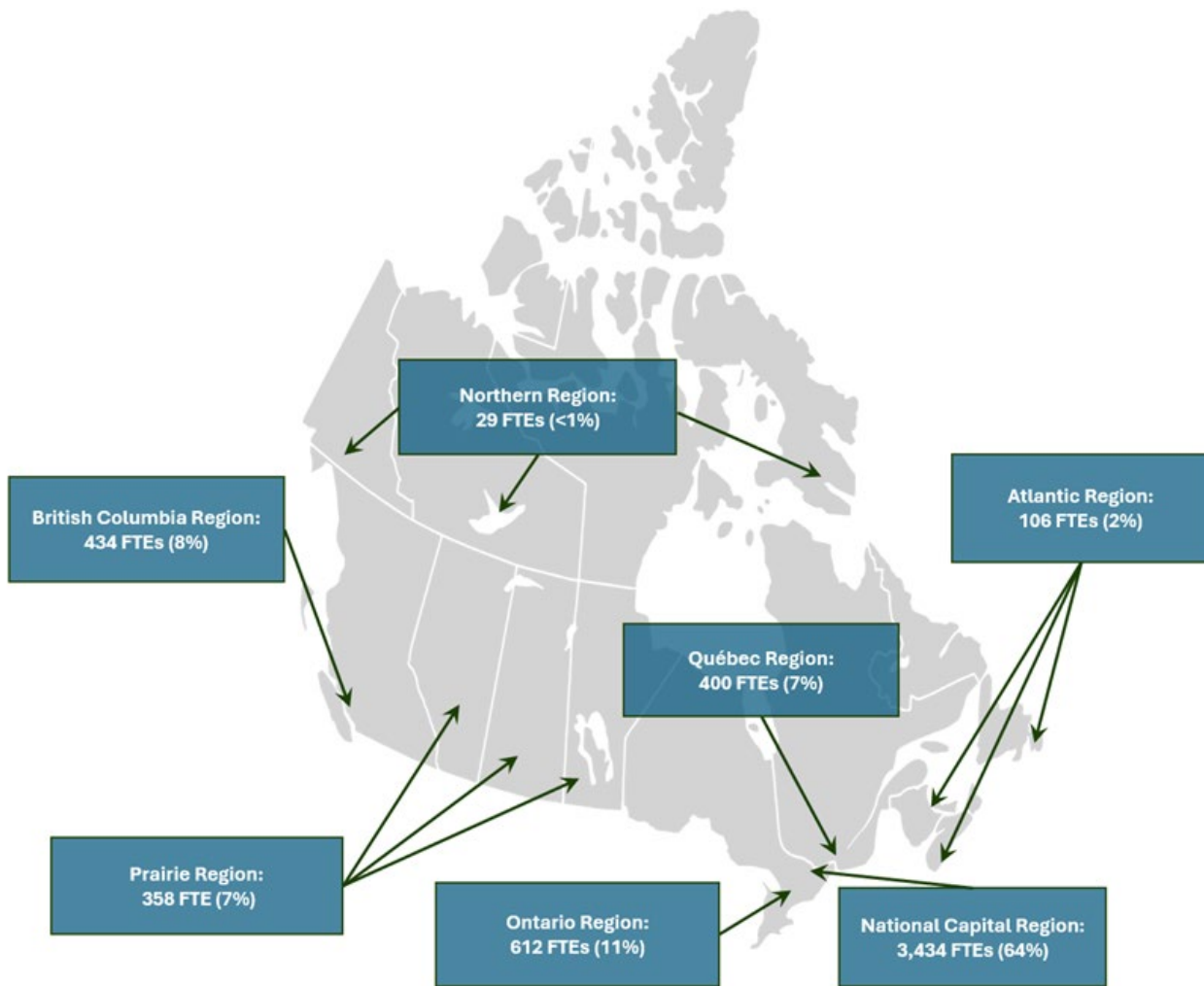
## European Commission for Democracy through Law – Venice Commission (\$0.1 million)

The European Commission for Democracy through Law (known as the Venice Commission because it meets in Venice) is a legal advisory body established in 1990 under the Council of Europe. The Commission has expanded to include a Sub-Commission on Latin America and the provision of advice to North Africa. The Commission is an important body in the effort to maintain and promote democracy and the rule of law in the face of a rising populist tide. Canada was an observer at the Commission beginning in 1990. In 2019, Canada became a full member. The Department pays an annual assessed contribution to enable Canada to meet its financial obligations to the Commission as well as to help fulfil Canada's international policy objectives by participating in the work of the organization.



## Human Resources

The Department's workforce, as of January 2026, was comprised of 5,373 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs). Approximately 64 percent of the FTEs are in the National Capital Region. The breakdown per region is presented in the map below.



## Glossary

### Appropriation acts:

An appropriation act begins as a supply bill (sometimes referred to as a money bill). Once the bill is approved by Parliament and then granted royal assent, it becomes an appropriation act. The appropriation act is the vehicle through which expenditures from the Consolidated Revenue Fund are authorized in order to pay for government programs and services. Both the Main Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates require appropriation acts.

### Authorities:

Spending authorities are approvals from Parliament for individual government organizations to spend up to specific amounts. Spending authority is provided in two ways:

- 1) Annual Appropriation Acts that specify the amounts and broad purposes for which funds can be spent; and
- 2) Other specific statutes that authorize payments and set out the amounts and time periods for those payments.

### Employee Benefit Plan (EBP):

A statutory item that includes employer costs for the Public Service Superannuation Plan, the Canada and the Quebec Pension Plans, Death Benefits, and the Employment Insurance accounts. Expressed as a percentage of salary, the EBP rate is changed every year as directed by the Treasury Board Secretariat.

### Full-Time Equivalent:

A measure of the extent to which an employee represents a full person-year charge against a departmental budget. Full-time equivalents are calculated as a ratio of assigned hours of work to scheduled hours of work. Scheduled hours of work are set out in collective agreements.

### Voted and Statutory Appropriations:

Expenditures made by government require the authority of Parliament. That authority is provided in two ways: annual Appropriation Acts or Supply Bills specify the amounts and broad purposes for which funds can be spent; and other specific statutes authorize payments and set out the amounts and time periods for those payments. The amounts approved in appropriation acts are referred to as voted amounts, and the expenditure authorities provided through other statutes are called statutory authorities.



- **Vote 1 - Operating Expenditures:** A vote that covers most day-to-day expenses, such as salaries and utilities.
- **Vote 5 - Grants and Contributions:** A vote used when grants and/or contributions expenditures equal or exceed \$5.0 million.
  - **Grant:** A transfer payment subject to pre-established eligibility and other entitlement criteria. A grant is not subject to being accounted for by a recipient nor normally subject to audit by the Department. The recipient may be required to report on results achieved.
  - **Contribution:** A transfer payment subject to performance conditions specified in a funding agreement. A contribution is to be accounted for and is subject to audit.

**Vote-Netted Revenue:**

The authority by which the Department of Justice has permission to collect and spend revenue earned from the provision of legal and internal services within government.

## Ministerial Portfolio

The portfolio of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada includes the Department of Justice and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, as well as the following organizations that operate at arm's length from the Minister and the Department, referred to collectively as the Justice portfolio independent organizations:

- Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs;
- Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada;
- Courts Administration Service;
- Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada;
- Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada;
- Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada;
- Canadian Human Rights Commission; and
- Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

Each organization has a distinct mandate and organizational structure. The organizations prepare their own Departmental Plans (expenditure plans) and Departmental Results Reports (accounts of actual performance) as part of the Government's reporting on spending and operations. The Minister of Justice approves these plans and reports, which are tabled before the House of Commons by the President of the Treasury Board on behalf of the Minister of Justice.

In addition to these organizations, the Ministerial portfolio also includes the Office of the Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime, the Law Commission of Canada, and the Special Advisor on Wrongful Convictions.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Former Bill C-40, *Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission Act* (David and Joyce Milgaard's Law), received Royal Assent on December 17, 2024. Part XXI.1 of the *Criminal Code* is amended and a new Part XXI.2 is added establishing an independent Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission to replace the role of the Minister. These amendments came into force on March 6, 2025, but the Commission is not yet operational.



## Portfolio Management

Portfolios are generally organized to bring together bodies that share common purposes. The integrity and coherence of government activities depend strongly upon the Ministers' ability to coordinate their respective portfolios in an integrated way, while respecting any necessary degrees of independence. Within the Justice portfolio, the agencies have an arm's-length relationship, to varying degrees, with the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and with the Department of Justice with respect to their operations.

The most pronounced example of this arm's-length relationship is with the organizations that support the courts, in light of the constitutionally entrenched principles of judicial independence, which involves both individual and institutional relationships: the individual independence of a judge as reflected in such matters as security of tenure; and the institutional independence of the courts as reflected in their institutional or administrative relationships to the executive and legislative branches of government.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is independent in decision making with respect to prosecutions, subject to the oversight of the Attorney General of Canada within the framework of the [\*Director of Public Prosecutions Act\*](#). Both the Attorney General and the Director are bound by the constitutional principle of independence in the prosecution function.

Ministers play no role in the day-to-day management of the portfolio organizations, but act as the primary channel through which they access funding and report their activities to Parliament, in addition to being responsible for bringing forward policy proposals related to them. Tools for managing the portfolio organizations can include meetings between a Minister and a portfolio head and between departmental officials and portfolio management or staff.

In some cases, departments and organizations within a portfolio also share certain common services and collaborate to meet their common reporting requirements, such as making submissions to the Treasury Board and reporting to Parliament (e.g. Justice will coordinate with the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada for tabling annual reports). The appropriateness of such collaboration is determined by the degree of independence the organization enjoys from the Minister.



## Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada's Role in Portfolio Management

In most cases, a Minister determines the extent and nature of relationships with agencies within the portfolio. However, in the case of the Justice portfolio, certain unique considerations apply:

- The Attorney General of Canada's relationship with the Director of Public Prosecutions is structured by the [\*Director of Public Prosecutions Act\*](#) and reflects the constitutional principle of prosecutorial independence.
- Several of the organizations in the portfolio support the courts. While these organizations are part of the executive, the principle of judicial independence is constitutionally entrenched, as set out above.
- Several organizations exercise quasi-judicial functions and are required to maintain their independence and impartiality, which is protected through arm's-length relationships.
- Department of Justice litigators appear before the courts and may also appear before other organizations within the portfolio. For example, counsel for the Department of Justice are frequently called upon to litigate human rights complaints before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, to which the Canadian Human Rights Commission is often also a party. The arm's-length nature of the relationships strengthens respect for the organizations' independence and impartiality where this is the case.



## Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions



**George Dolhai**  
Director

The Public Prosecution Service of Canada was created in 2006 under the [\*Director of Public Prosecutions Act\*](#) as part of the [\*Federal Accountability Act\*](#).

Prosecutors play a key role in the Canadian criminal justice system. This role is quasi-judicial in nature, imposing on prosecutors the duty to be objective, independent, and dispassionate. They must see that all cases deserving of prosecution are brought to trial and prosecuted with competence, diligence, and fairness. Prosecutors must be of integrity, above all suspicion, and must exercise the considerable discretion bestowed on them fairly, in good faith, and independent of partisan concerns or direction. While they must be advocates, their role is not to seek convictions at any cost, but to put before the court all available, relevant, and admissible evidence necessary to enable the court to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused.

The mandate of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada is set out in the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act*. The Act empowers the Director of Public Prosecutions to:

- initiate and conduct federal prosecutions;
- intervene in proceedings that raise a question of public interest that may affect the conduct of prosecutions or related investigations;
- issue guidelines to federal prosecutors;
- advise law enforcement agencies or investigative bodies on general matters relating to prosecutions and on particular investigations that may lead to prosecutions;
- communicate with the media and the public on all matters that involve the initiation and conduct of prosecutions;
- exercise the authority of the Attorney General of Canada in respect of private prosecutions; and



- exercise any other power or carry out any other duty or function assigned by the Attorney General of Canada that is compatible with the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Act also empowers the Director to:

- initiate and conduct prosecutions under the *Canada Elections Act*; and
- act, when requested by the Attorney General of Canada, in matters under the *Extradition Act* and the *Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act*.

With the exception of matters under the *Canada Elections Act*, the Attorney General of Canada can issue a directive to the Director of Public Prosecutions about a prosecution or even assume conduct of a prosecution but must do so in writing and a notice must be published in the Canada Gazette. In turn, the Director of Public Prosecutions must inform the Attorney General of any prosecution or planned intervention that may raise important questions of general interest.

The mission of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada is to serve the public by:

- prosecuting cases with diligence, in a manner that is fair, impartial, and objective;
- seeking to protect the rights of individuals and to uphold the rule of law; and
- working within the criminal justice system to help make Canada a safe and just society.

## Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs



**Marc A. Giroux**  
Commissioner

The Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs was established in 1978 pursuant to the *Judges Act* to safeguard judicial independence and to provide support and services to the federal judiciary. The judiciary is the third branch of government, and judicial independence is a constitutional principle. In enacting the *Judges Act*, Parliament recognized these principles and created a particular legislative regime for matters relating to the federal judiciary. The Act also stipulates, in section 74, that the Commissioner shall act as the deputy of the Minister of Justice in administering Part I of the Act.

The Office has a budget of over \$600 million and serves more than 1,200 federally appointed judges and 1,100 retired judges and their survivors. It administers the *Judges Act*, which oversees a range of areas including finance; compensation and benefits; language training; information management/information technology; international cooperation initiatives; and the operation of the Judicial Appointments Secretariat. It provides support to the Supreme Court of Canada appointments process and to the Judicial Compensation and Benefits Commission.

The Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs administers three distinct components, each funded from a separate source:

- Statutory funding is allocated for federally appointed judges' salaries, allowances and annuities and their surviving beneficiaries' benefits;
- Voted appropriations support the administrative activities of the Office of the Commissioner; and
- Separately voted appropriations fund the administrative activities of the Canadian Judicial Council.



The Office is headed by a full-time Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs, who is assisted by a full-time Deputy Commissioner, an Executive Director, Judicial Appointments and Senior Legal Counsel who administers 17 advisory committees responsible for judicial appointment nominations, a Finance, Administration & Strategic Planning Director, a Compensation, Benefits and Human Resources Director, as well as a Director for International Programs. The Commissioner also oversees an Executive Director and Senior Counsel for the Canadian Judicial Council.

## Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada



**Chantal Carbonneau**  
Registrar

The Registrar, who reports directly to the Chief Justice of Canada, is responsible for the management of the Court and exercises the quasi-judicial powers conferred by the [Supreme Court Act](#) and [Rules](#).

The Registrar's management responsibilities include the appointment and supervision of Court staff, the management of the Library and the Registry, and the publication of the [Canada Supreme Court Reports](#).

The Registrar and the Deputy Registrar are both appointed by the Governor in Council. The Court consists of approximately 200 employees, all of whom are members of the federal public service and work within one of the following sectors:

- the Court Operations Sector;
- the Communication and Outreach Services;
- the Corporate Services Sector; and
- the Judicial Support and Protocol Services Sector.



## Courts Administration Service



**Darlene Carreau**  
Interim Chief Administrator

The Courts Administration Service was established in 2003 with the coming into force of the [\*Courts Administration Service Act\*](#). The role of the Courts Administration Service is to provide effective and efficient registry and judicial and corporate services to four superior courts of record: the Federal Court of Appeal; the Federal Court; the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada; and the Tax Court of Canada.

The purpose of the Courts Administration Service is to:

- facilitate coordination and cooperation among the Courts for the purpose of ensuring effective and efficient provision of administrative services;
- enhance judicial independence by placing administrative services at arm's-length from the Government of Canada and by affirming the roles of Chief Justices and judges in the management of the Courts; and
- enhance accountability for the use of public money in support of court administration while safeguarding the independence of the judiciary.

Subsections 7(1), (2), (3) and (4) of the Act set out the powers, duties, and functions of the Chief Administrator of the Courts Administration Service as follows:

- The Chief Administrator is the Courts Administration Service's chief executive officer and has supervision over and direction of its work and staff;
- The Chief Administrator has all the powers necessary for the overall effective and efficient management and administration of all court services, including court facilities, libraries, corporate services, and staffing;



- The Chief Administrator, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the Courts, shall establish and maintain the registries and prepare budgetary submissions for the requirements of those courts and for the related needs of the Courts Administration Service; and
- The powers of the Chief Administrator do not extend to any matter assigned by law to the judiciary.

Subsection 9(1) of the Act states that a Chief Justice may issue binding directions in writing to the Chief Administrator with respect to any matter within the Chief Administrator's authority.

## Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada



**Orlando Da Silva**  
Chief Administrator

The Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada, which was established with the coming into force of the [\*Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada Act\*](#) on November 1, 2014, is responsible for providing support services and facilities to 11 federal administrative tribunals by way of a single, integrated organization. The ATSSC also supports the Environmental Protection Tribunal of Canada through a memorandum of understanding with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The supported tribunals are:

- Canada Agricultural Review Tribunal;
- Canada Industrial Relations Board;
- Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board;
- Canadian Human Rights Tribunal;
- Canadian International Trade Tribunal;
- Competition Tribunal;
- Public Servants Disclosure Protection Tribunal;
- Federal Public Sector Labour Relations and Employment Board;
- Social Security Tribunal;
- Specific Claims Tribunal Canada;
- Transportation Appeal Tribunal of Canada; and
- Environment Protection Tribunal of Canada.



## Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada



**Caroline Maynard**  
Information Commissioner

The Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada was established under the federal [Access to Information Act](#), which came into force in 1983. The Information Commissioner is an independent Agent of Parliament, appointed by the Governor in Council following approval of the nomination by resolutions of the Senate and the House of Commons.

The Information Commissioner of Canada has the responsibility to investigate complaints under the Act and submit an annual report to Parliament, through the offices of the speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons, on the activities of the Office within three months after the end of the fiscal year.

The Commissioner works independently from any other part of the government to investigate complaints from individuals with respect to the access to records held by federal government institutions.

Canadians, permanent residents and other individuals present in Canada may complain to the Commissioner about any matter specified in section 30 of the Act. The Act provides a right of access to records under the control of a federal institution, subject to some specific exclusions (e.g. Cabinet confidences) and exemptions (e.g. solicitor-client privileged communications).

The Commissioner has the power to summon witnesses, administer oaths and compel the production of evidence if voluntary cooperation is not forthcoming. Since 2019, the Commissioner also has order-making powers that allow her to, among other things, order the production of records if she concludes, in the course of her investigation, that the complaint is well-founded. Any matter that is subject of the complaint or of an order can be judicially reviewed by the Federal Court of Canada.



## Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada



**Philippe Dufresne**  
Privacy Commissioner

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada was established under the [Privacy Act](#), which came into force in 1983. The Privacy Commissioner is an independent Agent of Parliament, appointed by the Governor in Council following approval of the appointment by resolution of the Senate and the House of Commons.

The [Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act](#), which came into force in 2001, made the Privacy Commissioner responsible for implementing Part I of that Act.

The Privacy Commissioner of Canada has the responsibility to investigate complaints, publicly report on the personal information handling practices of public and private sector organizations, conduct research into privacy issues, and promote awareness and understanding of the protection of personal information and privacy issues by the Canadian public.

The Commissioner works independently from any other part of the government to investigate complaints from individuals with respect to the federal public sector and the private sector.

The Commissioner has the power to summon witnesses, administer oaths and compel the production of evidence if voluntary cooperation is not forthcoming.

The Commissioner can also ask the Federal Court to review a case where matters remain unresolved.

The Office submits an annual report to Parliament, through the offices of the speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons, on activities of the Office within three months after the end of the fiscal year.

### *The Privacy Act*

The *Privacy Act* is the law that governs the personal information handling practices of federal government institutions. The Act applies to all of the personal information federal institutions collect, use and disclose—be it about individuals or federal employees. The Act also gives individuals the right to access and request correction of personal information held by these federal government institutions.

Any individual may complain to the Commissioner about any matter specified in section 29 of the *Privacy Act*.

### *The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*

As the Minister responsible for the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*, the Minister of Industry recommends to the Governor in Council the adoption of Orders in Council under the Act and tables government bills in Parliament to amend the Act.

The Act applies to personal information collected, used or disclosed in the course of commercial activities by all private sector organizations in Canada, except in the provinces of Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta, which have enacted provincial private-sector privacy legislation that is deemed to be substantially similar to the federal law. Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador have also adopted substantially similar legislation regarding the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information.

Any individual may complain to the Commissioner about any matter specified in section 11 of the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*, and the Commissioner may himself initiate a complaint.

## Canadian Human Rights Commission



**Charlotte-Anne Malischewski**  
Interim Chief Commissioner

The Canadian Human Rights Commission was established in 1977 to administer the [Canadian Human Rights Act](#). The Act promotes equality of opportunity and protects individuals from discrimination based on a number of specifically prohibited grounds: race; national or ethnic origin; colour; religion; age; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; marital status; family status; genetic characteristics; disability; and conviction for an offence for which a pardon has been granted or in respect of which a record suspension has been ordered.

The Commission aims to discourage and reduce discriminatory practices by dealing with complaints of discrimination on the prohibited grounds enumerated in the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, including through alternative dispute resolution, especially mediation; raising public awareness of current and emerging human rights issues through policy development, education and engagement initiatives and research; and working closely with other levels of government, employers, service providers and community organizations to promote human rights principles.

The *Canadian Human Rights Act* provides for the Commission to be composed of a Chief Commissioner, a Deputy Chief Commissioner, two members referred to as the “Accessibility Commissioner” and the “Pay Equity Commissioner”, and no fewer than three or more than six members to be appointed by the Governor in Council. The Chief Commissioner and the Deputy Chief Commissioner are full-time members appointed for a term not exceeding seven years; part-time members are appointed for a term not exceeding three years.

The Commission also administers the [Employment Equity Act](#), the [Accessible Canada Act](#), and the [Pay Equity Act](#). The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate is also housed at the Commission and supports the Advocate in carrying out their mandate.



## Canadian Human Rights Tribunal



**Jennifer Khurana**  
Chairperson

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that inquires into complaints of discrimination referred to it by the Canadian Human Rights Commission and decides whether the conduct alleged in the complaint is a discriminatory practice within the meaning of the [Canadian Human Rights Act](#).

The Tribunal can also review directions and assessments made under the [Employment Equity Act](#). Moreover, under the [Pay Equity Act](#), the Pay Equity Commissioner may refer an important question of law or a question of jurisdiction, which would, in the Pay Equity Commissioner's opinion, be more appropriate for the Tribunal to determine. Finally, the Tribunal also has jurisdiction to hear appeals of the Accessibility Commissioner's decisions, as provided for by the [Accessible Canada Act](#).

The discriminatory practices outlined in the *Canadian Human Rights Act* are designed to protect individuals from discrimination, particularly in employment and in the provision of goods, services, facilities and commercial or residential premises. The Act applies to federally regulated employers and service providers, including federal government departments and agencies, federal Crown corporations, chartered banks, airlines, shipping and interprovincial trucking companies, telecommunications and broadcasting organizations, and First Nations governments and federally regulated Indigenous organizations.

Like a court, the Tribunal must be—and must be seen to be—impartial. It renders decisions that are subject to review by the Federal Court at the request of any of the parties. However, unlike a court, the Tribunal provides an informal setting where parties can present their case without adhering to complex rules of evidence and procedure. If the parties are willing, the Tribunal also offers mediation services to allow parties the opportunity to settle their dispute with the assistance of a Tribunal Member.



## Office of the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime



**Benjamin Roebuck**  
Ombudsperson

The Office of the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime was established by Order in Council in 2007 and the Ombudsperson is appointed by the Governor in Council.

The mandate of the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime, which focuses on matters of federal jurisdiction, including victims' concerns regarding federal corrections, is to:

- promote victims' access to existing federal programs and services for victims;
- address victims' complaints about compliance with the provisions of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* that apply to victims of crimes committed by offenders under federal jurisdiction;
- promote awareness of the needs and concerns of victims and the applicable laws that benefit victims of crime, including to promote the principles set out in the Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime, 2003, with respect to matters of federal jurisdiction, among criminal justice personnel and policy makers;
- identify and review emerging and systemic issues, including those issues related to programs and services provided or administered by the Department of Justice or the Department of Public Safety, that impact negatively on victims of crime; and
- facilitate victims' access to existing federal programs and services by providing them with information and referrals.

The Ombudsperson may commence a review of an issue at the request of the Minister of Justice or the Minister of Public Safety; on the Ombudsperson's own initiative; or at the request of a victim registered under the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* in respect of issues relating to the victim's entitlements under that Act or any victim, victim service organization or victim advocate regarding other matters within federal responsibility.

The Ombudsperson may issue reports, with or without recommendations, at any time concerning any review or other matter that is within the Ombudsperson's mandate to the Minister of Justice or the Minister of Public Safety, as appropriate. The Ombudsperson is required to submit an annual report on activities to the Minister of Justice, who will table the report before Parliament.

The Office of the Ombudsperson operates at arm's length from the Department of Justice and has an operating budget for accommodation, customary office expenses, translation, research, travel and consultations.

## Law Commission of Canada



**Shauna Van Praagh**  
President

The Law Commission of Canada is an independent body that provides non-partisan advice to the federal government on matters relating to the improvement, modernization and reform of Canadian laws. This advice includes the development of new approaches to the law and measures to make the legal system more efficient, economical and accessible.

First established as the Law Reform Commission of Canada in 1971 and re-established as the Law Commission of Canada in 1997, the Commission was revived in 2023.

Shauna Van Praagh was appointed President of the Law Commission of Canada on February 22, 2023, holding office for five years, effective June 6, 2023.

The Commission's President is required to submit to the Minister of Justice for tabling before Parliament an annual report on the Commission's activities.



## Special Advisor on Wrongful Convictions / Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission



**The Honorable Morris Fish, C.C., K.C.**  
Special Advisor

[Section 696.1 of the \*Criminal Code\*](#) currently provides that a person who has been convicted of an offence under a federal law or regulation and who has exhausted all appeals may apply to the Minister of Justice for a review of their conviction. Criminal conviction review is an important safeguard to protect those Canadians who may have experienced potential miscarriages of justice.

The Special Advisor on Wrongful Convictions has a mandate to review applications at the various stages of review and to provide independent expert legal advice directly to the Minister of Justice, including advice and recommendations on the appropriate remedy, if any. The current Special Advisor on Wrongful Convictions is Morris J. Fish.

Former Bill C-40, [Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission Act](#) (David and Joyce Milgaard's Law), received Royal Assent on December 17, 2024. Part XXI.1 of the *Criminal Code* is amended and a new Part XXI.2 is added establishing an independent Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission to replace the review process set out in Part XXI.1 with a process in which applications for reviews of findings and verdicts on the grounds of miscarriage of justice are made to the Commission instead of to the Minister. These amendments came into force on March 6, 2025, but the Commission is not yet operational.



## Courts

### Judicial Appointments

The Minister of Justice is responsible for making recommendations to the Governor in Council for the appointment of judges to the provincial and territorial superior courts and courts established federally under section 101 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*.

Recommendations for appointment of chief justices, associate chief justices, and judges of the Supreme Court of Canada are made by the Prime Minister of Canada. The Minister is supported in this function by the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs and by the Minister's Judicial Affairs Advisor.

The section 101 courts are as follows:

- Supreme Court of Canada;
- Federal Court of Appeal;
- Federal Court;
- Tax Court of Canada; and
- Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada.



## Supreme Court of Canada



**The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C.**  
Chief Justice of Canada

The Supreme Court of Canada is the country's final court of appeal, established in the [Supreme Court Act](#). It has jurisdiction for both the civil law of Quebec and the common law and assures uniformity, consistency and correctness in the articulation, development and interpretation of legal principles throughout the Canadian judicial system.

The Court hears cases on appeal from the provincial and territorial courts of appeal, the Federal Court of Appeal, and the Court Martial Appeal Court. In most cases, leave to appeal must be obtained first from a panel of three judges of the Court. In addition, the Governor in Council may refer important questions of law to the Court.

The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice of Canada and eight *puisne* justices appointed by the Governor in Council from among superior court judges or barristers of at least ten years of standing at the bar of a province or territory. The Chief Justice is sworn as a member of the Privy Council of Canada before taking the oath of office as Chief Justice. The Chief Justice is also the chairperson of the Canadian Judicial Council, which is constituted under the [Judges Act](#) and comprises all superior court chief justices and associate chief justices.

The current *puisne* justices are:

- The Honourable Andromache Karakatsanis;
- The Honourable Suzanne Côté;
- The Honourable Malcolm Rowe;
- The Honourable Sheilah L. Martin;
- The Honourable Nicholas Kasirer;
- The Honourable Mahmud Jamal;
- The Honourable Michelle O'Bonsawin; and
- The Honourable Mary T. Moreau.



## Federal Court of Appeal



**The Honourable Yves de Montigny**  
Chief Justice

The Federal Court of Appeal is a bijural court that hears civil law and common law cases in both official languages. The national jurisdiction of the Court is intended to ensure that federal legislation is applied uniformly while taking into consideration the private law in the province or territory where the litigation arises.

The Federal Court of Appeal hears appeals from judgments of the Federal Court and the Tax Court of Canada.

In addition, the Federal Court of Appeal hears judicial review applications with respect to federal boards, commissions and tribunals listed in the [Federal Courts Act](#). It also hears appeals pursuant to a variety of other federal legislation.

Under the *Federal Courts Act*, the Federal Court of Appeal consists of the Chief Justice, 14 *puisne* judges, and such supernumerary judges as are in office.



## Federal Court



**The Honourable Martine St-Louis**  
Acting Chief Justice

The Federal Court is a bijural and bilingual trial court with national jurisdiction. Geographically, the Court may sit anywhere in Canada and regularly conducts hearings and renders decisions in disputes across the country. Orders of the Court are binding in every province and territory, thus providing efficient, national coverage. The jurisdiction of the Federal Court is conferred by the [Federal Courts Act](#) and, at present, close to 100 other applicable federal statutes.

These give the Court authority to hear and decide cases in a number of broad categories, including jurisdiction to review the actions and decisions of most federal boards, commissions and administrative tribunals; Aboriginal law; maritime and admiralty law; intellectual property; national security; and citizenship, immigration and refugee law. Under the *Federal Courts Act*, the Federal Court consists of the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, 39 *puisne* judges, and such supernumerary judges as are in office.



## Tax Court of Canada



**The Honourable Gabrielle St-Hilaire**  
Chief Justice

The Tax Court of Canada is a superior court that hears appeals to settle disagreements between taxpayers and the Government of Canada on matters arising under legislation over which the Court has exclusive original jurisdiction. It is the first level of appeal for taxpayers and is independent from the Canada Revenue Agency and all other government departments. The bulk of the appeals to the Court relate to income tax, goods and services tax, and employment insurance.

The Court also hears references from the Canada Revenue Agency to provide interpretations of the legislation within its areas of jurisdiction.

The Court is a national court that regularly holds hearings in diverse locations across the country.

Under the [Tax Court of Canada Act](#), the Court consists of a Chief Justice, an Associate Chief Justice, 23 *puisne* judges, and such supernumerary judges as are in office.



## Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada

### **The Honourable Mary J. L. Gleason**

Chief Justice

The Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada hears appeals from decisions of Courts Martial, which are military courts established under the *National Defence Act*. The Courts Martial try military personnel and civilians accompanying such personnel abroad for crimes and offences against the Code of Service Discipline. The Code of Service Discipline includes crimes under the *Criminal Code*, the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, and other statutes.

The function of the Court is comparable to a civilian court of appellate criminal jurisdiction.

Pursuant to the *National Defence Act*, the Court Martial Appeal Court comprises at least four Judges of the Federal Court of Appeal or the Federal Court designated by the Governor in Council. The Governor in Council may also appoint to the Court Martial Appeal Court additional judges of a superior court of criminal jurisdiction (i.e., provincial and territorial courts of appeal and superior trial courts).



## Key Contacts

### Provincial-Territorial Justice Relations

#### Meetings of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety

The meeting of Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety is a forum where Ministers, accompanied by their respective Deputy Minister, work collaboratively on issues that address the concerns of Canadians in the areas of justice and public safety.

This meeting, held once or twice a year, allows Ministers to discuss justice and public safety issues and priorities requiring their direction or decision, such as Indigenous issues, bail, policing, court efficiency, drugs and issues of possession, family law, and legal aid. The last meeting took place in Kananaskis, Alberta, on October 17, 2025, to discuss shared priorities, including plans to strengthen the criminal law's responses to repeat and violent offending through changes to bail and sentencing reforms.

The Minister of Justice co-chairs the meeting with the Minister of Public Safety and the Minister of the province or territory where the meeting is held. These meetings often result in a joint public statement.

In addition to formal meetings, Ministers have held ad hoc meetings to respond to specific issues. The FPT Ministers' table held an ad hoc meeting on Canada's bail system in March 2023 and on hate crimes in November 2023 to address concerns raised by provincial and territorial colleagues.

#### Meetings of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Human Rights

FPT Ministers responsible for human rights meet every two years to discuss Canada's human rights priorities. The intent is to discuss current and emerging issues and priorities related to the implementation of international human rights in Canada and follow up on commitments from previous meetings.



Although the meeting is co-chaired by the Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages and a provincial-territorial co-chair, the Minister of Justice plays a key role given the responsibilities for human rights issues at the domestic and international level. The last meeting took place in September 2025, and the next meeting is expected to be held in May 2026 in Regina. These meetings often result in a joint public statement.

### **Bilateral Meetings with Ministers**

The Minister of Justice meets individually with the provincial and territorial Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General on priority files, usually at their request.

### **Bi-Annual Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Deputy Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety**

The Deputy Ministers responsible for Justice and Public Safety also meet twice a year to discuss emerging and ongoing issues of mutual concern, and to support FPT Ministers. The next meeting will take place on February 3 and 4, 2026.

Deputy Ministers also hold ad hoc meetings to respond to pressing issues. For example, the FPT Deputy Ministers' table held multiple hybrid meetings in the first year of the pandemic to ensure a cooperative approach to pressing issues and recently held a meeting to discuss tariffs.

### **Justice Federal, Provincial and Territorial Environment**

Regular meetings at the officials' level support the development of options for Deputy Ministers' and Ministers' consideration.

Discussions between FPT governments occur in a variety of structures, including both continuing and time-limited committees. For example:

- the Coordinating Committees of Senior Officials responsible for Criminal Justice, Youth Justice and Family Justice;
- the FPT Working Group on Victim Issues;
- the Liaison Officers Committee of the National Justice Statistics Initiative; and
- the FPT Permanent Working Group on Legal Aid.



Working groups may be established by Deputy Ministers or at the suggestion of Ministers. Mandates of all working groups and Coordinating Committees of Senior Officials are approved by FPT Deputy Ministers.

## Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General of Canada

<b>Government</b>	<b>Department or Ministry</b>	<b>Minister</b>	<b>Deputy Minister</b>
<b>Canada</b>	Justice and Attorney General	Sean Fraser	Marie-Josée Hogue
	Public Prosecution Service of Canada		George Dolhai, Director of Public Prosecutions
	Public Safety	Gary Anandasangaree	Tricia Geddes, Deputy Minister
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General	Helen Conway Ottenheimer	Gerrie Smith, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General	Bloyce Thompson	Jonah Clements, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	Justice and Attorney General	Scott Armstrong	Alex Ikejiani, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General
<b>New Brunswick</b>	Justice and Attorney General	Robert K. McKee	Michael Comeau, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General
	Public Safety and Solicitor General	Robert Gauvin	
<b>Québec</b>	Justice and Attorney General	Simon Jolin-Barrette	Yan Paquette, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General
	Criminal and Penal Prosecutions		Patrick Michel, Director of Criminal Prosecutions
	Public Security	Ian Lafrenière	Patrick Dubé, Deputy Minister



<b>Ontario</b>	Attorney General	Doug Downey	David Corbett, Deputy Attorney General
	Solicitor General	Michael Kerzner	Mario Di Tommaso, Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety  Erin Hannah, Deputy Solicitor General, Correctional Services
<b>Manitoba</b>	Justice and Attorney General	Matt Wiebe	Jeremy Akerstream, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	Justice and Attorney General	Tim McLeod	Kimberly Kratzig, Deputy Minister  Max Bilson, Deputy Attorney General
	Community Safety	Michael Weger	Denise Macza, Deputy Minister, Corrections, Policing and Public Safety
<b>Alberta</b>	Justice and Solicitor General	Mickey Amery	Malcolm Lavoie, Deputy Minister and Deputy Solicitor General
	Public Safety and Emergency Services	Mike Ellis	Justin Krikler, Deputy Minister
<b>British Columbia</b>	Attorney General	Niki Sharma	Barbara Carmichael, Deputy Attorney General
	Public Safety and Solicitor General	Nina Krieger	Tara Richards, Deputy Solicitor General
<b>Yukon</b>	Justice	Laura Lang	Mark Radke, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General



<b>Northwest Territories</b>	Justice	Jay McDonald	Charlene Doolittle, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General
<b>Nunavut</b>	Justice	George Hicke	Christine Ellsworth, Deputy Minister

## Justice-Related Organizations

Aside from the organizations listed below, there are a number of civil society organizations or other stakeholders that are regularly in contact with the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and the Department of Justice. These organizations are concerned with such matters as the needs of victims, human rights, civil liberties, and Indigenous rights.

### Judicial Organizations

#### Canadian Judicial Council

Chair: The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., C.J.C.

Director and General Counsel: M<sup>e</sup> Stéphanie Bachand

The Canadian Judicial Council comprises all superior court chief justices and associate chief justices (44 members). It was created to promote efficiency, uniformity and accountability, as well as to improve the quality of judicial service in the superior courts of Canada.

Pursuant to the [Judges Act](#), the Council has the responsibility of handling complaints against federally appointed judges. In the most serious cases of misconduct, the Council may recommend removal of a judge for office, reporting to this effect to the Minister of Justice.

The Council also plays a major role in judicial education through approval of educational seminars for funding under the *Judges Act*. It also takes positions on other matters affecting the judiciary, such as compensation.

The full Council meets twice a year, usually in the spring and fall. The Minister of Justice has always been invited to address both meetings.



## **Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association**

President: The Honourable Janet McMurtry, Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan

Executive Director: Stephanie Lockhart

The Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association represents approximately 1,400 *puisne* judges, sitting and retired, from the superior courts across Canada. The Association is the successor to the Canadian Judges Conference, which was founded in 1979, with a mandate to protect and enhance judicial independence, provide continuing education for judges, improve the administration of justice, and promote public understanding of the role judges play in the justice system. Membership is voluntary, but about 95 percent of all superior court judges are members of the Association.

The Association acts as the main representative of the *puisne* judges in interactions with the Government on major issues such as judicial compensation and policy reform. The Association and the Canadian Judicial Council have historically presented a joint position to the Judicial Compensation and Benefits Commission (the Quadrennial Commission), which conducts an inquiry into the adequacy of judicial compensation every four years. The most recent Quadrennial Commission report was submitted to the Minister of Justice on July 11, 2025, and the Government Response was published in November 2025.

## **Canadian Council of Chief Judges**

Chair: The Honourable Melissa Gillespie, Chief Judge, Provincial Court of

British Columbia (the position of Executive Director rotates among provincial chief judges)

The Canadian Council of Chief Judges is a non-statutory body whose membership comprises provincial and territorial chief judges and associate chief judges. While the organization may have similar interests to those of the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges, the members, as the judicial managers of the provincial courts, have distinct objectives and perspectives. Past issues of interest to the Council have included court structures, funding for judicial education, and consultations on criminal law reform.



## **Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges**

President: The Honourable James Rybchuk, Provincial Court of Saskatchewan

The Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges is a non-statutory association of provincially and territorially appointed judges. The Association is committed to the achievement of several primary objectives, which address the role of the provincial and territorial courts as integral players in the delivery of justice to Canadians. These include monitoring the status of provincially and territorially appointed judges; acting as an advisory and consultative body to governments and other agencies involved in reforming the system of justice; and being an educator and disseminator of information to judges across the country.

The Association acts as the primary representative of the provincial and territorial court judiciary in interactions with the Government. The Department of Justice consults regularly with the Association on the development of criminal law initiatives and on the implementation of programs that have implications for the provincial and territorial courts.

## **National Judicial Institute**

Chair: The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., C.J.C.

Vice-Chair: The Honourable Nicholas Kasirer

Chief Judicial Officer: The Honourable Tom Crabtree

Chief Executive Officer: Danielle May-Cuconato

Created in 1988, the National Judicial Institute is a not-for-profit, bilingual, and independent organization dedicated to developing and delivering educational programs to federal, provincial, and territorial judges. The Institute is judge-led; it is chaired by the Chief Justice of Canada and managed by a Board of Governors consisting of a vice-chair who is a judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, two provincial court judges, three federally appointed judges, and three academics. The Institute is the main provider of judicial education to the superior court judiciary and also offers programming to provincial and territorial court judges.

The Institute is recognized as a world leader in the design and delivery of judicial education, known for offering dynamic and relevant programming to judges in Canada, and has undertaken the coordination of the involvement of Canadian judges in providing judicial education internationally. Its International Cooperation Group has managed judicial reform projects that extend over several years in numerous countries, including Australia, Chile, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Peru, Rwanda, Scotland, Singapore, and Ukraine.



## Legal Profession Organizations

### Canadian Bar Association

President: M<sup>e</sup> Bianca Kratt

Chief Executive Officer: M<sup>e</sup> Steve Levitt

The Canadian Bar Association is a professional, voluntary organization that represents more than 40,000 lawyers, judges, notaries, law teachers and law students from across Canada.

The Association is particularly concerned about issues such as the rule of law, access to justice, funding for legal aid, and the independence of the legal profession. The Association has an ongoing interest in providing input to the Department of Justice Canada during the early stages of development of legislative proposals, in particular those relating to criminal law and youth justice.

### Federation of Law Societies of Canada

President: Louis-Martin Beaumont

Chief Executive Officer: Jonathan G. Herman

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada is the national coordinating body of Canada's 14 law societies, which are mandated by provincial and territorial statutes to regulate, in the public interest, the country's 136,000 lawyers, Quebec's 4,200 notaries, and Ontario's 10,600 licensed paralegals.

Currently, issues of interest to the Federation include wellness of the legal profession; lawyer mobility; solicitor-client privilege; law office searches; legal ethics; access to justice and improving access to legal services; reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; mandatory continuing professional development (accreditation); international trade agreements and legal services; international development projects; and combatting money laundering and terrorist financing.



## **Barreau du Québec**

Bâtonnier: M<sup>e</sup> Marcel-Olivier Nadeau

Acting Executive Director: M<sup>e</sup> Josée Roussin

The Barreau du Québec has more than 31,000 members. The Barreau monitors the practice of the profession in Quebec and promotes the rule of law.

The Barreau is active in providing input on various legislative initiatives, including amendments to the *Criminal Code* and related federal statutes. Historically, the Barreau has engaged bilaterally with the Minister of Justice or departmental officials. This practice is unique among Canadian law societies.

## **Criminal Lawyers Association**

President: Adam Weisberg

Executive Director (*Ex Officio*): John Chagnon

The Criminal Lawyers' Association (CLA) is one of the largest specialty legal organizations in Canada, with more than 1,800 members. The CLA is a voice for criminal justice and civil liberties in Canada. The CLA's advice and perspective relates to legislation, litigation, and the administration of criminal justice.

## **Law Enforcement Organizations**

Current issues of interest for law enforcement are as follows: bail reform; protests and demonstrations; combatting hate crimes; cybercrime and fraud; border security; organized crime; auto theft; firearms; illegal drugs; human trafficking; violent offenders; guns and gangs; and intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

## **Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police**

President: Commissioner Thomas Carrique, Ontario Provincial Police

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police is dedicated to the support and promotion of efficient law enforcement, as well as to the protection and security of the Canadian public. About 1,200 police chiefs across Canada are members, 500 of whom are active members. The Association committees liaise with various levels of government and departments having legislative and executive responsibility in law and policing.



## **Canadian Police Association**

President: Tom Stamatakis

The Canadian Police Association (CPA) is the national voice for 60,000 police personnel across Canada. Membership includes police personnel serving in 160 police services across the country, members of the RCMP, railway police, and First Nations police personnel. The CPA regularly provides expert testimony before parliamentary committees and facilitates discussions between its member associations and Parliamentarians in their constituencies, to offer localized policing perspective on significant issues of community safety.