

Justice and Public Safety

2011-2012 Budget Highlights

- An improved centralized 911 call answer service will be implemented in June 2011.
- The department budget will increase to support the first full year of operation of the new 48-bed addition to the Provincial Correctional Centre.
- The department will continue to work with Partners for Community Safety and other organizations to prevent crime and create environments where people feel safe and are safe.

The Department of Justice and Public Safety works toward the betterment of society by fostering safe communities, access to justice, and respect for the law.

Major accomplishments - 2007- 2011

A \$3.4 million dollar, 48-bed addition to the Provincial Correctional Centre was opened to house inmates serving weekend sentences.

Improved funding was provided for policing. A total of \$447,000 combined federal and provincial funds have been made available to fund Criminal Intelligence Service Prince Edward Island.

The province established a \$50,000 per year Municipal Police Training Fund.

Over \$200,000 was added to the RCMP 'L' Division budget allocation for the purpose of combating tobacco smuggling.

The department signed an RCMP First Nations Community Policing Agreement with Public Safety Canada and the Abegweit First Nation.

Amendments to the new *Police Act* were proclaimed.

Justice and Public Safety activities

2010-2011

- Over 42,000 bed days were served in adult custody facilities.
- Approximately 3,200 bed days were served in youth custody facilities.
- Over 860 new adult probation cases and 300 youth probation cases were opened.
- Victim Services added over 900 new cases to its caseload and carried over 600 cases.

2009-2010

- 5,193 adult and youth Criminal Code charges were laid.
- Approximately 1,300 criminal legal aid cases were conducted and closed.
- The Maintenance Enforcement Program managed 2,680 cases and collected and disbursed \$5.7 million.
- Approximately 32,700 emergency calls were received through the three 911 call centres in 2010.
- The department worked with federal partners on youth projects from 2008 to the present. Youth Addictions was allocated an average of \$160,000 per year, and Project Reclaim \$318,892 per year.

The Office of the Police Commissioner was established in 2010 to provide for civilian oversight of police services on Prince Edward Island.

The 911 service was enhanced. Technology is now in place that can determine and display the approximate location of a cell phone from which an emergency 911 call is placed. A new centralized 911 call answer service will be implemented soon.

Improvements to Legal Aid have been implemented with a 28 per cent increase in legal aid funding. A new family and legal aid staff lawyer has been hired in Summerside, and an after-hours duty counsel phone service has been established.

Child-friendly waiting rooms have been set up in courthouses, as well as a closed-circuit television system that allows vulnerable witnesses to testify remotely. Courthouse security has been enhanced through new metal detectors.

Significant improvements have been made to the Maintenance Enforcement Program, including the development of a new Maintenance Enforcement Program interactive website. An automated case tracking system has been introduced in the Administrative Recalculation Office. A modern payment processing system has been introduced that will make service to Maintenance Enforcement Program clients more efficient and convenient. As well, two additional Maintenance Enforcement Officer positions have been created.

A 2007 profile of Island youth in conflict with the law revealed significant substance use and abuse among this group. In response, the department implemented a three-year initiative to improve supports for youth struggling with substance abuse. Project RESIST provided training for over 400 government and community people who work with youth. This training is helping them to better meet the needs of youth and families dealing with substance use. It is improving their ability to intervene early, stop substance abuse and criminal behavior, and reduce the number of youth entering the adult justice system.

For the past three years, an annual Youth Summit has been held to bring together professionals who work with youth across government departments and in the community.

Several pieces of significant legislation were developed and proclaimed over the past four years, including:

Domestic Relations Act—ensuring equal rights for same sex couples (passed)

Gift Card Act—enhanced consumer protection (passed)

Judicature Act—modernizing our courts legislation (passed)

Payday Loans Act—enhancing consumer protection (awaiting proclamation)

Pension Benefits Act—provides standards to protect plan members and beneficiaries (First Reading)

Police Act—modernizing policing services legislation (amended)

Securities Act—protecting investors (passed)

Volunteer Liability Act—ensures Ground Search and Rescue Volunteers enjoy the same insurance coverage as volunteer firefighters (amended)

| Justice and Public Safety Budget 2011-2012 | | |
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| Community and Correctional Services | \$14.46 million | 34% |
| Provincial Policing Services (RCMP) | \$13.17 million | 31% |
| Legal and Court Services* | \$10.31 million | 24% |
| Office of Public Safety | \$2.05 million | 4.8% |
| Consumer, Corporate and Insurance | \$1.16 million | 2.7% |
| Policy, Policing and Crime Prevention | \$1.07 million | 2.5% |
| Administration | .23 million | .5% |
| * Includes Legal Aid, Crown Attorneys and Legislative Counsel | | |