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## ADAG Stepping Down

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that Assistant Deputy Attorney General (ADAG), Peter Juk KC, will retire from the BC public service, stepping down as head of the BCPS effective March 15, 2024.

This is part of a statement he made to all lawyers and professional staff at BCPS:

*"It has been my privilege to lead the BCPS as ADAG for more than seven years. During my time as ADAG, the BCPS has had some notable accomplishments. We developed and implemented an Indigenous Justice Framework, which has changed for the better the way prosecutors and professional staff deal with Indigenous Peoples. We have taken strong steps towards gender equity and a more diverse and inclusive workplace.*

*We worked with police agencies and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada to implement a new Memorandum of Understanding on disclosure. We have worked with the Provincial Court of BC and other justice system participants to modernize bail processes across the province. We have developed and are currently implementing a nation-leading Digital Evidence Management System. We have also grown significantly, adding lawyers and staff in all parts of the organization and all parts of the province.*

*During my time as ADAG, we have also faced some truly unprecedented challenges, particularly in the last several years. The COVID pandemic forced everyone in the criminal justice system to change, quickly and fundamentally, the practice of criminal law. Criminal Code and caselaw changes have made criminal cases more complex, and more difficult to prosecute, particularly serious cases like sexual offences, which make up an ever-growing proportion of our files. In the aftermath of the pandemic, the addiction, mental health, and housing crises, have all added to a growing sense of public disorder and to concerns for personal safety,*

*increasing the demands on the criminal justice system to try to fill gaps left by other sectors.*

*In the face of these challenges, I have always been able to count on the professionalism and dedication of BCPS personnel to keep advancing the public interest in the important and difficult work we do. I am confident the BCPS is well positioned to continue fulfilling its statutory and constitutional mandate as an independent prosecution service."*

The Ministry of Attorney General will initiate a recruitment process to choose a successor to Mr. Juk later this year.

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To learn more about BC's criminal justice system, visit the British Columbia Prosecution Service website at: [gov.bc.ca/prosecutionservice](https://gov.bc.ca/prosecutionservice) or follow [@bcprosecution](https://twitter.com/bcprosecution) on X.