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25-19

## BC Prosecution Service releases the 2024/25 Annual Report

**Victoria** – Today, the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) released its 2024/25 Annual Report, which provides information about:

- the role of the BCPS and Crown Counsel and the values that guide our work
- the regional and operational divisions of BCPS
- BCPS operational data, including comparison data for the last five fiscal years and office-level data about charge assessment decisions, active prosecutions, and concluded prosecutions in fiscal 2024/25
- the criminal justice process

The Annual Report also provides information on the BCPS budget, innovations and accomplishments, and awards and achievements of our people.

Media Contact:       Damienne Darby  
                              Communications Counsel  
                              [bcpsmedia@gov.bc.ca](mailto:bcpsmedia@gov.bc.ca)  
                              236.468.3832

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



# Prosecution Service

# Annual Report 2024/25

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## Message from the Head of the BC Prosecution Service

It was my honour this year to be officially appointed as the Head of the BC Prosecution Service and Assistant Deputy Attorney General and to unveil our 2025-28 strategic plan centred around “an independent and impartial prosecution service that pursues justice and respect for the rule of law.”



In keeping with our new motto “Independent, Principled & Resolute”, the BCPS serves all British Columbians when dealing with the numerous challenges the criminal justice system faces. These include repeat offending, gender-based violence, increasing volumes of electronic evidence, including from police body-worn cameras. Case volumes vary from year to year, but individual cases are generally becoming more complex, requiring more time and attention.

Under the [Crown Counsel Act](#), Crown Counsel in British Columbia are responsible for assessing charges submitted by investigative agencies, guided by the BCPS's *Charge Assessment Guidelines* ([CHA 1](#)).

Once police complete their investigation, Crown Counsel apply the substantial likelihood of conviction standard in conducting charge assessments before judges and juries are called upon to consider the highest legal standard of all – proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

The long-standing framework of Crown charge assessment and related disclosure agreements mean that:

- Investigators have clear expectations, informed by the scrutiny the courts will ultimately apply.
- There is an informed, professional, and independent assessment of the strength of the case and the public interest, free from any extraneous considerations.
- Court delays are minimized by ensuring the case is ready to proceed when charges are laid.
- Cases are more likely to end with convictions and fewer are ended prematurely because of deficiencies.
- Police, prosecution, and court resources are expended more efficiently.

Under this framework, the BCPS retains the ability to respond immediately to accused arrested by the police and brought before the courts and, when appropriate, to assess the case on a lower reasonable prospect of conviction standard.

In the past fiscal year, Crown Counsel approved charges in three-quarters of cases and completed that assessment within 30 days in 76% of cases. Four percent of cases were returned to police for further work.

The BCPS is working on responses to the [final report](#) from Dr. Kim Stanton's systemic review of the BC legal system's treatment of intimate partner violence and sexual violence. We have already acted on one recommendation by clarifying our complaint procedure and providing an online form for persons affected by a prosecution.

New guidance has also been provided to Crown Counsel to consider whether to apply to revoke bail after conviction under a revised *Bail – Adults* policy ([BAI 1](#)). Crown Counsel must operate within the parameters of existing legislation, which presumptively continues the same bail status pending sentencing. Should Parliament amend the *Criminal Code* to change that process, the BCPS will be ready to act.

This Annual Report details out the work done by dedicated Crown Counsel and professional staff through an overview of our mandate, detailed statistical and financial reporting and regional profiles. I hope it provides the reader with a better understanding of our role and operations.

## About the BC Prosecution Service

### Vision

An independent and impartial prosecution service that pursues justice and respect for the rule of law.

### Mission

We conduct principled and fair charge assessments and prosecutions.

### Values

These values guide the BC Prosecution Service in everything we do:

- **Independence**

The BC Prosecution Service approaches the challenging nature of our work with resolve and integrity.

- **Fairness**

The BC Prosecution Service pursues our work impartially, with an open mind, and makes principled decisions.

- **Reconciliation**

The BC Prosecution Service is committed to reconciliation, building trust, and promoting better relationships with Indigenous peoples.

- **Respect**

The BC Prosecution Service promotes a healthy work environment where all are valued, respected, and supported.

## ***Crown Counsel Act***

The mandate of the BC Prosecution Service, which is the Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General, is defined by the [Crown Counsel Act](#), RSBC 1996 Chapter 87. Under the [Crown Counsel Act](#), the BCPS:

- a) approves and conducts prosecutions of all criminal and provincial offences in British Columbia;
- b) initiates and conducts all appeals and other proceedings for these prosecutions;
- c) conducts appeals or other proceedings for prosecutions in which the Crown is named as a respondent;
- d) advises the government on all criminal law matters;
- e) develops policies and procedures for the administration of criminal justice in British Columbia;
- f) interacts with the media and affected members of the public on matters respecting the approval and conduct of prosecutions or related appeals; and,
- g) carries out any other function or responsibility assigned by the Attorney General (AG).

The Head of the BC Prosecution Service (H-BCPS), as Assistant Deputy Attorney General, is charged with its administration and with carrying out its mandate as outlined above. The H-BCPS designates lawyers as “Crown Counsel”, who represent the Crown in all provincial prosecution-related matters before all levels of court. Subject to the H-BCPS’s direction, Crown Counsel are authorized to:

- Examine all relevant information and documents and, following the examination, to approve for prosecution any offences they consider appropriate;
- Conduct the prosecutions approved; and,
- Supervise prosecutions of offences that are being initiated or conducted by individuals who are not Crown Counsel and, if the interests of justice require, intervene, and conduct those prosecutions.

The AG is ultimately responsible for prosecutions falling within provincial jurisdiction and must fulfill this constitutional role judicially, in a manner that is independent from the political side of governing. In British Columbia, the [Crown Counsel Act](#) gives the H-BCPS effective responsibility for the administration of all prosecutorial functions, subject to specific directions from the AG. Daily prosecution functions are carried out by Crown Counsel.

In carrying out these functions, Crown Counsel have legal and constitutional obligations to act as “ministers of justice”, exercising their prosecutorial discretion independently of government and police, and without regard for inappropriate pressure from any quarter. They must follow the law, as set out in the federal [Criminal Code](#), and interpreted by BC’s courts and the Supreme Court of Canada. They are assisted and guided in this task by BCPS [policy](#), which directly reflects the prevailing legislation and caselaw.

Political, personal, and private considerations must not affect the way prosecutors conduct their cases. The role of prosecutor excludes any notion of winning or losing. It is a public function carrying with it great personal responsibility, and it must be carried out efficiently, with a sense of dignity, seriousness, and justice.

### Role of Crown Counsel and Prosecutorial Independence

Crown Counsel’s paramount duty is to see justice done in each case. Crown Counsel do not represent individual victims. When a crime is committed, it is a crime against society as a whole and Crown Counsel perform their function on behalf of the entire community. In practice, this means that while Crown Counsel conduct prosecutions vigorously, their first duty is to ensure the trial process is fair, the evidence is presented thoroughly and accurately, and the integrity of the justice process is maintained. Crown Counsel are entrusted with the prosecution of all offences and appeals in British Columbia which arise under Canada’s [Criminal Code](#) and do not fall within the jurisdiction of the federal prosecution service (e.g., prosecutions under the [Controlled Drugs and Substances Act](#)). They also prosecute provincial regulatory offences.

British Columbia is one of three provinces in Canada where prosecutors decide whether criminal charges should be laid before a matter enters the court system. Police services and other investigative agencies prepare a Report to Crown Counsel (RCC) setting out the evidence relating to an alleged offence. Crown Counsel independently assess whether charges should be laid, based on the whole of the available evidence contained in the RCC.

The charge assessment guidelines that Crown Counsel must apply in reviewing all RCCs are established by the *Charge Assessment Guidelines* ([CHA 1](#)) policy.

When charges are approved, the charge assessment standard continues to apply throughout the prosecution. If the standard for continuing a prosecution is no longer met, Crown Counsel must end the prosecution.

Pre-approval of charges by Crown Counsel ensures, as much as reasonably possible, that only viable cases proceed to court and that they are completed in a timely way. Oversight of the charging process by Crown Counsel also acts as a safeguard against miscarriages of justice.

The Supreme Court of Canada recently underlined the importance of Crown Counsel's independence from the police. Crown Counsel's role is:

*...to assess whether a prosecution is in the public interest and, if so, to carry out that prosecution in accordance with the prosecutor's duties to the administration of justice and the accused. ... "Prosecutors provide the initial checks and balances to the power of the police". ... Independent prosecutorial review of the police's investigative process and decisions helps "ensure that both investigations and prosecutions are conducted more thoroughly, and thus more fairly" ... (Ontario (Attorney General) v Clark, 2021 SCC 18, at paragraph 41 to 44)*

### Role of Special Prosecutors

When there is a significant potential for perceived or real improper influence in prosecutorial decision-making in a given case, a Special Prosecutor may be appointed to conduct the charge assessment and any ensuing prosecution and appeal. Special Prosecutors are appointed from a list of senior lawyers in private practice, which is reviewed every five years. Only the H-BCPS has authority to appoint Special Prosecutors under the [Crown Counsel Act](#). The paramount consideration is the need to maintain public confidence in the administration of criminal justice.

Once appointed, Special Prosecutors perform the same role as regular Crown Counsel. They do not initiate, lead, or control police investigations and they must adhere to the policies of the BCPS when conducting their cases, including the charge assessment guidelines. However, they carry out their functions with greater independence from the BCPS.

## The Criminal Justice Process

This section provides a summary of the criminal justice process in British Columbia and statistics on the work of the BCPS. The data source for the statistics, unless otherwise noted, is the Justice Information System (JUSTIN), a case management system that is used by investigative agencies, Crown Counsel, and the courts in British Columbia.

The BCPS has developed some key performance indicators (KPIs) which help assess and measure performance:

- Judicial Stays of Proceedings (for delay only)
- Charge Assessment Duration
- Prosecution File Duration
- Percent of all files and percent of intimate partner violence-related files that resolve at or before arraignment
- Workforce Engagement Score

These KPIs are noted within the following tables, except for the Workforce Engagement Score, which is included in the financial summary.

### Investigations

The BCPS works with numerous investigative agencies with diverse mandates. Over 80 percent of RCCs are submitted by police agencies. Most of the remaining RCCs are submitted by BC Corrections, with less than one percent being submitted by other types of investigative agencies, such as the BC Conservation Officer Service and financial regulators.

When an alleged crime is reported to an investigative agency, or the agency itself identifies a possible offence, the agency will investigate and decide whether the incident warrants forwarding a RCC with recommended charges to the BCPS. Crown Counsel do not investigate offences. It is the responsibility of the investigative agency, which functions independently from the BCPS, to investigate and exercise its own discretion in deciding whether to forward a RCC for charge assessment and prosecution.

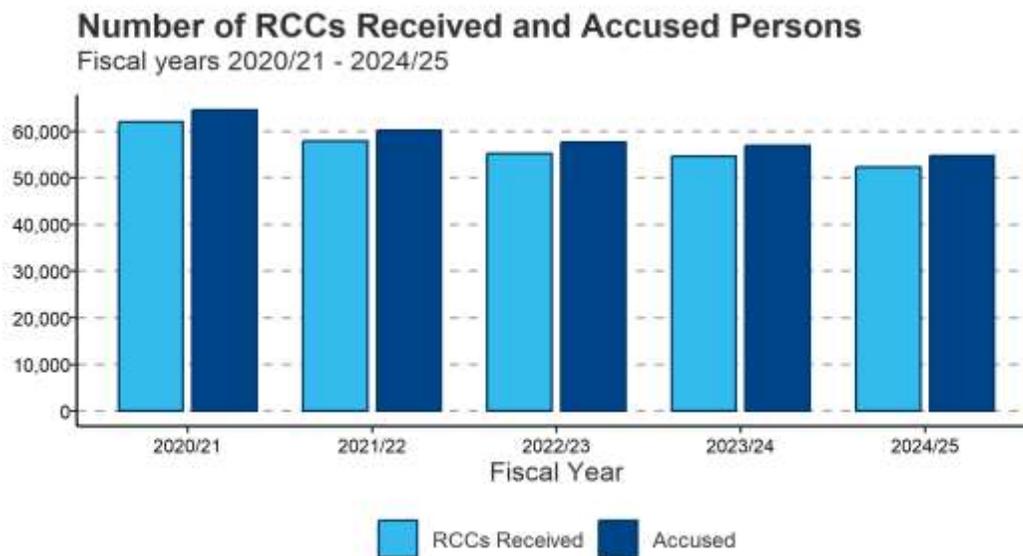
## Charge Assessments

When Crown Counsel receive a RCC, they assess whether charges should be approved in accordance with the [CHA 1](#) policy, which lays out the charge approval standard. That standard requires Crown Counsel to independently, objectively, and fairly measure all the available evidence against a two-part test:

1. Whether there is a substantial likelihood of conviction; and, if so,
2. Whether the public interest requires a prosecution.

Crown Counsel complete charge assessments as quickly as they can, while still conducting a thorough analysis and making a principled decision. For more complex cases, the charge assessment process may take longer. Crown Counsel may decide that charges should or should not be laid, or that the accused person should be referred for alternative measures.

**Figure 1: Number of RCCs Received and Accused Persons**



For the most recent fiscal year, the volume of RCCs received was 7.2% below the average of the five fiscal-year periods, reflecting post-COVID trends. The BCPS received a total of 52,353 RCCs from investigative agencies in 2024/25, a decrease of 4.1% from 2023/24. As outlined later, the number of active files remains constant, suggesting that each file is more complex and requires more resources despite the decrease in overall volume. The RCCs received had a total of 54,708 accused persons named, 4.5% of whom were young persons (12 to 17 years of age on the offence date). The percentage of all accused named on RCCs received involving young persons has remained stable over the last several years.

**Table 1: RCCs Received and Accused Persons**

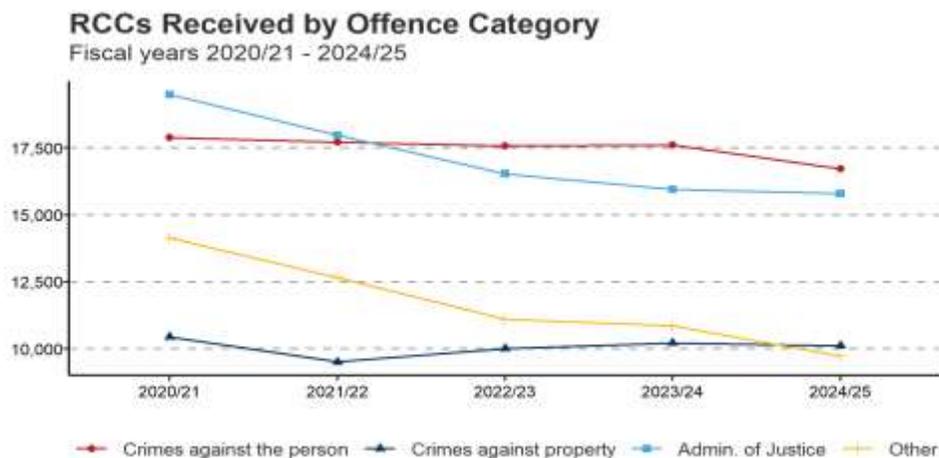
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>RCCs Received</b>	<b>61,973</b>	<b>57,861</b>	<b>55,222</b>	<b>54,616</b>	<b>52,353</b>
<b>Accused</b>	<b>64,573</b>	<b>60,208</b>	<b>57,609</b>	<b>56,973</b>	<b>54,708</b>
Adult %	97%	97%	96%	95%	95%
Youth %	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%
<b>Accused In Custody</b>	<b>12,681</b>	<b>11,566</b>	<b>11,253</b>	<b>12,319</b>	<b>11,965</b>
Accused In Custody %	20%	19%	20%	22%	22%

Source: JUSTIN database (extracted July 23, 2025)

An RCC is counted once based on the date it was first entered in JUSTIN, regardless of the number of accused persons, number of charges, or number of counts. An accused is counted as being in custody on an RCC if the 'in-custody' flag is active in JUSTIN upon receipt of a new RCC. Please note that since this data is based on RCCs captured in JUSTIN, it excludes work done on files where an official RCC has not been received from police, or where the file is originally civil in nature, such as the prosecution for contempt of court arising from a breach of a civil court order. Contempt of court prosecutions can require a significant amount of Crown and administrative resources that are not captured in our data.

This trend of decreasing RCC counts began as a result of societal changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and has persisted through the most recent fiscal year. Although the decrease in RCC counts has been observed in all offence categories, RCCs for crimes against the person remained fairly stable during the five-year decreasing trend and have only now started to show a noticeable decrease in the last fiscal year. Crimes against property have seen the smallest net decrease (See Figure 2).

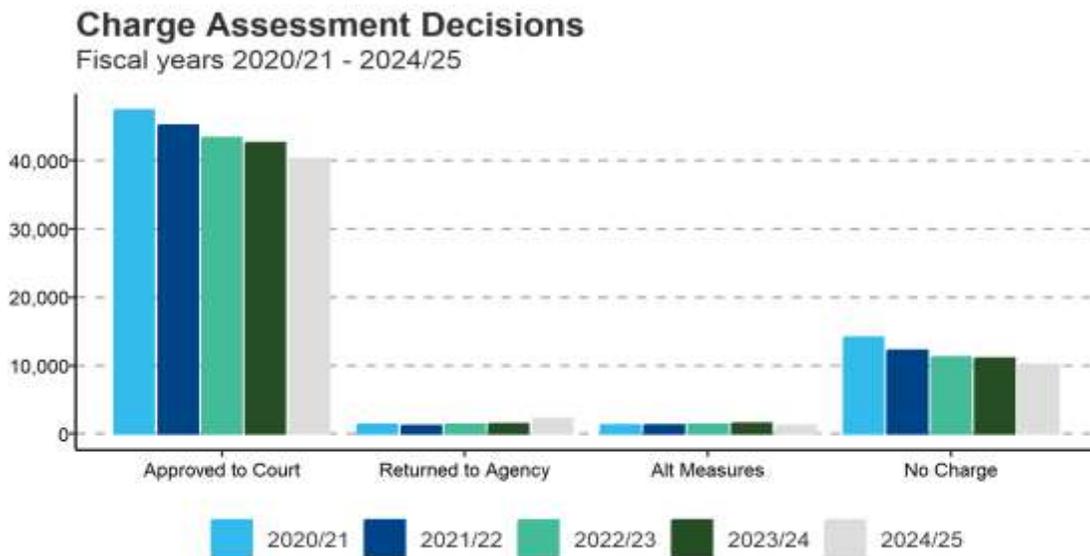
**Figure 2: RCCs Received by Offence Category**



## Charge Assessment Decisions

When a decision is made to approve charges, a new prosecution file (or multiple prosecution files) will be initiated. In 2024/25 there were a total of 53,782 charge assessment decisions made for accused named on RCCs, a decrease of 5.0% from the previous fiscal year. A total of 40,276 accused persons had charges approved, resulting in a 75% approval rate, which is consistent with previous years.

**Figure 3: Charge Assessment Decisions**



**Table 2: Charge Assessment Decisions**

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>Charge Assessment Decisions</b>	<b>64,201</b>	<b>59,894</b>	<b>57,278</b>	<b>56,603</b>	<b>53,782</b>
% Alt Measures	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
% Approved to Court	74%	75%	76%	75%	75%
% No Charge	22%	20%	20%	20%	19%
% Returned to Agency	2%	2%	2%	3%	4%

Source: JUSTIN database (extracted July 23, 2025)

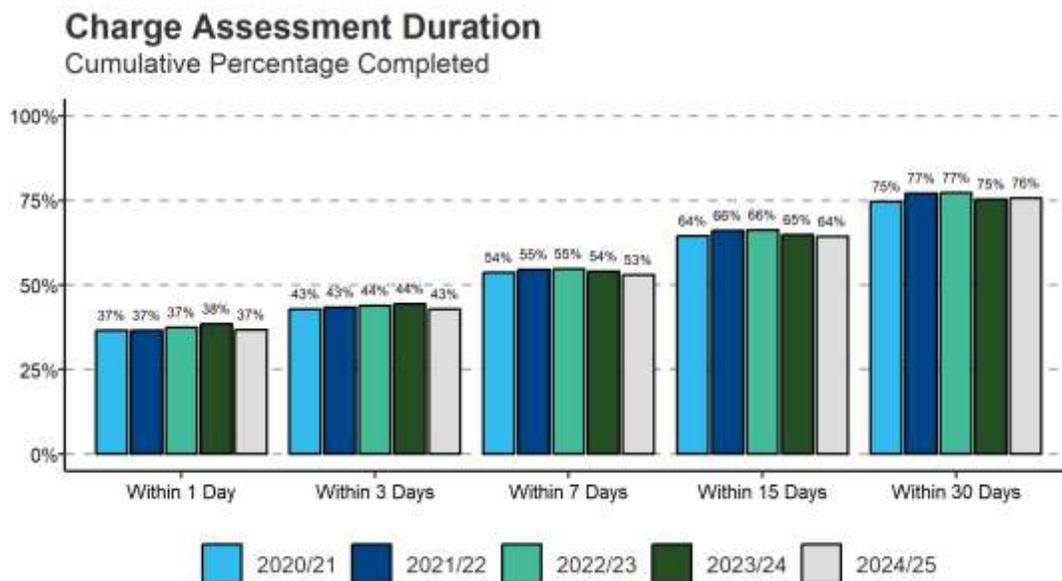
Charge assessment decisions are counted once for each accused person named on RCCs received in the fiscal year. If an accused person has at least one charge approved by Crown Counsel, the charge decision is recorded as 'Approved to Court'.

## Charge Assessment Duration

This key performance indicator measures how many days it takes Crown Counsel to complete charge assessment, from the date an RCC is received to the date Crown Counsel makes a charge decision.

There have been no notable trends in the amount of time that Crown Counsel are taking to make and record charge assessment decisions in the last five fiscal years. Figure 4 shows the time taken for charge assessment decisions over the previous five fiscal years.

**Figure 4:** Time to Charge Assessment Decisions



## Prosecutions and Appeals

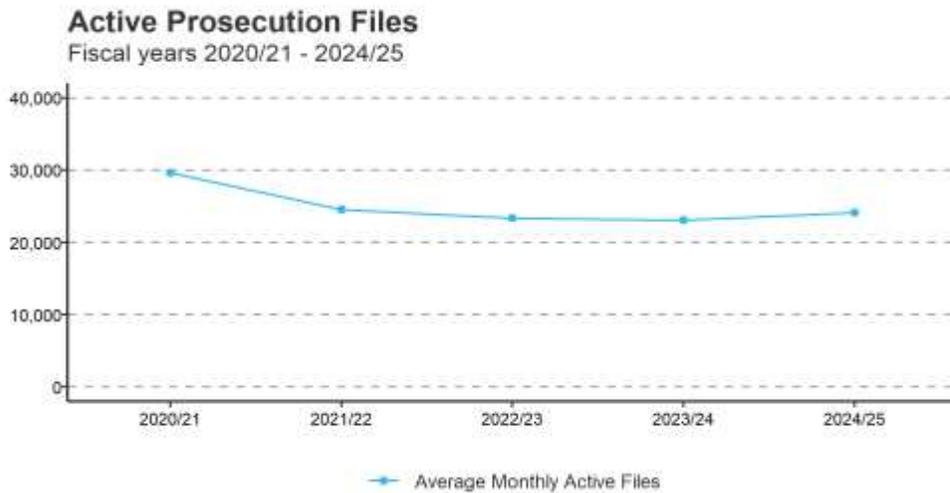
Crown Counsel conduct prosecutions and appeals in every level of court: the Provincial Court of British Columbia, the British Columbia Supreme Court, the British Columbia Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court of Canada.

When doing so, they are bound by the legal principles contained in the [Criminal Code](#), as interpreted and applied by the courts of British Columbia and the Supreme Court of Canada. Crown Counsel's decision-making must also be informed by and consistent with the constitutional rights guaranteed under the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#).

## Active Prosecutions

The number of active prosecutions being handled by BCPS is an indicator of resource sufficiency for BCPS and the broader justice sector (e.g. a growing active file count could indicate insufficient resources). While 2020/21 saw a significant jump in the active file count as a result of interruptions due to COVID-19, the active file count has since fallen back to pre-pandemic levels.

**Figure 5:** Active Prosecution Files



## Concluded Prosecutions

A total of 40,605 prosecutions were concluded in 2024/25. Concluded file volumes have decreased proportionately with the decrease in the number of RCCs that have been received.

**Table 3:** Concluded Prosecutions

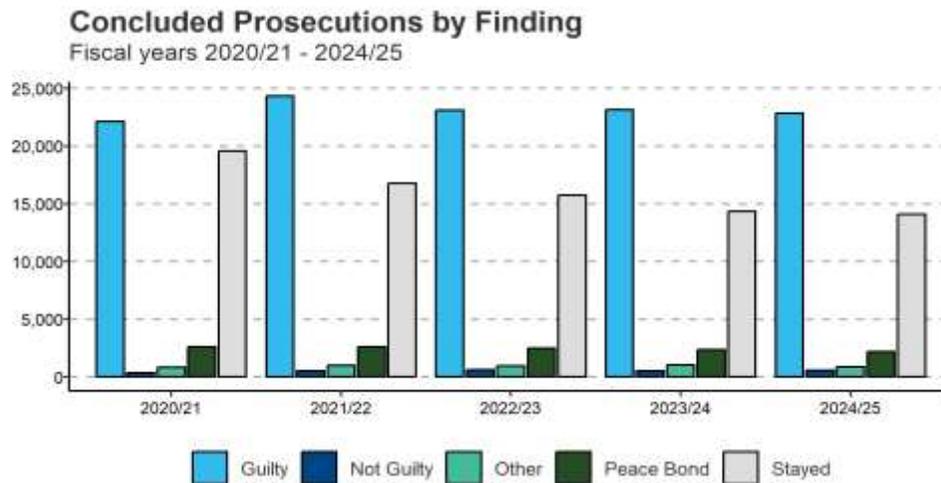
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>Concluded Prosecutions</b>	<b>45,528</b>	<b>45,250</b>	<b>42,940</b>	<b>41,428</b>	<b>40,605</b>
Adult	44,000	43,970	41,676	39,751	38,858
Youth	1,528	1,280	1,264	1,677	1,747

Source: JUSTIN database (extracted July 23, 2025)

A concluded prosecution is counted once for each accused person on a file that concluded in the fiscal year. If an accused person was on more than one file that concluded in the fiscal year, they are counted each time.

Figure 6 shows statistics related to the outcomes of concluded prosecutions. In 2020/21 (COVID-19), the proportion of guilty findings dropped by approximately 10% and stayed findings increased by the same amount compared to the previous fiscal year. This effect has largely faded, with the proportional breakdown of concluded prosecution findings from the last four years resembling pre-COVID outcomes.

**Figure 6:** Concluded Prosecutions by Finding



**Table 4:** Concluded Prosecutions by Finding

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>Concluded Files by File Outcome</b>	<b>45,528</b>	<b>45,250</b>	<b>42,940</b>	<b>41,428</b>	<b>40,605</b>
% Guilty	49%	54%	54%	56%	56%
% Not Guilty	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
% Other	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
% Peace Bond	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%
% Stayed	43%	37%	37%	35%	35%

Source: JUSTIN database (extracted July 23, 2025)

A concluded prosecution is counted once for each accused person on a file that concluded in the fiscal year. If an accused person was on more than one file that concluded in the fiscal year, they are counted each time.

## Percentage of Files Concluded at or before Arraignment

This key performance indicator measures the percentage of files concluded at or before arraignment. A higher percentage means that a higher proportion of files are concluded at the earliest stages in the criminal process.

The proportion of files reaching early resolution has remained stable over the last five years. Even in the face of court backlogs and delays caused by the pandemic, we continued to resolve the majority of files at or before an arraignment hearing.

**Table 5:** Percent of Files Concluded Early (at or before Arraignment Hearing)

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
% Files Concluded Early	73%	71%	73%	71%	71%
Source: Data collected through the BCPS File Closing Summary.					
'Early' is defined as a file which was concluded at or before arraignment.					

## Prosecution File Duration

This key performance indicator measures how many days it takes for a criminal file to conclude. The median time to conclude files spiked during the early days of the pandemic (2020/21) and began decreasing the following year (2021/22). As with the trends in the number of active files and the findings in court, this effect has further faded over time, and the median file duration has remained steady since 2022/23.

**Table 6:** Prosecution File Duration

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Median Days to Conclusion	186	176	168	167	166
Source: JUSTIN database (extracted July 23, 2025)					
The duration of a prosecution file is measured from the date the Information was first sworn or filed in court to the disposition date. Any bench warrant days associated with the file are excluded from the calculation.					

## Stays of Proceedings

Throughout the course of a prosecution, Crown Counsel have an ongoing obligation to assess its viability and ensure that it continues to meet the BCPS charge assessment standard. Many things can affect the viability of charges after they are initially approved, including (but not limited to): material changes in the strength of the prosecution's evidence; new evidence that would provide a principled basis for a finding of reasonable doubt; witness unavailability or lack of co-operation; or, new information that changes the assessment of whether the public interest requires a formal prosecution.

If the charge assessment standard is no longer met, Crown Counsel must end the prosecution. Usually that is done by directing a stay of proceedings. Approximately half of all stays of proceedings directed by Crown Counsel still involve some other form of consequence for the accused, such as a peace bond, referral to an alternative measures program, or a guilty plea on another file or to a different charge.

## Number of Judicial Stays of Proceedings for Delay

This key performance indicator measures the number of times in the reporting period that judges stayed criminal charges prosecuted by BCPS due to unreasonable delay.

There was a significant jump in the number of judicially stayed files in 2023/24 which may have been the result of files that were initiated during the period of pandemic-related interruptions. Regardless, this increase in stays has not continued into the most recent fiscal year. In 2024/25, there were a total of seven prosecutions concluded with a judicial stay of proceedings.

**Table 7: Judicial Stays of Proceedings**

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Judicial Stays of Proceedings	8	6	4	14	7
Judicial stays of proceedings decisions are recorded in JUSTIN but the reason for the decision is not recorded. A judicial stay of proceedings can be for reasons other than delay, such as abuse of process. To obtain a count of the judicial stay decisions specifically for delay, the Court Services Branch contacts the relevant court registry for each judicial stay decision to confirm what the reason was. Each case is counted once based on the date of the judicial stay decision, regardless of how many accused persons were involved.					

## File Outcomes

Of the matters in 2024/25 for which charges were approved and which proceeded to court, 56% resulted in a conviction – by way of guilty plea or a guilty verdict after trial. If an accused pleads guilty or is found guilty after a trial, Crown Counsel are responsible for making a sentencing recommendation. The decision about what sentence to impose is made by the court.

## Criminal Contempt Proceedings

On invitation of the BC Supreme Court, Crown Counsel may intervene and conduct criminal contempt prosecutions under the BCPS *Civil Disobedience and Contempt of Related Court Orders* ([CIV 1](#)) policy. In recent years, the BCPS has conducted hundreds of individual prosecutions of this type, which can be resource intensive and legally complex. However, because of their unique nature, these cases are not tracked as [Criminal Code](#) matters and are not included in the statistic overview provided in this Annual Report.

## Supporting Victims and Witnesses

The BCPS works diligently to ensure that all victims and witnesses are supported in their participation in the criminal justice process.

As defined in the British Columbia [Victims of Crime Act](#) (VOCA), a victim is an individual who suffers physical or mental injury, or economic loss because of an offence. There can be secondary victims who have suffered emotional trauma because of an offence caused against a family member.

Crown Counsel prepare victims for court and provide them with appropriate information about the prosecution and the criminal justice system. Crown Counsel may meet with victims and their families to assist them in understanding the prosecution process.

When there are particular concerns for the safety of the victim, or there is a request by the victim for ongoing information, Crown Counsel take steps to ensure that the victim is notified, either directly by administrative staff or through a victim assistance program, about the course of the prosecution, any future court dates, any bail conditions, and any changes in those proceedings or conditions. In appropriate situations, Crown Counsel will make applications for testimonial accommodations.

Under VOCA and the [Canadian Victims Bill of Rights](#), victims are provided with Victim Impact Statement (VIS) forms and other guidance regarding the criminal justice process. If charges are approved, a Victim Impact Statement and Statement on Restitution Information Guide is sent to victims by BCPS local offices. Community Impact Statements are also possible in some circumstances.

Victims, witnesses, and members of the public are also invited to learn more about the BCPS and the work we do from our online [BCPS Information Sheets](#).

Several of the BCPS policies, including *Charge Assessment Guidelines* ([CHA 1](#)), *Intimate Partner Violence* ([IPV 1](#)), and *Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses* ([VUL 1](#)), and Information Sheets have been translated into French, Spanish, Chinese (simplified), Filipino, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, and Vietnamese.

## Statistical Overview

### Crime Trends

The primary workload driver for the BCPS is the volume of RCCs received from police and other investigative agencies and the complexity of the cases those RCCs represent. For this reason, overall crime trends directly affect our organization. It is important to note, however, that police-reported crime statistics reflect only those incidents that are reported to the police, which can be affected by population, police enforcement strategies, large-scale criminal events, social movements, and changes in legislation, policies, or procedures.

As reported by Statistics Canada<sup>1</sup>, the volume and severity of police-reported crime in Canada is measured by the Crime Severity Index (CSI). Statistics Canada reported that the CSI decreased 4% in 2024, driven primarily from a decline in non-violent offences (e.g., break and enter, motor vehicle theft). Since 1998, BC has remained in the middle of the range when compared to the rest of Canada in terms of its violent, non-violent and overall CSI<sup>2</sup>. However, in 2024, BC had the largest decrease in the CSI of any province or territory.

### Reports to Crown Counsel

Because not all incidents which are reported to police result in criminal charges, the trends observed by BCPS may differ from those reported by police agencies. In other words, it can be misleading to compare crime rate trends with new RCC trends unless one is looking at the number of reported incidents for which the police have actually submitted an RCC to the BCPS.

Over the previous five fiscal years, the total volume of RCCs received continued to decrease but the rate of decline has slowed. Although the volume of RCCs differs across the five BCPS regions, the overall trends we see at the provincial level are consistent across the regions with only minor differences.

Furthermore, the relative proportion of RCCs in different offence categories has varied. Looking at the five-year trend for RCCs received under the four main offence categories, we see substantive decreases in raw counts annually across the board except for crimes against the person, which has largely remained stable until this past fiscal year.

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<sup>1</sup> [Statistics Canada](#). Police-reported crime in Canada

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0026-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas

- *Crimes against the person* – 16,728 RCCs received in 2024/25, 4.4% lower than the five-year average of 17,505
- *Property Crimes* – 10,105 RCCs received in 2024/25, 0.5% higher than the five-year average of 10,053
- *Administration of Justice* – 15,799 RCCs received in 2024/25, 7.9% lower than the five-year average of 17,152
- *Other offences* – 9,721 RCCs received in 2024/25, 16.9% lower than the five-year average of 11,695

## Provincial Overview

The tables on the following pages provide high-level statistics at the provincial and court location level. Breakdowns are provided at the provincial level for: All files, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) files, and Youth files.

**Table 8:** Provincial Overview: All Files

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>General Information</b>					
<b># Crown Offices</b>	42	42	42	42	42
<b># Court Locations</b>	91	91	91	91	91
<b>British Columbia Population</b>	5,180,015	5,287,422	5,443,002	5,627,961	5,722,318
<b>Investigation</b>					
<b>RCCs Received</b>	61,973	57,861	55,222	54,616	52,353
RCCs per 1,000 Population	12	11	10	10	9
Crimes against property	10,444	9,505	10,002	10,211	10,105
Crimes against the person	17,890	17,715	17,581	17,611	16,728
Administration of Justice	19,499	17,979	16,536	15,946	15,799
Other Categories	14,140	12,662	11,103	10,848	9,721
<b>Accused</b>	64,573	60,208	57,609	56,973	54,708
<b>Accused In Custody</b>	12,681	11,566	11,253	12,319	11,965
<b>Charge Assessment</b>					
<b>Charge Assessment Decisions</b>	64,201	59,894	57,278	56,603	53,782
Alternative Measures	1,290	1,313	1,377	1,501	1,181
Approved to Court	47,430	45,134	43,340	42,623	40,276
No Charge	14,136	12,219	11,207	11,050	10,159
Returned to Agency	1,345	1,228	1,354	1,429	2,166

# Statistical Overview

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>Prosecution</b>					
<b>Average Monthly Active Files</b>	29,666	24,570	23,345	23,096	24,145
Concluded Prosecutions	45,528	45,250	42,940	41,428	40,605
% Files Concluded Early	73.2%	71.1%	72.9%	70.9%	71.5%
Median Days to Conclusion	186	176	168	167	167
<b>File Outcomes</b>					
<b>Concluded Files by File Outcome</b>	45,528	45,250	42,940	41,428	40,605
Guilty	22,135	24,347	23,121	23,149	22,845
Not Guilty	347	510	618	534	577
Other	840	997	953	1,060	873
Peace Bond	2,624	2,628	2,493	2,351	2,205
Stayed	19,582	16,768	15,755	14,334	14,105
Source: JUSTIN database (extracted July 23, 2025)					

**Table 9:** Provincial Overview: IPV Files

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>General Information</b>					
<b># Crown Offices</b>	42	42	42	42	42
<b># Court Locations</b>	91	91	91	91	91
<b>British Columbia Population</b>	5,180,015	5,287,422	5,443,002	5,627,961	5,722,318
<b>Investigation</b>					
<b>RCCs Received</b>	13,581	12,855	12,275	12,242	11,741
RCCs per 1,000 Population	3	2	2	2	2
Crimes against property	316	303	297	269	244
Crimes against the person	7,950	7,737	7,468	7,612	7,270
Administration Of Justice	4,809	4,327	4,064	3,929	3,859
Other Categories	506	488	446	432	368
<b>Accused</b>	13,674	12,957	12,351	12,316	11,816
<b>Accused In Custody</b>	4,647	4,291	4,130	4,523	4,386
<b>Charge Assessment</b>					
<b>Charge Assessment Decisions</b>	13,663	12,952	12,340	12,289	11,752
Alternative Measures	161	186	173	194	136
Approved to Court	10,484	10,004	9,398	9,270	8,819
No Charge	2,868	2,623	2,603	2,620	2,509
Returned to Agency	150	139	166	205	288

# Statistical Overview

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>Prosecution</b>					
<b>Average Monthly Active Files<sup>1</sup></b>	-	-	-	-	-
Concluded Prosecutions	10,619	10,140	9,818	9,390	9,113
% Files Concluded Early	69.6%	62.3%	65.5%	63.9%	62.3%
Median Days to Conclusion	179	172	177	180	187
<b>File Outcomes</b>					
<b>Concluded Files by File Outcome</b>	10,619	10,140	9,818	9,390	9,113
Guilty	3,512	3,492	3,358	3,554	3,470
Not Guilty	80	154	179	137	150
Other	156	181	174	151	165
Peace Bond	1,406	1,344	1,309	1,169	1,162
Stayed	5,465	4,969	4,798	4,379	4,166
Source: JUSTIN database (extracted July 23, 2025)					
1. Statistic not available for IPV files.					

**Table 10:** Provincial Overview: Youth Files

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>General Information</b>					
<b># Crown Offices</b>	42	42	42	42	42
<b># Court Locations</b>	91	91	91	91	91
<b>British Columbia Youth Population</b>	311,888	322,403	329,880	339,124	336,468
<b>Investigation</b>					
<b>RCCs Received</b>	1,821	1,682	2,028	2,281	2,105
RCCs per 1,000 Youth Pop.	6	5	6	7	6
Crimes against property	210	194	232	264	267
Crimes against the person	865	965	1,168	1,198	1,055
Administration of Justice	431	267	362	511	433
Other Categories	315	256	266	308	350
<b>Accused</b>	2,029	1,864	2,365	2,698	2,485
<b>Accused In Custody</b>	248	191	265	382	374
<b>Charge Assessment</b>					
<b>Charge Assessment Decisions</b>	2,023	1,861	2,352	2,695	2,433
Extrajudicial Measures	245	275	358	381	304
Approved to Court	1,196	1,092	1,316	1,531	1,438
No Charge	518	441	603	699	574
Returned to Agency	64	53	75	84	117

# Statistical Overview

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>Prosecution</b>					
<b>Average Monthly Active Files</b>	949	723	805	982	1,059
Concluded Prosecutions	1,528	1,280	1,264	1,677	1,747
% Files Concluded Early	72.5%	69.9%	73.2%	76.6%	78.1%
Median Days to Conclusion	225	195	177	176	182
<b>File Outcomes</b>					
<b>Concluded Files by File Outcome</b>	1,528	1,280	1,264	1,677	1,747
Guilty	690	615	604	807	916
Not Guilty	19	28	23	34	25
Other	6	12	8	12	7
Peace Bond	83	82	84	110	77
Stayed	730	543	545	714	722
Source: JUSTIN database (extracted July 23, 2025)					
'Youth' is defined as anyone aged 12-17, inclusive. Youth population data is reported per calendar year as of July 1 and released at the calendar year end. For the purpose of this table, the population under each fiscal year is based on the calendar year that most closely aligns (e.g., 2022/23 population is used to compare to 2023/24 data).					

**Table 11: Fiscal 2024/25 at a Glance**

	RCCs Received	Charge Assessment Decisions					Time to Charge Assessment Decisions				
		Alt Measures	Approved to Court	No Charge	Returned to Agency	Total Decisions	< 1 Day	< 3 Days	< 7 Days	< 15 Days	< 30 Days
<b>Vancouver Island Region</b>											
Campbell River	733	10	636	92	18	756	31%	38%	52%	66%	80%
Colwood	1,001	32	795	179	33	1,039	48%	59%	72%	81%	88%
Courtenay	850	9	734	122	25	890	40%	49%	66%	81%	90%
Duncan	1,065	26	630	349	68	1,073	19%	25%	33%	46%	60%
Nanaimo	1,616	70	1,246	362	20	1,698	33%	38%	48%	60%	73%
Port Alberni	1,080	20	839	244	16	1,119	34%	37%	44%	60%	75%
Port Hardy	453	4	377	78	19	478	39%	46%	59%	75%	86%
Powell River	361	16	303	51	2	372	40%	51%	64%	79%	89%
Victoria	3,717	57	2,849	750	138	3,794	30%	34%	41%	53%	70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,876</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>8,409</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>11,219</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Vancouver Region</b>											
North Vancouver	1,318	69	906	309	63	1,347	26%	31%	41%	55%	69%
Richmond	1,101	48	867	199	35	1,149	35%	42%	52%	63%	74%
Sechelt	330	9	217	100	10	336	34%	45%	60%	73%	83%
Vancouver	8,462	159	6,322	1,687	372	8,540	46%	50%	58%	65%	74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,211</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>8,312</b>	<b>2,295</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>11,372</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>74%</b>

# Statistical Overview

Fraser Region											
Abbotsford	2,530	27	2,207	299	95	2,628	51%	59%	68%	78%	86%
Chilliwack	1,934	24	1,451	332	85	1,892	39%	43%	52%	63%	75%
New West	858	32	735	104	26	897	52%	57%	64%	71%	79%
Port Coquitlam	1,997	93	1,546	349	75	2,063	25%	32%	44%	58%	72%
Surrey	5,754	74	4,747	933	275	6,029	46%	53%	64%	73%	82%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,073</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>10,686</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>13,509</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>80%</b>
Interior Region											
Cranbrook	1,042	33	779	225	38	1,075	23%	28%	35%	47%	62%
Kamloops	1,958	17	1,282	628	71	1,998	44%	54%	70%	82%	89%
Kelowna	2,552	26	1,892	542	149	2,609	21%	26%	36%	49%	63%
Nelson	795	10	589	222	12	833	27%	35%	46%	59%	73%
Penticton	991	13	808	165	31	1,017	26%	32%	42%	56%	73%
Salmon Arm	476	11	364	112	9	496	19%	25%	35%	53%	71%
Vernon	977	30	764	167	38	999	47%	52%	64%	76%	83%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,791</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>6,478</b>	<b>2,061</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>9,027</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>73%</b>
Northern Region											
Dawson Creek	670	18	524	148	17	707	24%	32%	42%	57%	72%
Fort Nelson	258	9	175	71	9	264	53%	57%	70%	81%	88%
Fort St John	998	35	853	116	30	1,034	33%	38%	50%	61%	75%
Prince George	2,630	68	2,080	403	180	2,731	37%	43%	55%	67%	77%
Prince Rupert	565	46	401	113	14	574	32%	38%	47%	62%	72%
Quesnel	591	20	474	101	22	617	29%	35%	48%	64%	77%
Smithers	662	19	522	112	19	672	31%	36%	47%	58%	73%
Terrace	731	16	521	188	20	745	28%	34%	46%	60%	73%
Vanderhoof	456	17	288	89	70	464	33%	39%	47%	62%	74%
Williams Lake	725	13	484	201	48	746	25%	36%	49%	61%	73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,286</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>6,322</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>8,554</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>75%</b>
CASP											
<b>CASP</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>24%</b>

Source: JUSTIN database (extracted July 23, 2025)

Vancouver includes Main Street, Downtown Community Court, Vancouver Youth Court, and Vancouver Supreme Court. New Westminster includes New Westminster Provincial Court and the New Westminster Supreme Court. CASP includes Special Prosecutions, Commercial Crime, Health Fraud, ICBC Fraud, Workers Compensation, and Welfare Fraud.

**Table 12: Fiscal 2024/25 at a Glance**

	Concluded Files	Median Days to Conclusion	% Files Concluded Early	Concluded Prosecutions by File Outcome									
				Guilty	Not Guilty	Other	Peace Bond	Stayed	% Guilty	% Not Guilty	% Other	% Peace Bond	% Stayed
Vancouver Island Region													
Campbell River	583	172	67%	421	15	18	25	104	72%	3%	3%	4%	18%
Colwood	841	161	76%	554	5	15	63	204	66%	1%	2%	7%	24%
Courtenay	780	146	76%	509	11	17	40	203	65%	1%	2%	5%	26%
Duncan	715	226	67%	334	9	12	39	321	47%	1%	2%	5%	45%
Nanaimo	1,357	162	78%	708	10	32	89	518	52%	1%	2%	7%	38%
Port Alberni	834	132	65%	468	13	20	32	301	56%	2%	2%	4%	36%
Port Hardy	310	188	58%	196	5	9	17	83	63%	2%	3%	5%	27%
Powell River	340	164	65%	215	9	-	20	96	63%	3%	-	6%	28%
Victoria	2,800	144	75%	1,715	39	55	121	870	61%	1%	2%	4%	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,560</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>5,120</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>32%</b>

	Concluded Files	Median Days to Conclusion	% Files Concluded Early	Concluded Prosecutions by File Outcome									
				Guilty	Not Guilty	Other	Peace Bond	Stayed	% Guilty	% Not Guilty	% Other	% Peace Bond	% Stayed
<b>Vancouver Region</b>													
North Vancouver	918	172	73%	453	12	13	58	382	49%	1%	1%	6%	42%
Richmond	898	170	79%	567	10	11	32	278	63%	1%	1%	4%	31%
Sechelt	229	198	73%	90	11	14	9	105	39%	5%	6%	4%	46%
Vancouver	6,271	133	87%	3,327	64	167	251	2,462	53%	1%	3%	4%	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,316</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>4,437</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>3,227</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Fraser Region</b>													
Abbotsford	1,924	232	78%	1,096	28	41	115	644	57%	1%	2%	6%	33%
Chilliwack	1,425	220	73%	684	16	28	110	587	48%	1%	2%	8%	41%
New West	756	195	82%	429	11	18	25	273	57%	1%	2%	3%	36%
Port Coquitlam	1,671	196	81%	832	26	44	133	636	50%	2%	3%	8%	38%
Surrey	4,740	166	79%	2,600	60	84	329	1,667	55%	1%	2%	7%	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,516</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>5,641</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>3,807</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Interior Region</b>													
Cranbrook	938	185	44%	476	28	19	47	368	51%	3%	2%	5%	39%
Kamloops	1,388	134	72%	953	23	21	59	332	69%	2%	2%	4%	24%
Kelowna	2,017	185	49%	1,258	28	46	92	593	62%	1%	2%	5%	29%
Nelson	584	190	68%	320	3	10	52	199	55%	1%	2%	9%	34%
Penticton	745	176	52%	449	7	24	41	224	60%	1%	3%	6%	30%
Salmon Arm	342	146	71%	184	6	7	17	128	54%	2%	2%	5%	37%
Vernon	841	138	61%	438	16	20	50	317	52%	2%	2%	6%	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,855</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Northern Region</b>													
Dawson Creek	496	235	50%	278	22	9	40	147	56%	4%	2%	8%	30%
Fort Nelson	180	160	65%	74	2	2	19	83	41%	1%	1%	11%	46%
Fort St John	733	177	63%	468	19	29	40	177	64%	3%	4%	5%	24%
Prince George	2,051	129	58%	1,161	15	51	70	754	57%	1%	2%	3%	37%
Prince Rupert	500	204	75%	273	4	6	30	187	55%	1%	1%	6%	37%
Quesnel	517	161	68%	288	7	7	18	197	56%	1%	1%	3%	38%
Smithers	419	190	59%	253	6	8	28	124	60%	1%	2%	7%	30%
Terrace	571	218	54%	321	12	8	49	181	56%	2%	1%	9%	32%
Vanderhoof	299	189	48%	144	2	4	25	124	48%	1%	1%	8%	41%
Williams Lake	468	190	49%	235	15	3	19	196	50%	3%	1%	4%	42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,234</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>3,495</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>CASP</b>													
<b>CASP</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>32%</b>

Source: JUSTIN database (extracted July 23, 2025)

Vancouver includes Main Street, Downtown Community Court, Vancouver Youth Court, and Vancouver Supreme Court. New Westminster includes New Westminster Provincial Court and the New Westminster Supreme Court. CASP includes Special Prosecutions, Commercial Crime, Health Fraud, ICBC Fraud, Workers Compensation, and Welfare Fraud.

A concluded prosecution is counted once for each accused person on a file that concluded in the fiscal year. If an accused person was on more than one file that concluded in the fiscal year, they are counted each time.

## Regional Profiles

The BCPS has approximately 540 Crown Counsel, 524 professional staff and 57 excluded managers (including Crown Counsel Managers) located in communities across the province. Five regions conduct most prosecution functions at the local level: the Northern, Interior, Fraser, Vancouver, and Vancouver Island – Powell River Regions. Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecutions (CASP), which has a province-wide mandate, has main offices in Vancouver and Victoria. Headquarters personnel are located primarily in Victoria and Vancouver.

### Headquarters

Headquarters is responsible for the BCPS business operations, legal operations, policy development, and strategic planning.



### Business Operations

The Business Operations team leads the annual budget process, including submissions to Treasury Board and delegation of the annual budget at the regional level, and oversees expenditures. This includes developing and ensuring compliance with administrative policy. Business Operations provides provincial-level facilities management functions, human resources services, business continuity planning, security, and occupational health and safety programs.

Business Operations is also responsible for the development and management of the BCPS technology-based applications and infrastructure, including major transformative initiatives and projects to support BCPS operations. Members of the team also manage data and business intelligence available from applications. The DEMS application was again a primary focus, with the project and operational support teams working on integration and system improvement activities.

## Policy and Justice Issues

The Policy and Justice Issues (PJI) team develops and implements legal policies, practices, protocols, and procedures to support the BCPS in fulfilling its mandate. Central to this is the publicly available [Crown Counsel Policy Manual](#), which provides both general and situation-specific guidance to Crown Counsel in the exercise of their discretion.

Members participate in intra-provincial and inter-provincial working groups and committees to recommend, develop, and implement criminal law reform. Crown Counsel in PJI also advise government on criminal law and related matters.

The PJI team oversees compliance with the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#), civil litigation involving the BCPS, and responses to correspondence received by the AG and Deputy Attorney General (DAG) regarding BCPS-related matters. The PJI team is responsible for the strategic management of the BCPS Indigenous Justice Framework.

## BCPS Communications Counsel

The Communications Counsel responds to media requests for information and prepares media releases and clear statements on the status and outcome of certain BCPS cases. The Communications Counsel briefs the H-BCPS on cases that may attract increased public scrutiny and liaises with government and police communications professionals, as well as Special Prosecutors, with respect to BCPS-related matters. As part of the PJI team, the Communications Counsel is also involved in policy-related issues and the tracking of judicial stays of proceedings due to delay.

## Legal Operations

The Legal Operations team collaborates with justice sector partners to identify, implement and improve standardized provincial processes to promote consistency and efficiency in the delivery of criminal justice services. These includes sector-wide initiatives such as the Provincial Court's virtual and virtual/hybrid bail program and the BCPS' after-hours bail program. Legal Operations also leads the BCPS' processes in the receipt, review, and disclosure of police body-worn camera evidence from police across the province. The team also works with individual regions within the BCPS to identify challenges and implement solutions that may be unique to a region or local Crown Counsel office.

## Vancouver Island – Powell River Region (Region 1)

### A Coast-Spanning Community Mosaic

Region 1 stretches from the rugged shores of Vancouver Island through the emerald Gulf and Outer Islands, reaching the Powell River communities on the Sunshine Coast. Our work serves 934,721 people across forested mountains, winding waterways, and vibrant cities, towns, and indigenous communities.

### Our Team

In nine Crown Counsel offices and 15 courthouse locations, 136 prosecutors and legal administrative professionals tackle cases from 30 municipal police agencies and RCMP detachments. Every day they bring legal skill, local knowledge, and compassion to each file.

### Partnering for Justice

We work with other justice system partners, community agencies, and Indigenous communities to provide prosecution services that are responsive to the local communities they serve. We work with local restorative justice agencies, which offer programs aimed at repairing the harm caused by crime and violence by addressing victims' needs, holding offenders meaningfully accountable for their actions, and engaging the community in the justice process.

### Specialized Courts, Personalized Approaches

Region 1 hosts three innovative court models that respond to unique challenges:

- [Duncan First Nations Court](#)  
The court focuses on balancing rehabilitation, accountability, and healing, recognizing the unique circumstances of Indigenous offenders within the framework of existing laws.
- [Intimate Partner Violence Courts \(Nanaimo & Duncan\)](#)  
Dedicated Crown Counsel work alongside defence counsel and support agencies to reduce trauma, improve victim safety, and foster rehabilitation.
- [Integrated Court \(Victoria\)](#)  
Crown Counsel work with justice partners to improve access to health, social, and economic services for mentally disordered and drug addicted chronic offenders, improving public safety, and holding offenders accountable for their actions in a timely manner.

### Expanding Access to Remote Communities

We continue to support initiatives that provide justice access to isolated communities. In April 2024, the Provincial Court had its first sitting in Ahousaht. Indigenous offenders, victims, witnesses and community members who previously had to travel to Tofino or Ucluelet to attend court now have improved access to justice.



Port Hardy, by Kimberly Henders Miller



Victoria Gorge, by John Labossiere

#### Did You Know?

- Ancient petroglyphs carve a window into millennia of Indigenous culture, from Gabriola and Quadra Islands to the concentrated collection at Vancouver Island Petroglyph Provincial Park near Nanaimo.
- Zeballos on the west coast sits atop rich magnetite deposits that create unusual magnetic anomalies, enough to throw compasses off course and intrigue geologists.
- Nootka Sound and Hornby Island rank among the world's premier cold-water dive sites, where divers can encounter six-gill sharks, vibrant kelp forests, and shipwrecks.
- Population served: 947,154
- Crown Counsel offices: 9
- FTEs: 136

## Vancouver Region (Region 2)

The Vancouver Region has a diverse, multicultural population. It includes western areas of the Lower Mainland and the southern coast. Regional headquarters is in Vancouver.

The largest office in the Vancouver region is the Vancouver Provincial Court at 222 Main Street and the Downtown Community Court at 211 Gore Avenue. Many offenders in downtown Vancouver struggle with health and social problems, including addiction, homelessness, and poverty.

Crown Counsel personnel at Downtown Community Court work together with justice partners, including health and social services, in one location and take a problem-solving approach to address offenders' needs and the underlying causes of criminal behaviour. Offences committed in Burnaby are also prosecuted at 222 Main Street.



False Creek in Summer



Vancouver at Dusk

### Did You Know?

- Of British Columbia's six major metropolitan areas, Vancouver has the highest linguistic diversity
- Vancouver's Downtown Community Court is the first community court in Canada
- Population served: 1.61 million
- Crown Counsel offices: 7
- FTEs: 196

A separate Youth Court Office is located in the Robson Square courthouse complex. Crown Counsel personnel based in Vancouver are responsible for prosecutions in the central coast communities of Bella Bella, Bella Coola, and Klemtu, and regularly travel to attend circuit court at these locations. The region's smallest office is in Sechelt and serves the communities of the Sunshine Coast.

In addition to dealing with cases arising in Richmond, the Richmond Crown Counsel Office prosecutes matters arising from the University Endowment Lands — including the University of British Columbia — and Vancouver International Airport (YVR).

The North Vancouver Crown Counsel Office serves a wide range of communities, including West Vancouver, Bowen Island, Lions Bay, Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton, and Mount Currie. It is also home to an Indigenous Justice Court which is working to assist in healing and rehabilitation and to reduce recidivism while acknowledging the harm done to victims and recognizing the needs of the local community.

## Fraser Region (Region 3)

The Fraser Region covers the geographic area from New Westminster on the west to Boston Bar on the east and is the most populous BCPS region. We serve a diverse, multicultural population of approximately 1.9 million, including 30 First Nations, in both urban, rural and agricultural areas.

Approximately 240 Crown Counsel, paralegals and professional staff work in offices located in the five communities in the Fraser Region where BC Supreme Courts and BC Provincial Courts are located, specifically New Westminster, Surrey, Port Coquitlam, Abbotsford and Chilliwack. We participate in two specialized courts, First Nations Court in New Westminster Provincial Court and Intimate Partner Violence Court in Surrey Provincial Court, and also provide after hours bail coverage through the Justice Centre on weekends, statutory holidays, and weekday evenings. In fiscal year 2024-25, the Fraser Region received over 13,000 new cases from over 15 police agencies including RCMP detachments, municipal police departments, and specialized investigative teams.

Throughout the year, an extremely talented and committed group of Crown Counsel, paralegals and professional staff had conduct of numerous serious, complex and high-profile prosecutions.

The Fraser Region continued to see change in 2024-25. In November 2024, the Surrey Police Service (SPS) became the police of jurisdiction in Surrey although the Surrey Crown office continued to receive cases from both the SPS and the RCMP's Surrey Provincial Operations Support Unit. In June 2025, the BC Supreme Court opened a Criminal Registry in Port Coquitlam, thus increasing the number of Supreme Courts the BCPS services in the Fraser Region to four (along with five Provincial Court locations).



Mount MacFarlane, by Stefan Currie-Roberts



Sandpiper Golf Course and Fraser River at Harrison Mills, by Michelle Nikula

### Did You Know?

- The Fraser River (which runs through the Fraser Region), is one of the largest salmon spawning rivers in the world.
- The longest running Indigenous Court in British Columbia, New Westminster's First Nations Court, is in its 19th year.
- Population served: 1.91 million
- Crown Counsel offices: 6
- FTEs: 240

## Interior Region (Region 4)

The Interior Region comprises central and southeastern British Columbia, a large and diverse geographic area bounded by the US and Alberta, the Fraser canyon and Lillooet to the west and a northern boundary that peaks at Clearwater. Region 4 is located on the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwepemc and Syilx peoples. The population also includes members of the Métis Nation.

BCPS Regional headquarters is in Kelowna, a growing urban centre with a rich agricultural history. Lakeside highways connect Kelowna to the two other Okanagan Crown Counsel offices in Penticton (to the south) and Vernon (to the north). North of Vernon lies Salmon Arm, the Shuswap community that houses Region 4's smallest Crown Counsel office. West of Salmon Arm is Kamloops, the Region's second largest city and Crown Counsel office on the banks of the Thompson River. To the east, the Columbia Mountains are the gateway to the West and East Kootenays, with Crown offices in Nelson and Cranbrook respectively.



View of Fraser Canyon on the commute from the Kamloops Crown office to the Lillooet circuit court



The Interior Region has four of the province's 11 child and youth advocacy centres, including SKY in the West Kootenays, which just supported remote testimony from their video room for the first time. Remote testimony is especially important in small communities and courthouses

### Did You Know?

- The Interior Region is home to 14 of the top 25 wineries in the country (2024 National Wine Awards).
- The Interior Region has the 18 of the top 20 highest highway mountain passes in the province, including the Coquihalla and Rogers Pass.
- Population served: 843,329
- Crown Counsel offices: 7
- FTEs: 116

Crown Counsel and professional staff in these seven offices work with 47 detachments and five community policing outlets of the RCMP as well as the Nelson Police Department and Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police to shepherd cases through 23 court locations, including 12 circuit courts. The Kamloops Crown office supports three of the nine Indigenous courts in the province: Cknucwentn (Kamloops), Lillooet and Merritt. Kelowna Integrated Court is one of three therapeutic courts in the province, offering wraparound services aimed at addressing the factors underlying recidivism.

Starting in November 2024, the RCMP began their rollout of body-worn cameras, with detachments in the Interior Region receiving half of the province's first wave of cameras. Crown and, particularly, professional staff in the region have been instrumental in supporting the success of the rollout and in developing branch-wide best practices in data tracking and transfer.

## Northern Region (Region 5)

The Northern Region is approximately 544,000 kilometres in size and covers two-thirds of the province, a vast geographical area that stretches from the Yukon border in the north to 100 Mile House in the south, the Alberta border to the east, and Haida Gwaii to the west. With headquarters in Prince George, the region works in ten offices, serving 35 court locations and receiving files from 36 RCMP detachments. The Northern Region has 25 circuit courts which serve our many remote communities.

The Northern Region has three Indigenous Courts, located in Prince George, Williams Lake, and Hazelton. Local Indigenous Elders participate in crafting rehabilitative sentences that recognize the unique circumstances of Indigenous offenders before the Court, while promoting rehabilitation, healing, and accountability. Working with Indigenous justice and local community partners, personnel in Region 5 actively engage in ongoing development of restorative justice programming throughout the region/territory.

### Did You Know?

- Region 5 works with RCMP detachments in Northern British Columbia and the Yukon
- The Northern Court Circuit (Atlin, Good Hope Lake, and Lower Post) has the longest circuit distance travelled: over 1900 km, and includes travel through the Yukon on the Alaska Highway
- Many of the remote circuit courts are held in community halls or band offices, with limited or no cellular service or internet connectivity
- Population served: 532,898
- Crown Counsel offices: 10
- FTEs: 118

The Northern Region is a vast, diverse part of the province that responds to the unique challenges that the geography presents using a combination of travel to remote communities and virtual court options.

The region's hard-working Comprehensive Bail Team conducts bail hearings and sentencings remotely, seven days a week, working right from the start of prosecutions in a recently-implemented Digital Evidence Management System.



Blue Lake, traditional territory of the Tsay Keh Dene Nation



Stewart, BC, traditional territory of the Nisga'a Nation



Dease Lake, traditional territory of the Tahltan First Nation

Across the northern region, Crown and professional staff work with hundreds of hours of video, audio, and thousands of pages of evidence each month.

## Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecutions (CASP)

Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecutions (CASP) carries out specialized roles including indictable appeals, major case management, prosecutions of commercial crime, occupational health and safety offences, regulatory and environmental offences, and police misconduct. CASP takes the lead on the Post-Conviction Review Committee, and is also responsible for Review Board hearings, Prosecution Support, coordinating of bilingual prosecutions and Legal Resources, Learning and Development (LRLD). This year, we highlight just some of CASP's varied activities.



CRP Team Photo

The **LRLD Team** launched two new virtual training streams to enhance professional development across the BCPS. The **Paralegal Training Plan** was introduced to support paralegals with targeted learning aligned to their roles within the BCPS. Additionally, a suite of **On-Demand Courses** was made available to all professional staff and Crown Counsel, focusing on core applications and processes.

The **Online Child Sexual Exploitation Training** and **Sexual Offence Prosecution Training** provided Crown Counsel training on key legal issues and practical guidance on difficult areas of criminal prosecutions. LRLD also expanded and refreshed the **Resource Counsel Groups**, now inclusive of both Crown Counsel and paralegals, fostering broader collaboration and knowledge sharing.

The **Post-Conviction Review Committee (PCRC)**, functions as the province-wide intake for offenders who allege they are wrongfully convicted after having exhausted all appellate remedies (primarily involving historical convictions dating back 20 years or more). PCRC counsel have primary responsibility for overseeing responses to requests for information or disclosure, testing of exhibits, and in some cases applications to the Minister of Justice by convicted offenders. Approximately 40 PCRC files were active in fiscal 2024/25.

The **Commercial, Police and Regulatory (CPR)** team works with justice partners across BC, Canada and internationally to develop approaches to the rapidly-changing landscape of financial crime and fraud. CPR provides advice and training to Crown and investigators, on topics such as fraud, money laundering, and currency tracing. Counsel work with prosecutors across the country in the National Partnership Group of Financial Crime Prosecutors, and train investigators at the RCMP National Fraud Course.

### Did You Know?

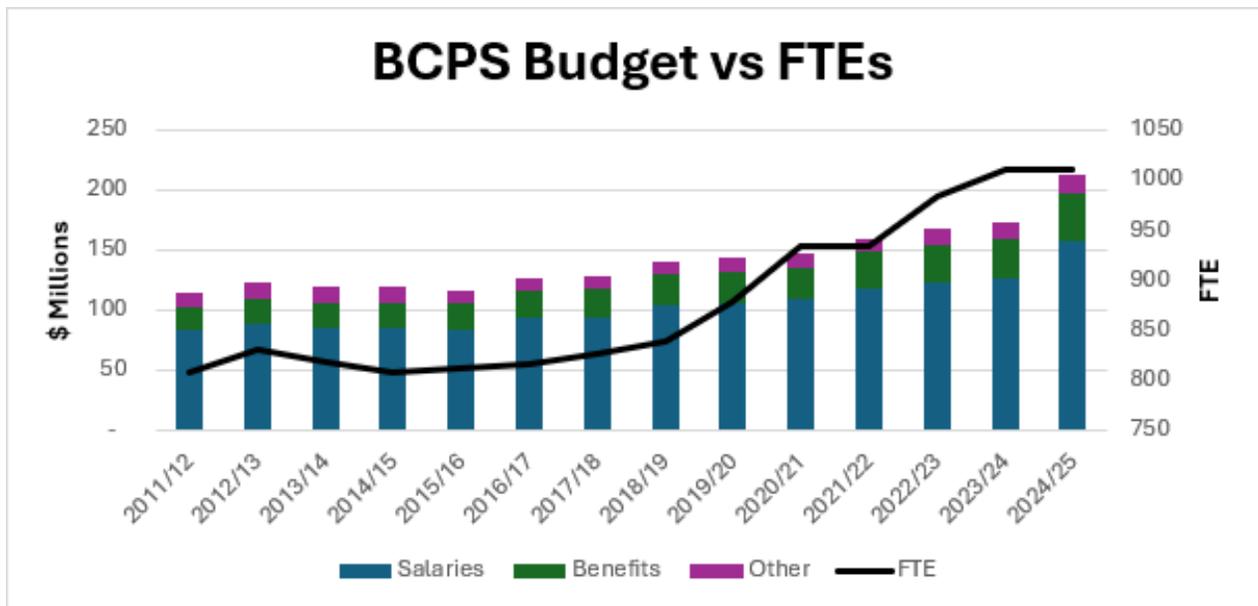
- Comprised of 31 members from CASP and other regions, the bilingual prosecution group has seen a nine-fold increase in trials in the last three years.
- The Review Board Crown office is responsible for prosecutions of persons before the BC Review Board (who have had verdicts of Not Criminally Responsible by Reason of Mental Disorder or Unfit to Stand Trial) and conducted 264 hearings and 6 appeals in 2024.
- Crown Counsel offices: 5
- FTEs: 146

## Fiscal Year Financial Overview

The BCPS reported an estimated budget variance of \$6.452 million in fiscal 2024/25, due to Ministry-level adjustments and unfunded major case pressures. As a front-line operation, salary and benefits costs made up 93% of year-end expenditures. Base budget funding was provided to support the expansion of Crown Counsel responsibilities for virtual bail.

Budget and Expenditures 2024/25	
Estimates Budget	\$212,499,000
Contingencies Vote	\$11,764,000
Total Authorized Budget	\$224,263,000
Expenditures	\$230,697,000
Variance	\$6,452,000

Over the past decade, there has been a significant increase in both the BCPS budget and the number of employees, with the majority of the budget increase being directly attributable to negotiated salary increases for Crown Counsel. Since fiscal 2011/12 the BCPS estimates budget has increased by 86% and the number of delegated full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) has increased by 25%.



## Awards and Achievements

- In 2024/25, six of our esteemed colleagues were appointed to the Provincial Court of British Columbia: Mandy Klein and Sabena Thompson in April 2024; Paul Pearson in July 2024; Mike Fortino in September 2024; and Ariana Ward and James Henry in March 2025.
- In September 2024, David Layton KC, was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia.
- In July 2024, Crown Counsel Louise Kenworthy KC, Marcel Daigle, Heather Guinn and Kristen LeNoble who, along with retired Crown Counsel Dan Scanlan and Shirley Pederson, were selected by the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) as recipients of the IAP's 2024 Special Achievement Award for their work on the prosecution of Aydin Coban.
- Also in July, Nicola Mahaffy, senior Crown Counsel in Region 2, received an honorary life membership from the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) for her dedication and contributions to the IAP in support of their work.
- In October 2024, Crown Counsel Louise Kenworthy KC, Marcel Daigle, Heather Guinn and Kristen LeNoble received the Federal Provincial Territorial Heads of Prosecutions Committee's National Prosecution Award for Outstanding Achievement in the prosecution of Aydin Coban.
- In January 2025, Michale Celio, Debbie Granger and Anna Tosso were awarded the prestigious King Charles Coronation Medal in honour and recognition of their significant contributions to the BC Government and the province.

We're also proud to congratulate the following recipients honoured with justice sector Attorney General / Public Safety and Solicitor General Excellence Awards in 2025:

- Wendy Wakabayashi, *Mentorship*
- Victoria Crown Counsel Office Social Committee, *Spirit*
  - Aimee Klassen
  - Brandi Steffens

Fifty-two BCPS personnel received Long Service Awards in 2024:

- David Sissons, Joel Gold, Susan Rupertus, Jennifer Carmichael, Karen Haughton, Kristen Gagnon, Rita Kis, Angela Taylor, Craig Giles, Crichton Pike, Cindy Trarup, Sharon Chartrand, David Grabavac, Julian Dudley, Sandra Trochta, Pamela Robertson, Carrie Fanshaw, Shelley Hulko, Wendy Petersen, Sheila Schmidt, Damienne Darby, Jim Hughes, Kim Smith and Sian Spicer completed 25 years of service;
- Anne Boyle, Lisa Falloon, Carolyn Kramer, Chris Stayko, Lena Dal Santo, Susan Brown, Paul Barclay, Tina Hawke, Lucia Nietschmann, Laurie Riley, Bernard Caffaro, Kevin Blocka, Carolene Holenstein, Mary Ainslie, Brenda Schlegel, Nicole Gregoire, Michale Celio, Barbara Jones, Michelle Layton and Jennifer Neid earned 30 years of service; and,
- Melanie Baylis, Shona McEnhill, Jean MacDonald, Lionel Yip, Vittorio Toselli, Liz Seward, Michael Van Klaveren and Arthur Hargrove reached the 35 years of service milestone.

## BC Prosecution Service Awards

This year the BCPS presented awards in four categories: Crown Counsel Leadership; Crown Counsel Recognition; Professional Staff Leadership; and Professional Staff Recognition. Our 2024/25 award recipients were:

### Crown Counsel Leadership Awards

- John Boccabella – Vancouver Island – Powell River Region
- Adrienne Lee – Vancouver Region
- Matt Stacey – Fraser Region
- Adam Zelmer – Interior Region
- Sharlein Smith – Northern Region
- Michael Barrenger – CASP

### Crown Counsel Recognition Awards

- Jill Vivian – Vancouver Island – Powell River Region
- Joe Marin – Vancouver Region
- Jas Gahunia – Fraser Region
- Andrew Duncan – Interior Region
- Darryl Wightman – Northern Region
- Gerri-Lyn Nelson – CASP

## Professional Staff Leadership Awards

- Ayla Kesek – Vancouver Island – Powell River Region
- Vivianne Deng – Vancouver Region
- Stacey Penney – Fraser Region
- Liz Seward – Interior Region
- Lisa Lehouillier – Northern Region
- Bethany Watson – CASP
- Gen Dionne – Headquarters
- Sian Spicer – Headquarters

## Professional Staff Recognition Awards

- Nicole Wilson – Vancouver Island – Powell River Region
- Cintia Fonseca – Vancouver Region
- Stacey Daniels – Fraser Region
- Janice Laursen – Interior Region
- Judy Serup – Northern Region
- Devon Walmsley – CASP



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