



Court Case Management September 2012

Provincial Expansion

This fall, work continues on the Provincial expansion of Court Case Management. The project team is hard at work assisting Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Canmore and Airdrie with implementing CCM in their areas. This fall will see Case Management Offices open up in each of these areas. The Crown's offices in each location will begin using the Prosecutor Information System Manager (PRISM).

On August 13th and 14th, the CCM Provincial Expansion team facilitated a two day analysis session with members of Court Services, Criminal Justice, the Judiciary and Law Enforcement. This session was designed to review how CCM work processes will integrate in each area. The attendees were able to exchange ideas and suggestions with their colleagues that will allow them to successfully implement CCM in each of their respective locations.

Local Implementation Groups have been set up in the various locations. These groups are comprised of stakeholders with an interest in advancing the CCM initiatives. They will work together in the coming months to come up

with the solutions that will work best in their areas.



Provincial Expansion Analysis Session in Red Deer

CONTACT

If you have any questions about CCM, please contact **Tim Owens, Project Lead** at 780-937-7044 or email tim.owens@gov.ab.ca

For more information on CCM see our web page at www.albertacourts.ca

Special points of interest:

Provincial Expansion

CASS

New Brunswick delegation visits Edmonton

Benefits of CCM for defence

Medicine Hat Town Hall Meeting

A town hall meeting was held in Medicine Hat on September 5th with stakeholders from the Judiciary, Court Services, Prosecutions, law enforcement and defence counsel. The Honourable Judge Ted Fisher (right) and Wade Garner, Manager of Medicine Hat courthouse (left) welcomed the participants and provided an opportunity to get the latest on CCM over a pizza lunch.



CASS - Court Appearance Scheduling System

Court Services in Calgary and Edmonton have begun using the new CASS system for booking cases in Provincial Court Criminal. The first three versions of the system have been rolled out for use in these two centres. It is anticipated Wetaskiwin and Okotoks will soon begin using the system as well. As CCM expands to further locations in Alberta, Court Services in those locations will be able to incorporate the new booking technology. The most recent upgrades to the system rolled out in Calgary and Edmonton on September 11, 2012. These upgrades will take Court Services one more step forward in achieving an efficient and reliable tool for courtroom scheduling. The next release is anticipated in November 2012. It will provide even greater efficiencies for court staff with the elimination of some of the extra data entry involved in scheduling.

Defence Counsel Experiences Benefits of CCM

Sometimes the challenges that are presented with Court Case Management can eclipse the benefits. One such benefit has proven to be the flexibility that is built in to the assignment courts. It can prove to be a positive thing when unforeseen circumstances come up. Local defence counsel, Shannon Prithipaul, had one such experience in July. Mrs. Prithipaul appeared in court ready for her trial to commence when it was discovered that the Judge to whom her trial had been assigned, had been previously given a Charter notice for the same accused, but on an unrelated matter. It was necessary for the Judge to disqualify himself from hearing the trial that day. It appeared there would be no

other choice but to set a new trial date, greatly inconveniencing the accused who had travelled from Grande Prairie.

However the assigned Judge suggested putting the matter back into the assignment court to see if it could be heard somewhere else. As it turned out another courtroom had collapsed, and the matter was successfully completed before another judge the same day. Under the old system there would not have been the same central communication that is afforded under CCM. As Mrs. Prithipaul says, "I know you hear a lot about the system but I thought I should pass on my appreciation of what took place."



*Edmonton Defence Counsel
Shannon Prithipaul*

Things We're Working On

Work is continuing on the use of the OpenText solution for the document management processes within the Crown's office. The expected benefit of OpenText is the efficient management of the prosecution material by the Crown. It will improve the disclosure processes.

The Digital Evidence Transfer Pilot is proceeding between Justice and the Edmonton Police Service. Weekly meetings are held involving both parties to move the project ahead. Additional participants have been identified as observers of the project including Court Services, Calgary Police Service, Calgary Crown's office, Public Prosecutions Services of Canada, RCMP, probation and Specialized prosecutions in Edmonton, among others who would have a corollary interest in the project. The pilot execution is expected to occur September 24, 2012. The expected benefits from this initiative will include reduced costs for production of CDs and DVDs of video evidence, shorter delivery time of files, the ability of the Crown to receive files as they are created, and possible storage solution for digital media.

Visit From New Brunswick Delegation

The Court Case Management project has had the opportunity to showcase the initiatives that have been achieved in Alberta to visiting delegations from other provinces. In June, members of Court Services from British Columbia visited Calgary to get a first hand look at CCM processes and systems. The latest delegation came to Edmonton from the province of New Brunswick. On July 10th and 11th, Associate Chief Judge Pierre Arsneault of the Provincial Court of New Brunswick was accompanied by The Honourable Marie-Claude Blais, Q.C., Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Sergeant Tim Feeny of the RCMP,

Luc Labonte, Director of Public Prosecutions, David Leger, Director of Court Services and Ann McKay, Project Director. While in Edmonton they had an opportunity to meet with many of the CCM stakeholders. They toured the courthouse including the courtrooms and the CMO. They also met with defence representatives to hear the issues facing defence counsel as well as meeting with Crown Prosecutors who were able to provide information about Crown File Ownership and PRISM. Like many of the visitors before them, they were able to take away the great ideas that have been implemented in Alberta and insight into how the justice system can be improved in their own province.