



# MEDIA STATEMENT

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

September 9, 2016

16-18

### **B.C.'s Prosecution Service Strives for Continuous Improvement**

**Victoria** - Today, the Criminal Justice Branch released materials that highlight its ongoing efforts to improve service delivery:

- “*Championing Positive Change*” – a review of the B.C. Prosecution Service;
- its 2016 – 2019 Strategic Plan, and
- its Annual Report for the past fiscal year (2015/16).

### **Championing Positive Change**

In 2016, the Branch retained Murray Segal to conduct an independent review of the B.C. Prosecution Service. Mr. Segal is a former Ontario deputy attorney general and Ontario deputy minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. He has also served as head of Ontario's prosecution service.

Mr. Segal was asked to complete a cross-jurisdictional review of other prosecution models, to do a comparative analysis between those models and the B.C. Prosecution Service, and to report on possible areas of improvement to the way services are delivered here in BC. Mr. Segal was also asked to comment on the pace of change, identify weaknesses in the Branch's approach, and make recommendations for improvement.

In his report, Mr. Segal concludes that the “*BC Prosecution Service ... is a highly functioning, committed and exemplary service. It has a thoughtful, reflective and planned approach. It is strongly committed to moving forward. It is at the top of prosecution services in relation to innovation, collaboration, communication, efficiency and continuous improvement*”.

Nonetheless, Mr. Segal has made a number of recommendations for improvement. He sees these as steps the Branch “*could and should take to engage staff, strengthen its structure, operate more efficiently and allocate resources effectively*”. Areas identified for improvement include criminal case disclosure processes, more effective use of technology, increased timeliness and efficiency, major case management, policy development related to Indigenous

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### **Branch Vision**

***Courageous, Fair and Efficient – A Prosecution Service that has the Confidence of the Public.***

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peoples, mental health and domestic violence, enhanced collaboration with justice system participants and issues related to staffing and greater workforce support.

The Branch welcomes Mr. Segal's report and his recommendations. The Branch will review the recommendations and prioritize its response over time, based on workability, alignment with the Branch's strategic direction and resource capacity. Mr. Segal's report will inform the Branch's long-term planning.

### **2016/17 – 2018/19 Strategic Plan**

The Branch's Strategic Plan establishes a clear road map for operational and justice reform priorities over the next three years. In addition to its primary mandate of prosecutions and appeals, the Branch will concentrate on three key priorities:

- Launch of a Comprehensive Disclosure Strategy aimed at enhancing efficiencies and relieving workload pressures associated with disclosure for both the Branch and police. This Strategy is being developed in partnership with the Policing and Security Branch (Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General);
- Ongoing implementation of continuous improvement activities that are focused on enhancing and streamlining Branch administrative business processes; and,
- Monitoring and reviewing progress made on the Branch's 2012-2015 reform efforts, including Enhanced Crown File Ownership and Quality Standards.

### **2015/16 Annual Report**

The Annual Report provides access to key operational data from the B.C. Prosecution Service, including the volume of prosecutions that were initiated and concluded within the 2015/16 fiscal year. Specific analysis is also provided for impaired driving offences, domestic violence offences, peace officer-involved offences, and cases involving child and youth victims. Finally, the Annual Report includes a series of Key Performance Indicators, which help the Prosecution Service measure progress towards its goals.

Mr. Segal's [report](#), the [Strategic Plan](#) and the 2015/16 [Annual Report](#) are each available on the Branch's Internet site.

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To learn more about B.C.'s criminal justice system visit the British Columbia Prosecution Service website at: [www.gov.bc.ca/prosecutionservice/](http://www.gov.bc.ca/prosecutionservice/)