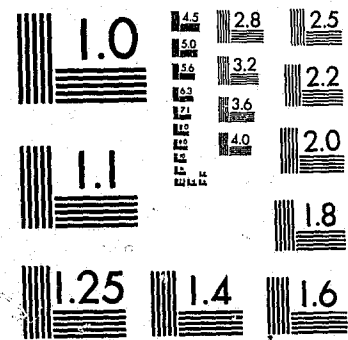


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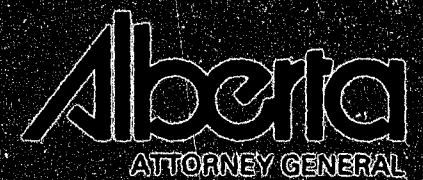
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United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20531

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# Annual Report of the Attorney General

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1979



# Annual Report of the Attorney General

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1979

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**Alberta**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



ATTORNEY GENERAL AND  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE LEADER

403/427-2339

Office of  
the Minister

227 Legislative Building  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
T5K 2B6

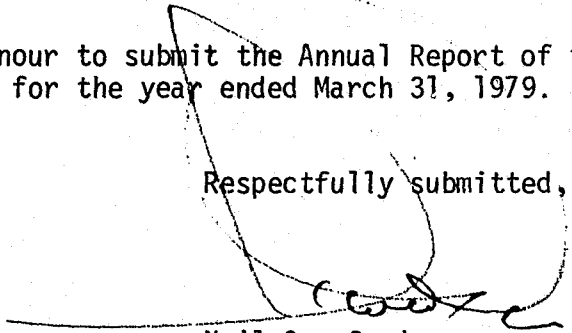
September 14, 1979

The Honourable The Speaker of  
the Legislature  
Province of Alberta  
219 Legislative Building  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Department  
of the Attorney General for the year ended March 31, 1979.

Respectfully submitted,



Neil Crawford  
Attorney General

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9919 - 105 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2E8

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ATTORNEY GENERAL

403/427-5032

Office of  
the Deputy Attorney General

6th Floor, Madison Building  
9919 - 105 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
T5K 2E8

August 30, 1979

The Honourable Neil Crawford,  
Attorney General of Alberta,  
404 Legislative Building,  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

Dear Sir:

I am pleased to present the fifth annual report of the Department of the Attorney General for the fiscal year April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1979.

The Province of Alberta has continued to demonstrate its healthy vitality in both population and economic growth. It is not surprising that the demands placed upon the department have increased proportionately in both volume and complexity.

That the administration of justice is so well served in carrying out the department's responsibilities is due in great measure to its dedicated employees.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross W. Paisley, Q.C.  
Deputy Attorney General

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## THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALBERTA: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 92 of the British North America Act provides, in part, as follows:

"In each province the Legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to matters coming within the classes of subjects next hereinafter enumerated; that is to say . . . 92(14) The Administration of Justice in the Province, including the Constitution, Maintenance, and Organization of Provincial Courts, both of Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction, and including Procedure in Civil Matters in those Courts."

Traditionally in this country, the Attorney General of each province has fulfilled the responsibilities referred to in Section 92(14). The phrase "administration of justice in the province" had been the subject of much comment in the cases over the years since Confederation in 1867. In a 1976 judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Di Iorio and Fontaine v Warden of Common Jail of Montreal and Trunet et al* Mr. Justice Dickson, speaking for the majority, made it clear that this phrase encompasses not only civil justice but also criminal justice.

Although the administration of civil justice is certainly of importance, it is useful to refer to another quotation of Mr. Justice Dickson in the *Di Iorio* case to clarify the extent and scope of the administration of criminal justice. In the *Di Iorio* judgment, Mr. Justice Dickson stated as follows:

"The question in the present case is whether the words "The Administration of Justice in the Province" are to be given a fair, large and liberal construction or, whether by reason of the abstraction of criminal law and criminal procedure, they must receive such attenuated interpretation as would confine "administration of justice" to nothing more than "administration of civil justice". In my opinion, Canadian legislative history, as well as the development of legal institutions within the provinces since Confederation, favour the broader construction as do, by and large, the authorities, admittedly few in number, which touch upon the subject under consideration.

Since Confederation, the provincial departments of the Attorney General have in practice "administered justice" in the broadest sense, at great expense to the taxpayers, and irrespective of whether the laws being administered fell legislatively within the purview of provincial legislatures or the federal Parliament. This is reflected in the provision of police services and other enforcement agencies responsible to the provincial Attorneys General for the investigation, detection and control of crime within the respective provinces and in the maintenance of staffs for the prosecution of all types of infractions whether within the purview of provincial legislatures or the federal Parliament. In this way the provinces have perpetuated since Confederation the comprehensive powers in the administration of justice which they enjoyed and exercised in pre-Confederation times and which the framers of the BNA Act would seem to have intended them to continue to have. Explaining the British North America Bill in the British Parliament, the Earl of Carnarvon stated on 19th February 1867:

"To the Central Parliament will also be assigned the enactment of criminal law. The administration of it indeed is vested in the local authorities; but the power of general legislation is properly reserved for the Central Parliament."

In keeping with the exclusive power given to the provinces by the BNA Act in relation to certain matters, Alberta passed in 1905 the first Attorney General's Act which is found in the present-day statutes of Alberta in substantially the same form as it appeared in 1905, in the Department of Attorney General Act. Section 3 of that act deals in a more complete way with the scope of the responsibilities of the Attorney General of Alberta, giving due

emphasis to functions performed by the Civil Law Section, Court Services, and the Criminal Justice Section, as well as the Public Trustee, the Inspector of Land Titles, the Chief Medical Examiner, Legislative Counsel, the Director of Legal Research and Analysis and the Constitutional Law Section. That section sets out specific responsibilities which are not to be taken as exhaustive.

Section 3 is set out below:

Powers and  
duties of  
Attorney  
General

### 3. The Attorney General shall

- (a) be the official legal advisor of the Lieutenant Governor.
- (b) ensure that public affairs are administered according to law.
- (c) superintend such matters relating to the administration of justice in the Province as are within the powers or jurisdiction of the Legislature or Government of the Province.
- (d) advise on legislative acts and proceedings of the legislature of the Province and generally advise the Crown on matters of law referred to him by the Crown.
- (e) exercise the powers and is charged with the duties attached to the office of the Attorney General of England by law or usage insofar as those powers and duties are applicable to Alberta.
- (f) advise the heads of the several departments of the Government on matters of law connected with them respectively.
- (g) settle instruments issued under the Great Seal of the Province.
- (h) regulate and conduct litigation for or against the Crown or a public department in respect of subjects within the authority or jurisdiction of the Legislature.
- (i) be charged generally with such duties as may be at any time assigned to the Attorney General of the Province by law or by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and
- (j) be responsible for the conduct of the matters hereinafter set out, the enumeration of which shall not be taken to restrict the general nature of any provision of this Act.
  - (i) Repealed 1973, c. 67, s. 5(b).
  - (ii) the supervision of the administration of the law governing titles to real property in the Province,
  - (iii) the recommendation of the appointment of and the giving of advice to sheriffs, registrars, judicial officers, justices of the peace, coroners, notaries public and commissioners for oaths,
  - (iv) the consideration of applications for bail and attendance thereon,

- (v) the consideration and argument of appeals from convictions and acquittals of persons charged with indictable offences.
- (vi) the hearing of applications for the granting of fiats regarding petitions of right, criminal informations, indictments, actions to set aside Crown patents, actions to recover fines and penalties and other actions of a similar nature,
- (vii) the consideration of applications for the remission of fines and penalties,
- (viii) the appointment of counsel for the conduct of criminal business,
- (ix) the arrangement of the sittings of the courts of justice in the Province and the regulation of the work of official court reporters,
- (x) the supervision of the offices of the courts of law in the Province,

(xi) the examination of papers in connection with the admission and discharge of lunatics to and from asylums,

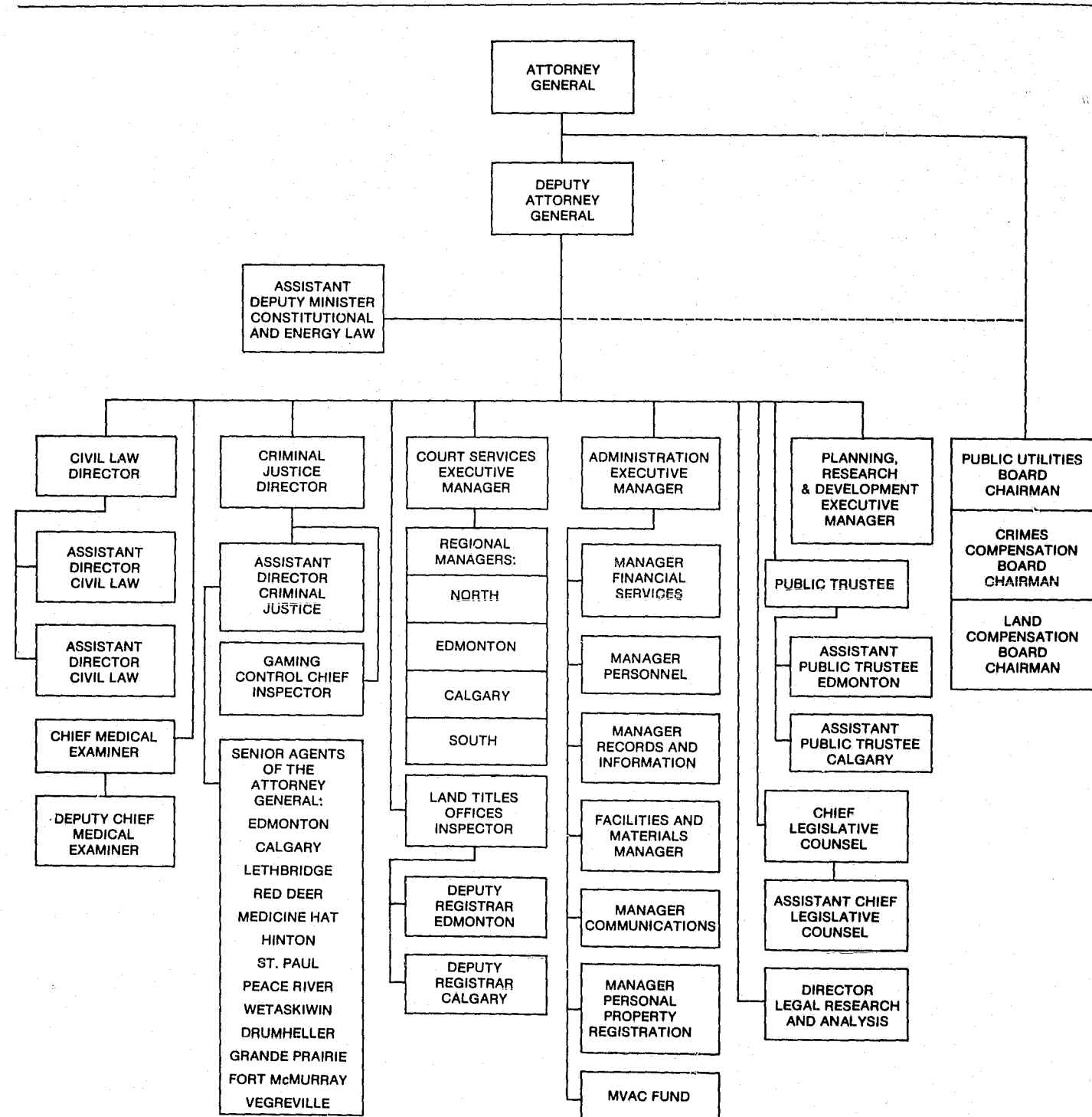
(xii) the consideration of proposed legislation and other matters of a public nature, and

(xiii) the drawing of special conveyances and instruments of a similar nature relating to the sale or purchase of property under any Act relating to public works or otherwise.  
(R.S.A. 1970, c. 95, s. 3; 1973, c. 67, s. 5)

It has been the custom for the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to appoint the Deputy Attorney General of Alberta as Inspector of Legal Offices.

### Appointment of New Attorney General

On March 23, 1979, The Honourable Neil Crawford, Q.C. was sworn in as the Attorney General of Alberta. Mr. Crawford was elected MLA for Edmonton Parkallen in the March 14 provincial election. He replaced James L. Foster, Q.C.



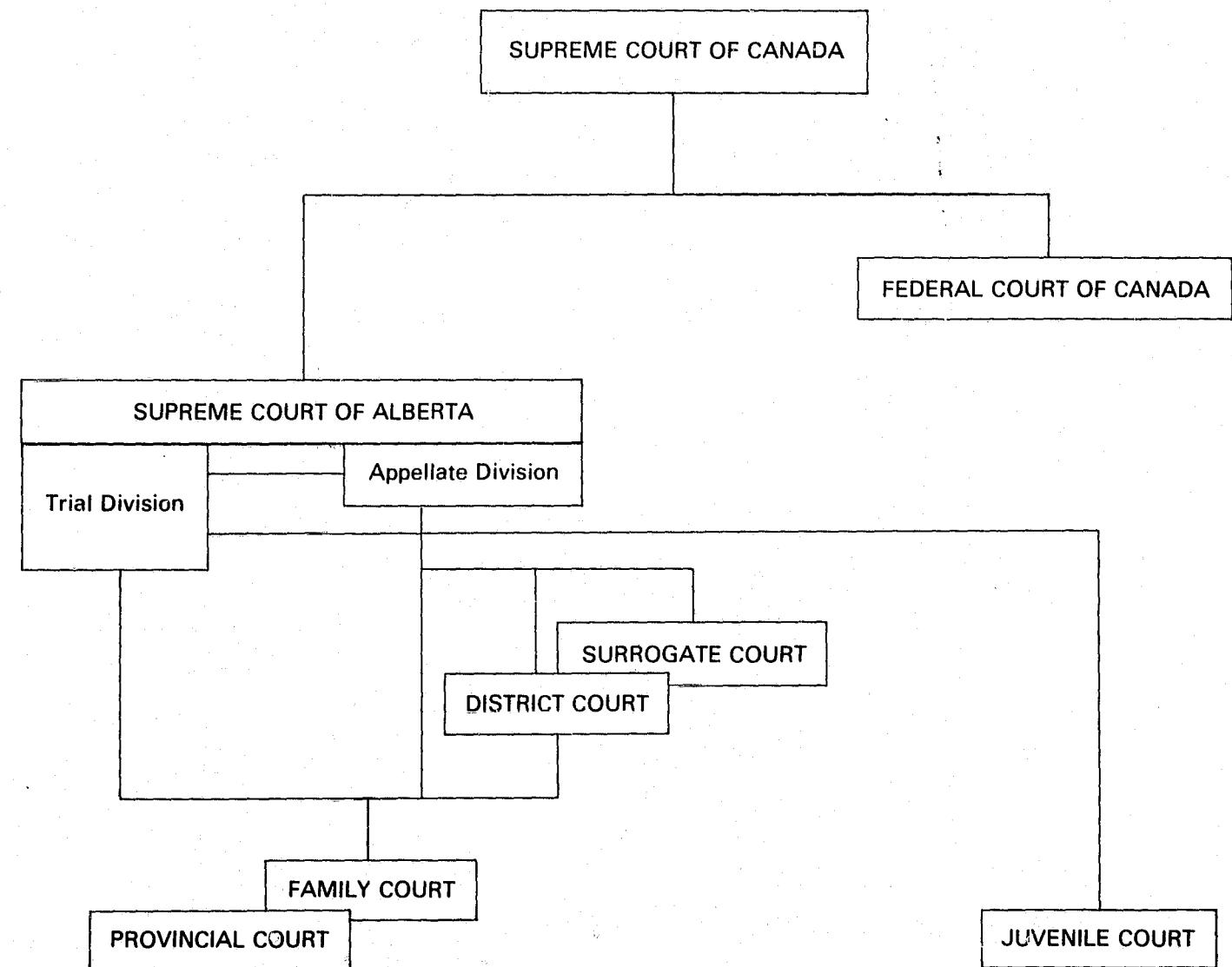
## COURTS IN ALBERTA

There are six courts of Alberta, all constituted by provincial statute, which are administered by the Attorney General in Alberta, through his principal operating division, Court Services. They are:

- The Supreme Court
- The District Court
- The Surrogate Court
- The Provincial Court
- The Family Court
- The Juvenile Court

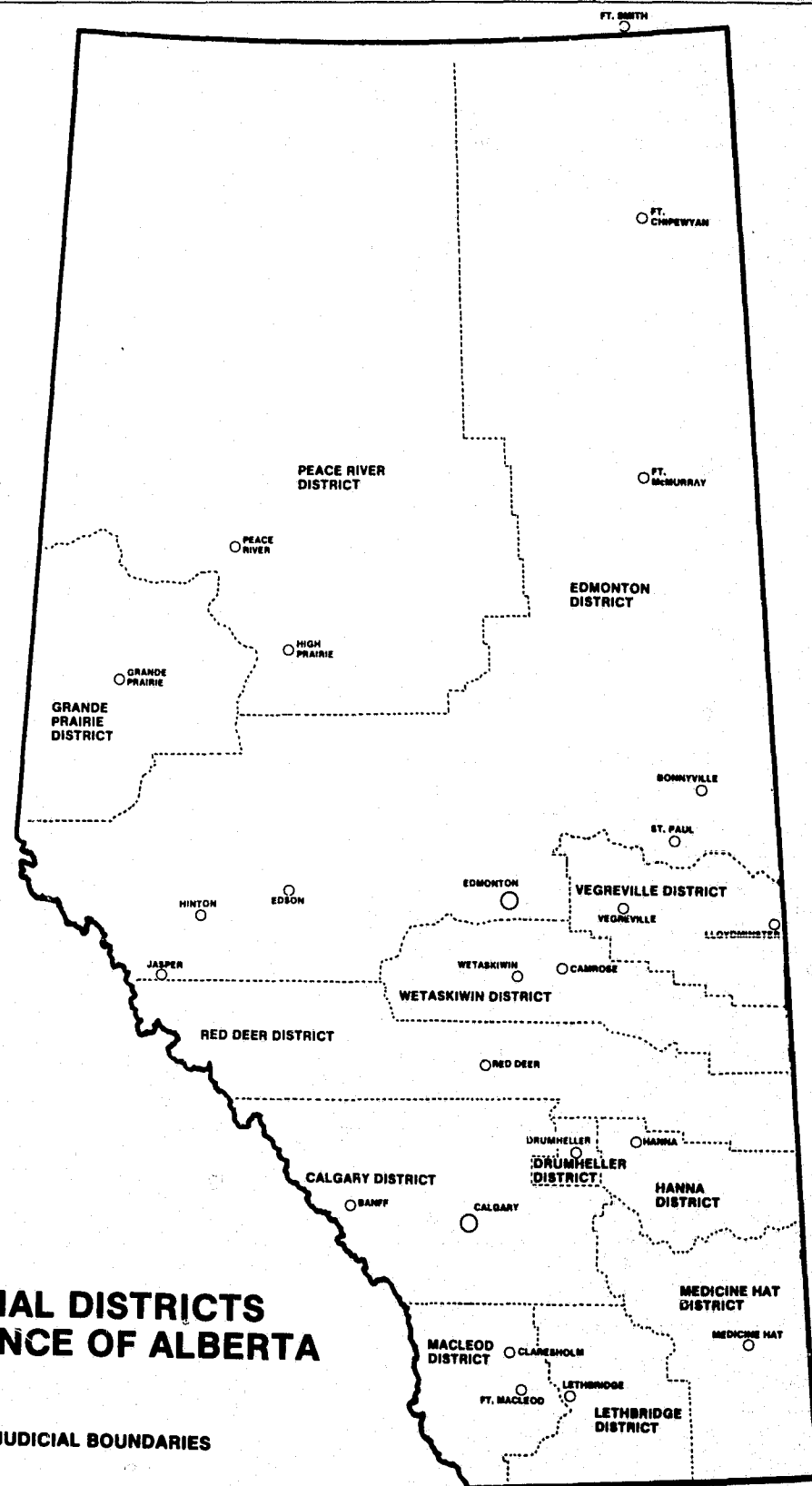
In addition, registries are maintained by the Attorney General's staff for the Federal Court of Canada in Alberta. This is a federally constituted court which has jurisdiction principally in claims for or against the Government of Canada, claims against, federal administration boards, income tax and admiralty matters.

The Supreme Court of Canada, although not constituted or administered provincially, is the court of last appeal for the courts of provincial jurisdiction.



## JUDICIAL DISTRICTS PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

----- JUDICIAL BOUNDARIES



### Supreme and District Courts

*Chief Justice of Alberta: William A. McGillivray*  
*Chief Justice of the Trial Division of the*  
*Supreme Court of Alberta: W. R. Sinclair*  
*Chief Judge of the District Court: John N. Decore*

There is, in this province, a superior court of civil and criminal jurisdiction known as The Supreme Court of Alberta. It consists of two branches or divisions: the Appellate Division and the Trial Division.

The Appellate Division is presided over by the Chief Justice of Alberta; and, in addition to him, consists of nine other judges of the court, assigned to it by the Governor-General-in-Council, and called justices of appeal. It sits in appeal, usually in panels of three justices, over all other courts in the province. Its decisions may be appealed only to The Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa. In addition, it acts as the Court of Appeal for the Northwest Territories and usually sits there twice a year.

The Trial Division consists of the Chief Justice of the Trial Division and 19 other justices assigned to it by the Governor-General-in-Council. In addition, it has two Masters in Chambers assigned to it by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council whose duties are prescribed by law and the rules of practice. It is the superior court of record for the province and has original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters not expressly excluded by statute.

The District Court consists of the Chief Judge, the Associate Chief Judge and 18 puisne judges, appointed by the Governor-General-in-Council. All judges of the District Court can act as local judges of the Supreme Court, with the permission of that court, and are ex officio justices of the peace.

Although technically an inferior court of record, the District Court has, with only a few minor exceptions, jurisdiction which is now concurrent with that of the Supreme Court. It sits in appeal over the Provincial Court in summary conviction and small claims matters and over the Family Court.

#### Appointments

The Honourable Mr. Justice W. R. Sinclair was appointed on February 22, 1979 as Chief Justice of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court with the retirement of the former Chief Justice J. V. H. Milvain on February 14, 1979. As well, two additional appointments were made and one election to become a supernumerary.

The Appellate Division also appointed two new justices in addition to one of their former justices becoming supernumerary.

The District Court appointed two new judges to replace one retirement and one resignation.

#### Amalgamation

Amendments were made to both federal and provincial legislation to accommodate amalgamation of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court with the District Court to form the Court of Queen's Bench. In addition, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will operate separately as the Court of Appeal of Alberta.

This move, which is the first of its kind in Canada, will take effect on June 30, 1979 and should result in improved caseload management, trial rescheduling and administrative efficiency.

To prepare for an orderly conversion, a wide variety of changes were initiated during the year under the leadership of the Chief Justice of the Trial Division and the Deputy Attorney General.

#### Trial Co-ordination

The procedures for reserving trial dates and co-ordinating trial activities, which were introduced during the preceding year, were expanded and refined. As a result, more trials were heard and the delay in hearing them was reduced.

#### Caseload Statistics

##### Civil

During the current fiscal year, a total of 59,669 civil actions were commenced in the Supreme and District Courts; 48% in the Supreme and 52% in the District Court. The total number of cases increased by 2,500 or 4.4% over the preceding year, although the number commenced in the District Court decreased by 7.5%. The Supreme Court attracted an additional 8.4% of the total cases commenced and increased its volume by 21.1% over the preceding year.

Excluding divorce, appeals were filed in 17.1% of the civil cases heard (18.5% last year); however, appeals were heard in only 7.9% of cases (9.2% last year). The number of civil appeals heard dropped between this year and last by 6.3% or 14 cases; and the rate of civil appeals heard to those filed decreased from 49.9% to 46% between the two years.

##### Criminal

Total criminal caseload increased during the year by 19.6% from 2,399 trials to 2,871 trials. The Supreme Court heard 20.9% or 599 trials while the District Court heard 79.2% (2,272 trials). Last year, the Supreme Court heard 29.5% (710 trials) and the District Court heard 70.4% (1,689 trials).

This year, 29.9% or 859 of the total criminal trials were appealed (51.1% or 1,227 cases last year); however, appeals were heard in only 25.9% (745 cases) of the total criminal trials this year. The number of criminal appeals actually heard increased from 81.2% of those filed last year to 86.7% this year.

With the exception of Edmonton Courts, Summary Conviction Appeals and Trials de Novo were included this year in Criminal Trials heard and not as Criminal Appeals filed. Had this practice been adopted in the preceding year, the number of appeals would have been reduced accordingly as well as the ratio of appeals to trials heard. As a result of this change, the percentage of appeals heard to those filed will be more representative since Provincial Court appeals and Trials de Novo are actually new trials heard in District Court and not appeals of that court.

#### Surrogate Court

*Chief Judge of the District Court: John N. Decore*

The Surrogate Court is a court of record. It has jurisdiction and authority in relation to testamentary matters and covers the issuing or revoking of grants of probate and administration and all matters arising out of or connected with the issue or revocation of grants of probate and administration. It also has jurisdiction in matters relating to the appointment of guardians and to the person and property of children under guardianship. The Supreme Court can exercise all of the jurisdiction given to the Surrogate Court.



The Chief Judge, the Associate Chief Judge and the other judges of the District Court of Alberta are the Chief Judge, Associate Chief Judge and judges respectively of the Surrogate Court.

#### Dependent Adults Act

The Dependent Adults Act, which was proclaimed on December 1, 1978, enables the Public Guardian, on behalf of the Department of Social Services and Community Health; the Public Trustee, on behalf of the Attorney General's Department; as well as other interested parties to obtain legal guardianship of a dependent adult and/or trusteeship of his/her estate.

The Mentally Incapacitated Persons Act was repealed and incorporated into the Dependent Adults Act along with pertinent sections of the Mental Health Act.

### Supreme and District Courts

	1978-1979	1977-1978	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
<b>Supreme Court Appellate Division</b>				
Civil appeals filed .....	454	447	7	+ 1.6
Civil appeals heard .....	209	223	(14)	- 6.3
Criminal appeals filed .....	859	1,227	(368)	-30.0
Criminal appeals heard .....	745	996	(251)	-25.2
<b>Supreme Court Trial Division</b>				
Civil actions commenced .....	28,651	23,653	4,998	+21.1
Civil trials heard .....	7,454	6,665	789	+11.8
Criminal trials heard .....	599	710	(111)	-15.6
<b>District and Surrogate Court</b>				
Civil actions commenced .....	31,018	33,516	2,498	- 7.5
Civil actions heard .....	1,676	1,559	117	+ 7.5
Criminal trials heard (including s/c Appeals & Trials De Novo) .....	2,272	1,689	583	+34.5
Applications for probate .....	7,137	5,804	1,333	+23.0
<b>Sheriff</b>				
Writs of execution filed .....	18,782	15,990	2,792	+17.5
Distress warrants filed .....	14,805	12,977	1,828	+14.1
Seizures made .....	7,984	6,929	1,055	+15.2
Attempted seizures .....	8,242	6,696	1,546	+23.1
Process served .....	23,548	21,054	2,494	+11.8
<b>Revenue</b>				
Sheriff's fees .....	\$ 420,724	\$ 380,689	\$ 40,035	+10.5
Court fees .....	\$1,983,141	\$1,702,942	\$280,199	+16.5

Previously, ministerial orders consenting to guardianship or trusteeship were filed in the Supreme Court. However, applications for such are now filed in Surrogate Court and a Chambers hearing is held to obtain the necessary order.

#### Caseload Statistics

During the current fiscal year, the volume of applications for probate increased by 18.7% from 5,804 applications last year to 7,137 applications. This is a relatively low volume, little-known, and specialized court; however, it plays an important role in the administration of justice in the province.

### Provincial Court

Chief Provincial Judge: R. A. Cawsey

During the reporting period, the Provincial Court consisted of a Chief Judge, six Assistant Chief Judges and 82 other judges appointed to it by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the Attorney General. The court exercises both civil and criminal jurisdiction: civil by virtue of the Small Claims Act under which its judges have jurisdiction to try and adjudicate upon claims and counterclaims for debts and damages not exceeding \$1,000; criminal by virtue of the Criminal Code and a variety of provincial statutes, under which it can hear summary conviction offences and certain indictable offences where the accused is given a choice as to mode of trial. In general terms, it is usually the court of first appearance in criminal matters and, for this reason, has the greatest impact of any court on the public.

#### Caseload Statistics

The Provincial Court is the court with the highest volume in the province and handles more than three times the number of hearings of all other courts combined during a given period.

This year, it handled 258,247 cases in Provincial Court alone. Further particulars which include the Family and Juvenile Courts are reflected in the accompanying table.

#### Provincial Court Act

To increase jurisdiction of the present Provincial Court and establish it as a court of record, the Provincial Court Act was passed at the fall session of the legislature, consolidating the Juvenile Court Act, Family Court Act and Small Claims Act. The newly created provincial court will have four divisions: Juvenile, Family, Small Claims and Criminal.

This move will establish uniform court procedure throughout the province, define authority and responsibility of officers of the court by creating officials capable of performing administrative tasks, relieve judges of cumbersome obligations and ensure court documents are available to the public.

#### Decriminalized Traffic Offence System

The traffic diversion program was introduced in the Provincial Court of Calgary on May 1, 1978 and in Edmonton on October 2, 1978.

Six Hearing Officers were employed in each city to handle all first appearances relating to minor traffic offences. This is the initial step in removing traffic and parking offences from the criminal procedure of the Provincial Court. The Hearing Officer may impose a specified fine, grant time to pay (if circumstances warrant such an arrangement) or, in the case of a not guilty pleas, he will set a trial date for a hearing before a Provincial Court Judge.

Because of the flexibility of the Hearing Officer, Judicial Interim Release is now available in both court centres on a 24-hour basis. This is to become an extended service throughout the province during the 1979-80 fiscal year.

Under the new approach, court congestion has been reduced and public accessibility in processing violations has been improved.

#### Default Judgment

Hearing Officers are the first phase of a long-term, decriminalized system, which will remove traffic offences from the criminal context.

However, if an offender does not appear before a Hearing Officer or pay the specified penalty, it is proposed that a default judgment will be issued against her or him.

The use of default judgments will eliminate the need for warrants and imprisonment while recognizing the need for effective enforcement procedures.

#### Court Automation

To implement the Decriminalized Traffic Offence System, court automation will be necessary. A study is underway to develop an internal computer system linking all court centres together. This system would enable data capture, case tracking and retrieval of court information.

Eventual linking of motor vehicle and police computers is tentatively scheduled for 1981.

#### Witness Management

Free parking facilities became available on July 1, 1978 for Calgary and Edmonton Provincial, District and Supreme Court witnesses. As of March 31, 1979, there were more than 2,000 participants. The program will be expanded to include Family and Juvenile Court witnesses during the first quarter of the next fiscal year.

The Witness Central Project is being co-ordinated by Planning, Research and Development. However, court staff are being consulted to help define problems, analyze objectives and develop a program for improved treatment of court witnesses.

#### Judicial Appointments

Nine additional judges were appointed during the year while two retired and four resigned. As a result, the total number of judges increased by two from 87 to 89. The appointments were: two judges to Calgary, five to Edmonton and one judge each to Red Deer and Peace River.

On January 24, 1979, His Honour D. E. Patterson was appointed as the sixth Assistant Chief Judge of the Provincial Court.

## Provincial Court

### Cases Heard Judges

Criminal Code, Narcotic Control Act, Food & Drug Act .....	98,265
Summary Conviction .....	51,619
Traffic .....	161,361
Other .....	32,690
Sub-Total	343,935
Dismissed .....	11,630
Withdrawn .....	74,058
Total	258,247

### Sentences

Fines and Penalties .....	222,113
Incarceration .....	21,067
Other .....	14,967
Total	258,247

### Cases Heard Hearing Officers

Voluntary Payments .....	295,867
Mandatory Appearances .....	92,579
Airport and Government Property Tags .....	34,583
Total	423,029

### Fines and Penalties

Balance Beginning April 1, 1978 .....	\$ 4,188,235.80
Fines Imposed or Assessed .....	\$17,380,264.08
Collected and Remitted .....	\$13,410,094.05
Balanced End March 31, 1979 .....	\$ 5,641,197.43

## Family and Juvenile Courts

Assistant Chief Judge: W. G. W. White

The Family Court is a court of record which consists of provincial judges specifically appointed to it by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. It has original jurisdiction in a variety of charges and offences directly related to the family unit, such as separation, maintenance, truancy, child welfare matters and common assaults on spouses or children triable on summary conviction.

The Juvenile Court exercises all of the powers vested in a court under the Juvenile Delinquents Act (Canada). Its jurisdiction is limited to young offenders who, because they have not reached the age of majority, cannot be tried in adult court. Each justice of the Supreme Court and each judge of the District and Provincial Courts is ex officio a judge of the Juvenile Court; however, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may appoint other persons as judges of the court.

The Family and Juvenile Courts normally operate as a unit under the administrative direction of an Assistant Chief Judge. There are presently 12 provincial judges who work almost exclusively in these courts throughout the province. Separate court operations have been established in eight centres: Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Jasper, Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray. Where a separate operation has not been established, the work of these courts is conducted in conjunction with a Provincial Court by properly appointed judges and administrative staff.

### Circuit Changes

Family and Juvenile Court services to the general public are available at eight base points and 42 circuit locations. Two circuits were deleted with the addition of Fox Creek and Airdrie.

## Family Court

Total Cases Heard .....	8,540
<b>Orders Issued</b>	
Family Court Act (custody, access and 3rd party applications) .....	703
Domestic Relations Act (maintenance, enforcement) .....	1,129
Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Act (a) originating in Alberta .....	208
(b) originating outside Alberta .....	140
Extra-Provincial Enforcement of Custody .....	8
Others .....	48
	2,236
Warrants issued for non-payment .....	329
Amount of maintenance, monies collected .....	\$3,548,356.15

## Juvenile Court

### Cases Heard

Juvenile Delinquents Act .....	3,707
Child Welfare Act .....	2,805
Traffic (including Liquor Control Act) .....	262
Criminal Code .....	3,772
Narcotic Control Act .....	125
Others .....	618
	11,289

### Adjudication

Numbers of orders under the Child Welfare Act (temp. wardship, maintenance, committals under JDA, compulsory care orders) .....	8,153
Total fined .....	1,448
Number of Probation Orders .....	2,479

## COURT SERVICES

*Executive Manager: David W. Boyd*

Court Services is the largest operating division of the Department of the Attorney General, now accounting for almost one-half of its total operations. Its work is to contribute to the timely and effective administration of justice within Alberta by providing an organization which supplies resources, systems and information for the maintenance and administration of all of the courts in the province. Court Services also provides all of the services directly related to the administration of those courts, such as court reporting, justice of the peace and sheriffs' services.

### Re-organization

During the year, the division completed a massive re-organization. The existing rigidly centralized structure, based primarily on the category of court, was converted to a highly flexible, decentralized structure. The new structure, consisting of nine branches, is geographically based and emphasizes the integration and co-ordination of service delivery. The nine branches are: Edmonton Region, Calgary Region, Northern Region, Southern Region, Court Reporting Services, Library Services, Justice of the Peace Administration, Support Services, and Training.

This re-organization, together with the initiatives undertaken in management development and participative management, have proven successful. By yearend, these changes represented one of the more ambitious but effective changes within the department.

### Staffing

Staff was increased by 63 employees. These new employees were hired to contend with increases in volume and to complete implementation of the recommendations of the Kirby Board of Review's second report. Twelve new positions were used to implement the Hearing Officer system in Edmonton and Calgary.

At yearend, there were 1,000 permanent staff positions in Court Services which represents almost half of all departmental employees.

### Classification of Staff

One of the primary recommendations of the Kirby Board of Review's second report was a salary classification for Provincial Court Clerks and other clerical staff. It was later extended to include clerical staff in all courts in the province.

In 1975, a comprehensive project was initiated to convert classification of all judicial clerks from the existing three-level service to a new five-level service with altered salary range and revised qualification standards.

This was an immense project which initially required development of a new series including proposed salary ranges, qualifications and conversion details. It also entailed massive documentation of organization, reporting relationships and more than 500 individual positions. The project was 60% complete at yearend.

Although this project has been in progress for approximately four years, it will be completed during the next year. It should have a significant impact on the operations of the division.

### Training

The formal training program in Court Administration, conducted jointly by the department and community colleges throughout the province, was continued during the year. In future, the course will be

a pre-requisite for advancement in the system. An advisory committee, comprised of representatives from the community colleges and the department, was established to review and recommend changes in course content.

Interest and participation in the para-legal training program, conducted exclusively by the department, was high.

### Court Recording System

The department fulfilled its previous year's commitment to purchase and install decentralized electronic court recording equipment throughout the province. Permanent installations were completed in 99 courtrooms of the Provincial, Family and Juvenile, and Small Claims courts. A further 30 locations are serviced by totally portable units of the same equipment.

Two teams in Edmonton and Calgary trained 150 staff members during 13 four-day courses in the operation of the recording equipment, and standards and procedures in the production of transcript. Approximately 50 more staff members were trained at base points and are now producing their own transcripts.

A comprehensive Reference Manual was compiled and distributed to all offices, and is used as a primary source of reference at smaller base points. The Reference Manual, as well as the Court Reporting Systems Manual, will be updated and expanded as required.

### Justice of the Peace

The Justice of the Peace administration program continued this year and concentrated on improved communication, liaison and training.

Eleven four-day training courses were conducted, increasing the level of formally trained J.P.s to 85%. A manual has been distributed to assist them with their duties.

The Justice of the Peace administration program has been successful and is accomplishing its objective to introduce and involve them in a working relationship with court staff and judiciary.

### Credit Reporting

The department, in an innovative joint venture with the private sector, developed a new reporting procedure. The venture is aimed at decreasing the error in providing information on civil claims and judgment to credit bureaus.

A three-year contract, presented for tender, was granted to a private contractor who, using advanced word processing equipment, compiles the required information and dispenses it to over 8,000 users throughout the province.

As a result of the new system, regular production and more reliable information is available for distribution.

### Calgary Court Development Project

The main purpose of the Calgary Court Development Project is to develop a strategy to meet future requirements for court facilities in Calgary.

A committee was established to create:

1. A set of operational objectives for facility development.
2. A strategic plan for ensuring that the objectives are met in short and long terms.

Their report is expected to be completed in the summer of 1979.

## Small Claims Filed

### Actions Commenced

#### Damages

Under \$200 .....	462
Over \$200 .....	973
	1,435

#### Debts

Under \$500 .....	14,836
Over \$500 .....	5,452
	20,288

Total Claims Filed: 21,723

### Cases Heard

Small Claims .....	10,753
Alberta Labour Act .....	1,479
Master & Servants Act .....	46

Total Cases Heard: 12,278

### Law Libraries

Law libraries in Alberta have been established for Supreme and District Courts as well as Provincial Courts. They are administered by five librarians, under the direction of the Chief Law Librarian.

Workshops on library administration and assistance to patrons for the 31 staff members were organized in Edmonton and Calgary. A monthly bulletin was published by the two main libraries to instruct branch personnel on procedure. A staff manual also was prepared and distributed.

Direct participation in architectural planning of new courthouse libraries project also began during the year.

The Supreme and District Court libraries' 1978-79 publications budget was \$100,000 with the Alberta Law Foundation providing an additional \$163,000 grant. The Edmonton book collection is 34,600 volumes, about 38,600 in Calgary, a total of 12,500 in the two judges' libraries and 34,500 volumes in branch libraries.

Thirty-six operational provincial court libraries as well as Banff and Medicine Hat counsel libraries were opened and collections for another 10 are being developed. The budget for this fiscal year was \$372,500. Of this, \$195,000 was spent on judges' libraries: \$174,000 on counsel collections and about \$171,000 directed at maintenance of existing collections. New acquisitions totalled approximately \$200,000.

The Attorney General's library serves the information needs of departmental solicitors. In the 1978-79 fiscal year, the purchasing budget was \$25,200. The library houses nearly 10,000 volumes.

### Criminal Justice

Director: Yaroslav Roslak, Q.C.

The Criminal Justice section is responsible for the administration of criminal justice throughout the province.

### Staffing

The section has a general prosecutorial staff of 106 full-time Crown counsel positions located at the following centres: head office 14, Edmonton 34, Calgary 30, Red Deer 4, Lethbridge 8, Medicine Hat 2, Wetaskiwin 3, Drumheller 1, Peace River 3, Grande Prairie 3, Hinton 2, Fort McMurray 1, St. Paul 1. A retainer agent is employed in Lloydminster.

A group of five Crown counsel in Edmonton and Calgary make up the special prosecutorial section, which handles cases involving complex corporate or commercial problems or particularly sensitive matters.

The head office section in Edmonton is charged with general prosecutorial duties, special projects and research projects. It includes responsibility for the judicial district of Vegreville. Certain boards and government agencies, for example, gaming control, refer special criminal considerations to this section. Suggestions for amendments to the Criminal Code and other statutes are researched and proposed through this section, which is staffed by ten Crown counsel.

The practice of having police officers appear as prosecutors in the province of Alberta has been almost eliminated.

### Student Programs

The Criminal Justice Section works with the Civil Law Section providing programs for articling students. This program is preliminary to a person being admitted to the Alberta Bar Association. Seven students are articulated to senior members of this section, participating in courtroom work as well as providing research and briefing material.

### Pilot Projects

The Criminal Justice Section continued its involvement in the pre-trial discovery project program. The purpose of this program is to test the usefulness of a formalized system in which Crown and defence counsel could meet prior to trial to reveal the Crown's case to the accused. It is designed to save time and to eliminate the calling of unnecessary witnesses. The project, commenced in Edmonton in January 1977, was completed. A similar project, commenced in Calgary, was completed and evaluated.

This section is participating in a diversion project in the northern part of the province. This project is designed to divert citizens from criminal court to other agencies and to programs designed to provide assistance, or an alternative to the court system, and/or counselling.

### Professional Development

Crown counsel attend in-service training and seminars sponsored by the Alberta Crown Attorneys' Association and the Federal Law Society of Canada, as well as meetings of the Alberta and Canadian Bar Associations.

In March of 1979 Alberta co-operated with the province of British Columbia in hosting a second annual meeting of about 100 Crown counsel from the four western provinces. This meeting was held at Banff in March 1979. Seminars were conducted by senior Crown counsel and practitioners and jurists from across Canada.

The Alberta Crown Attorneys' Association held meetings in May and September 1978. Discussions, lectures and panels were conducted on legal subjects. Association business was dealt with at the September meeting.

Statistics on Provincial, District and Supreme Court Trials and Proceedings by Location are on pages 19 and 20.

### Gaming Control

Chief Inspector: Ronald R. Sheppard

The Gaming Control section has 32 full-time staff attending to three main areas of responsibility — Licensing, Audit, and Investigation.

### Growth in Gaming

In 1978 Albertans spent \$130.2 million on bingos, casinos, raffles and pull tickets. This represents an increase of \$19 million over 1977

The most significant increases in spending were in casinos and pull ticket schemes, which increased by \$8.7 million and \$9.1 million respectively over 1977. Spending in raffles during 1978 decreased by \$7 million as compared with 1977, while bingo spending increased by \$2 million.

### Provincial, District and Supreme Court Trials - Verdicts

April 1, 1978 - March 31, 1979

Offence	Charges	Conviction	Acquittal	Stays/Withdrawals	Other
Murder .....	24	12	6	6	-
Attempted Murder .....	51	12	12	23	4
Manslaughter .....	23	21	2	-	-
Rape .....	64	25	23	16	-
Other Sexual Offences .....	317	217	34	64	2
Wounding .....	79	39	20	20	-
Assault .....	405	283	43	76	3
Robbery .....	402	276	54	71	1
Break & Enter .....	2839	2304	124	409	2
Theft - Auto .....	150	98	6	46	-
Theft .....	894	657	75	162	-
Possession - Stolen Goods .....	1118	726	114	277	1
Prostitution .....	39	12	3	24	-
Offensive Weapons .....	516	303	83	129	1
*Other Indictable .....	2680	1961	237	479	3
Total Criminal Code .....	9601	6946	836	1802	17
Other Federal Statute .....	8	8	-	-	-
Provincial Statute .....	-	-	-	-	-

\* Gaming & Betting included in Other Indictable.

Proceedings by Location of Crown Agents and Nature of Court  
April 1, 1978 - March 31, 1979

	Edmonton	St. Paul	Fort McMurray	Hinton	Special Prosecution	Vegreville	Calgary	Red Deer	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Peace River	Grande Prairie	Drumheller	Wetaskiwin	Total
Provincial Court Preliminaries	219				12	6	415	11	10	4	20	3	3	3	706
Trials	2456	68	57	20	27	46	2520	322	356	402	392	214	40	342	7262
District Court Trials - Judge and Jury	724	9	6	1	17	11	439	28	28	7	91	6	8	27	1402
Trials - Judge and Jury	5						29							1	35
Supreme Court - Trial	132				48	1	451	52	3	14	8	2	3	9	723
Trials - Judge and Jury	46				3	1	77	44	2	5	6	2	1	2	189
Appeals - By Accused	15										2				17
Appeals - By Crown	8								3		1				12
Other	50						1						1		52
Supreme Court - Appellate	261				8		232	11	22	6			2	1	543
Appeals - By Accused	83				1		35	5	6	3			2		135
Appeals - By Crown															
Supreme Court of Canada	3						2								5
Appeals - By Accused															
Appeals - By Crown															

Crown agent report figures only show cases reported, and only cover indictable offences on which an election is given. Charges laid under the Criminal Code are not included in the figures.

### Gaming Control 1978

	No. of Licences	No. of Events	Licence Fees	Gross Proceeds	Paid out Prizes	Paid out Expenses	Net Profit
Bingos	2,253	28,630	\$ 56,950	\$ 30,338,492	\$ 20,618,299	\$ 2,952,896	\$ 6,767,297
Casinos	444	835	\$261,830	\$ 47,295,743	\$33,815,566	\$ 4,994,943	\$ 8,485,234
Raffles	2,933	7,413	\$ 40,806	\$ 8,715,982	\$ 3,054,696	\$ 1,549,183	\$ 4,112,103
Pull Tickets	627	627	\$226,010	\$ 43,812,687	\$32,460,511	\$ 1,568,219	\$ 9,783,957
Total	6,257	37,505	\$585,596	\$130,162,904	\$89,949,072	\$11,065,241	\$29,148,591

### Civil Law

Director of Civil Law: Vacant

The responsibilities of the Attorney General include acting as legal advisor to all departments of government and representing the Crown in all courts of civil jurisdiction. The Civil Law Section is responsible for these matters.

### Legal Advice

Lawyers in the Civil Law Section's head office were re-organized into five working groups during the year. The re-organization, involving approximately 30 lawyers, was designed to improve the efficiency of legal services to client departments. Each group of lawyers is headed by a senior lawyer who is responsible for the assignment of work within the group, assisting the junior lawyers, assessing performance and generally ensuring the prompt and accurate delivery of legal services to the client departments assigned to his group.

### Staff Changes

The Civil Law Section is based in Edmonton. The lawyers report to the Director of Civil Law. There are 51 legal positions in the Civil Law Section as of March 31, 1979.

### Administration

Executive Manager: Clarence R. Shank

In keeping with the expanding role and growth of the Attorney General Department, an office of Administration was established headed by an Executive Manager reporting directly to the Deputy Attorney General.

The Executive Manager of Administration oversees the administration of all department staff functions, and provides line management with advice, guidance and support in areas of responsibility.

This manager is also responsible for the Personal Property Registration Branch function and provides support to the Legal Aid Program.

The areas reporting to the Administration Office are: Finance, Personnel, Records and Information, Materials and Facilities Management, Motor Vehicle Accident Claims and Communications/Public Affairs.

The Executive Manager serves as a member of the department's management committee and participates with other senior officers in special committees or task forces to carry out special projects assigned by the Deputy Attorney General.

### Financial Services

Manager: Dennis Medwid

The Financial Services Branch provides financial administrative support to all other divisions and sections of the department. It has the responsibility of ensuring the proper receipt and expenditure of funds. The day-to-day function of this branch is to assist all levels of management in an overview of their allocated funding and the proper expenditure of same.

### Budgeting

The budgeting process was restructured through the management committee, whose members act as budget program co-ordinators.

### Fines and Statistics

Statistics were supplied by the branch to various agencies and government departments throughout the year. The section is responsible for the redistribution of fines that were levied in the Provincial Court. During the period this amounted to \$23,240,345 as noted in the accompanying table.

### Materials and Facilities

Re-organization has been completed and Materials and Facilities has become a separate branch.

### Revenue and Expenditure

Revenue has increased to \$46,417,740 from \$29,862,931 for the previous year. Details are in the accompanying statement. A schedule of expenditures for the year ended March 31, 1978 is also listed. Expenditures increased by \$8,719,720 to \$52,474,626.

### Pay and Benefits

In accordance with the Financial Administration Act, the Pay and Benefits section is now part of the Financial Services Branch. The Pay and Benefits section is responsible for the preparation and validation of payroll data and the maintenance of payroll records for approximately 2,100 permanent employees, and temporary and wage staff.

**Fines Collected - Years ended March 31**

	1977-78	1978-79	Increase (Decrease)
Fines paid to province .....	10,597,471	12,917,369	2,319,898
Costs paid to province .....	159	8,998	8,839
Fines paid to federal government .....	1,087,169	1,101,421	14,252
Costs paid to federal government .....	28	461	433
Fines paid to municipalities .....	8,576,456	9,173,589	597,133
Costs paid to municipalities .....	87	25	(62)
Fines paid to Oil and Gas Conservation Board .....	1,000	750	(250)
Fees paid to Justices of the Peace .....	45,549	37,732	(7,817)
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>20,307,919</b>	<b>23,240,345</b>	<b>2,932,426</b>

**Receipts - Years ended March 31**

	1977-78	1978-79	Increase (Decrease)
Land Titles Act - Registration Fees .....	13,994,022	18,746,336	4,752,314
Land Titles Act - Assurance Fund .....		2,427,198	2,427,198
Government of Canada - Statutory Fines .....	5,459,864	8,625,791	3,165,927
Province of Alberta - Statutory Fines .....	4,434,745	7,011,972	2,577,227
Clerks of the Court Act - Fees .....	1,684,074	1,967,273	283,199
Public Trustee Act - Fees and Earnings .....	1,089,488	1,270,373	180,885
Government of Canada - Legal Aid .....	1,369,500	1,557,754	188,254
Other .....	1,831,238	4,511,043	2,979,805
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>29,862,931</b>	<b>46,417,740</b>	<b>16,554,809</b>

\* 1978-79 figures represent actual cash received plus the accounts receivable as at March 31, 1979 while 1977-78 reflect only cash received at year end.

**Expenditures - Years ended March 31**

	1977-78	1978-79	Increase (Decrease)
Minister's Office .....	105,775	120,012	14,237
General Administration .....	4,381,873	6,030,802	1,648,929
Law Libraries .....	571,877	781,604	209,727
Supreme and District Courts and Sheriff's Office .....	7,059,446	7,239,519	180,073
Provincial Courts .....	10,263,857	13,910,499	3,646,642
Crown Counsel and Legal Services .....	6,694,306	8,375,878	1,681,572
Legal Aid Plan .....	3,870,000	4,100,000	230,000
Land Titles Office - Calgary .....	1,656,631	1,877,334	220,703
Land Titles Office - Edmonton .....	2,819,539	3,020,827	201,288
Public Trustee .....	2,110,844	2,309,861	199,017
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims .....	238,663	270,834	32,171
Central and Vehicle Registry .....	764,678	862,840	98,162
Medical Examiners .....	1,195,927	1,485,687	289,760
Crimes Compensation Board .....	482,548	584,593	102,045
Land Compensation Board .....	180,367	162,632	(17,735)
Public Utilities Board .....	1,358,575	1,341,704	(16,871)
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>43,754,906</b>	<b>52,474,626</b>	<b>8,719,720</b>

**Administrative Services**

Administrator: Lorette Olson

Administrative Services is responsible for the administration of the appointments of commissioners for oaths, notaries public and the administration of the Provincial Secretary's Office. Comparative statistics are outlined in the following table.

	1977-78	1978-79	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
<b>Commissioners For Oaths</b>				
Appointments .....	22,460	24,840	2,380	+10.5
Revenue .....	\$73,352	\$81,007	\$7,655	+10.5
<b>Notaries Public</b>				
Full Appointments .....	14	9	(5)	-35.7
Limited Appointments .....	377	380	3	+ .8
Revenue .....	391	389	(2)	- .5
	\$2,485	\$2,095	(\$390)	-15.7
<b>Provincial Secretary's Office</b>				
Notarial Certificates Issued .....	43	24	(19)	-44.2
Certificates of Authentication Issued .....	1,079	1,300	221	+20.5
Total Fees Collected .....	\$2,264.50	\$2,716	\$451.50	+11.9

A remission of \$22,780 was the result of the appointment of Commissioners without Fee.

**Personnel**

Acting Manager: R. J. Capell

This section provides professional human resource management advisory service to assist management and employees in meeting organizational objectives.

**Employment**

The Employment Section handled 497 requests from line managers during the period. This demand resulted from growth, attrition, transfers and promotions.

**Organization Analysis and Classification**

This section processed 467 classification transactions as well as numerous acting incumbency and temporary promotion requests. In addition, one classification and compensation review was finalized, and one minor and one major classification and compensation review continued.

**Training and Development**

This section co-ordinated the staff development and human resource planning for the department. A series of courses for supervisors was held in Edmonton and in Calgary. The section administered the department's involvement in the province's staff development and obtained 114 seats for government sponsored courses and seminars run by the Personnel Administration office. It also undertook an expanding organization development role.

**Employee Relations**

The activity level of this section expanded significantly during the period. Advice and assistance were provided to a number of line managers on grievances, disciplinary matters and pay problems. Numerous employee counselling sessions were held in order to resolve problems on an informal basis.

**Records and Information**

Director: H. A. Brinton

This division is responsible for correspondence, forms, reports, directives, word processing, file operations, subject classification, records equipment and supplies, vital records, information retrieval, records disposition, mail-messenger services, photocopying services, and micrographic services. It also provides all records services to head office and assists branch offices.

**Forms/Reports Management**

In the first full year of Forms/Reports Management's operation, this program analyzed and designed 54 new forms for nine different branches. It also partially completed a standardization project involving more than 75 forms for the Family and Juvenile Courts.

**Directives Management**

During the year, 24 new policy/directives were issued and an existing 20 were amended. All 120 policy/directive manuals were audited for content and location.

### Records Disposition

Records amounting to 7,071 cubic feet were disposed of during the fiscal year. Of these, 2,390 cubic feet were transferred to the Alberta Records Centre and 903 cubic feet to the Provincial Archives. Another 3,778 cubic feet were destroyed.

### Central Distribution

The Alberta Rules of Court mailing list was increased by 350 names to 4,662 and two major amendments were issued during the past year. Central control and distribution of notices, circulars and several procedural manuals was established.

### Building Reception

About 13,570 phone inquiries were received on the departmental information number and 2,000 visitors were assisted. Procedures were established for central control and up-dating of all department, government and public telephone directories.

### Central Records

This office provides mail, messenger, records classification, records storage and retrieval services to head office. Some significant comparisons for the last two fiscal years are:

	1977-78	1978-79	% Change
Mail received	121,136	147,212	+21.5
Index entries	21,748	24,552	+12.9
New files created	14,832	15,759	+ 6.2
Files charged out with			
new material	20,591	24,188	+17.5
Requests for files	6,940	8,410	+21.2
External messenger runs	1,551	2,994	+93.0

### Photo-services

This section provides photo-duplication, binding and laminating services. With modern equipment, service expanded to many branches with total production nearly doubling to 1,500,000 copies while operating costs increased only 3%. There were 2,544 requests for copying, 333 requests for binding and 160 duplicating jobs sent to Quick Print.

### Micrographic Services

This section provides microfilming, processing, editing, and duplicating services to the department through two labs in the Land Titles Offices, as well as advice and assistance on micrographic systems.

There were 3,975,202 camera exposures for both land titles office documents and titles which is slightly higher than last year. Central Registry document exposures increased 24.4% to 587,401. Vehicle Registry film footage processed increased 27.6% to 77,100. Fines and Statistics film footage increased 11.3% to 48,030. Additional assignments in Edmonton — amounting to 105,909 images — were the filming of old format condominium titles, roadway titles and Crown Prosecutor files. Additional assignments in Calgary — amounting to 212,924 images — were the filming of Public Trustee accounting records and some company complaint files for the Consumer and Corporate Affairs department.

This section assumed responsibility for the filming operations for Vehicle Registry and a system was implemented to film valuable Crown Prosecution files.

### Records Systems

New records classification systems were analyzed, developed and implemented for Legislative Counsel, Personnel and Court Services.

### Materials and Facilities Management

Manager: Robert Remmer

During fiscal year 1978/79, the Materials Management section and the Facilities Management group were amalgamated under the title of Materials and Facilities branch. The major responsibilities of this branch include a centralized purchasing and supply function and the administration of all facility/accommodation projects.

In 1978, following Kirby Board of Review recommendations for rural community courthouses, the first new courthouse facilities opened. It was also a year in which two important Edmonton projects began: the addition to the Law Courts and renovations to the Natural Resources Building. Other major courthouse projects were initiated along with plans for new agent officers in several Alberta communities and new medical examiner facilities.

### Headquarters Relocation

Interior alterations to the Natural Resources Building on 109th Street in Edmonton began in January 1979 with plans to relocate and consolidate Attorney General headquarters' functions into one building by March 1980. The building has six floors plus a mezzanine with about 8,290 square meters (89,230 square feet) of usable space.

### Courthouse Projects

The first new Provincial Court circuit point courthouse opened in April 1978 at Evansburg, about 100 kilometres west of Edmonton. It was followed by similar courthouses in Spirit River, Beaverlodge, Wainwright, Breton, Turner Valley and Taber. These new facilities contain one courtroom; a clerk's office and judge's chambers; offices for counsel, witnesses and interviews; a secure holding room and a public waiting lobby in about 418 square metres (4,500 square feet).

A new courthouse in Hinton was completed at the end of 1978 and opened in January 1979. It is a larger facility than the standard circuit point courthouse because it is to become a new base point in July 1979 and will operate the Provincial Courts in Jasper and Grande Cache.

Other courthouse facilities in new Provincial buildings were completed in Drayton Valley, Whitecourt, Smoky Lake and Bonnyville during the past fiscal year. Court facilities in Provincial buildings at Lloydminster, Bashaw and Valleyview are to open soon. Alternate accommodation for two remote court locations in northern Alberta — Fort Chipewyan and Wabasca — was obtained by using trailer unit courthouses.

Among all of the courthouse projects initiated in the past three years until March 1979, the construction of 117 new courtrooms in 62 courthouses has been approved.

The largest courthouse construction project, the Edmonton Law Courts addition, began construction in November 1978 and is expected to be completed in three years.

### Other Accommodation Projects

A number of projects have been initiated to provide improved accommodation for Provincial Court agents outside of courthouses and staff has been increased recently. Current projects include agent offices in Peace River, Fort McMurray, High Prairie, Grande Prairie, St. Paul, Lloydminster, Wetaskiwin, Drumheller and Medicine Hat.

New and/or additional offices for Legal Aid were provided in Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat in an effort to provide better services to the public.

Renovation projects during the last fiscal year included the Land Titles Office in Calgary and the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Office in Edmonton.

New facilities for the Medical Examiner were programmed in 1978 and both a new facility and an interim relocation facility are now being designed and implemented in Edmonton.

Relocation of the court reporters is underway with completion planned for the spring of 1979.

Expansion of the offices of the Gaming Control division is underway.

Planning commenced for expansion of the offices of the Public Utilities Board in Edmonton with completion slated for spring 1979.

### Communications/Public Affairs

A/Communications Manager: Rosemary Penelhum

The Communications unit, consisting of two officers and one support staff member, supplied most sections of the department with consulting, printing, advertising, and media liaison services during the reporting period.

### News Media Services

The public affairs officers issued 126 news releases on many subjects, including Crimes Compensation Board awards, Fatality Inquiries, appointments of judges to the Provincial Court of Alberta, Gaming Control, and other news when appropriate. The officers also received daily requests from reporters for information and interviews. Internally, the unit kept department managers supplied with clippings and transcripts on media reports concerning the department.

### Print and Audio Visual Projects

The Communications unit produced pamphlets and booklets which included the following titles: How the Public Trustee can help the Mentally Disabled, Alberta's Matrimonial Property Law, About the Medical Examiner's Office, The Jury and the Justice System, The Witness and the Justice System, Report of a Public Inquiry into Royal American Shows Inc., and the Department Manual: Functions and Responsibilities. It continued to print a bi-monthly newsletter distributed within the department and to interested officials in other provinces.

Work was begun on material explaining the functions of courts in Alberta. The section also made arrangements for preparation of a complete photograph gallery of all judges of the Provincial Court of Alberta, the Supreme Court of Alberta, and the District Court of Alberta.

### Advertising

The Communications unit was responsible for co-ordinating production and placement of advertising for the Public Utilities Board, the Alberta Law Foundation, and the new traffic court services in Edmonton and Calgary.

### Conferences and Seminars

The public affairs officers supplied consulting, printing, and media liaison services for several conferences and seminars during the period: a symposium for medical examiners on the subject of mass disaster in June 1978 in Calgary, the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges conference in Calgary in September 1978, an Edmonton seminar on uniformity of gaming enforcement held in November, and the Western Canada Crown Seminar in Banff in March 1979.

### Personal Property Registration

Manager, Personal Property Registration: Joe Gallo  
Registrar, Central Registry: H. J. Corie  
Registration Clerk, Vehicle Registry: J. G. Banks

On March 15, 1979, the amalgamation of Central and Vehicle Registries began. Central Registry records documents and conducts searches on chattels other than motor vehicles, aircraft, trailers, oil well drilling equipment and rolling railway stock, which are the responsibility of Vehicle Registry. Both registries are in the same location to provide the public with a one-stop service for liens, encumbrance registrations and searches. Progress began on the amalgamation of registry functions, including a computerized Central and Vehicle Registry Information System (CVRIS).

### Central Registry

In addition to personal property, this section registers limited partnership as well as partnerships and trade names. During 1978-79, a total of 127,307 documents were registered and 56,558 searches conducted, representing an increase of 30% over the previous year. The total revenue generated was \$173,000.

Statutes controlling Central Registry are the Chattel Security Registries Act, Bills of Sale Act, Conditional Sales Act, Assignment of Book Debts Act and Partnership Act.

### Vehicle Registry

During 1978-79, Vehicle Registry registered 402,639 documents and conducted 293,800 searches, representing a 16% increase over the previous year. The total revenue generated was \$648,000.

Statutes controlling Vehicle Registry are the Bills of Sale Act, Conditional Sales Act, Garagemen's Lien Act and Chattel Security Registries Act.

In both registries a "no charge" search service is offered to all Alberta government departments and, in most instances, to other similar provincial government departments and law enforcement authorities.

## Motor Vehicle Accident Claims

Administrator: Nick Semotiuk

The Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund offers financial protection to the public against uninsured hit-and-run motorists who cause property damage, injury and death. The fund was established in 1947. Since April 1, 1976, protection has been extended to include accidents involving off-highway vehicles.

Alberta's Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund now pays claims up to \$100,000 for personal injury and property damage when the person responsible is unknown or cannot be located or the person suffering damages cannot collect.

### Deficit Position

At March 31, 1979 the fund has a cumulative deficit of just over \$4.6 million. Since its inception, the fund has paid out a total of \$38.2 million in claims for personal injury, property damage, hospital, medical and ambulance charges, auto repairs and other costs which have increased substantially. Receipts in the same period have been \$33.5 million. The fund is financed by annual assessments of \$3 per vehicle per year included in motor vehicle licence fees.

### Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund

	1977-78	1978-79	Increase
Receipts .....	\$4,709,804	\$4,985,535	\$ 275,731
Expenditures .....	\$3,540,410	\$4,630,376	\$1,089,966

## Planning, Research, and Development

Executive Manager: Peter M. Jenner

The Planning, Research, and Development Division was created in June 1978. As the division's name implies, its mandate includes responsibility for providing the department with services in corporate planning, research, and systems development and implementation. The division also is responsible for policy and program analysis and evaluation, project management, and the co-ordination of a variety of departmental activities such as the implementation of the recommendations of the Kirby Board of Review. The new division absorbed the staff and responsibilities of Project Omega, and continued the many projects initiated by that organization in response to the second Kirby Report.

One of these is the Default Judgement System (formerly the Decriminalized Traffic Offence System), the first phase of which commenced in Calgary in May 1978, and in Edmonton in October 1978, with the introduction of the Hearing Officer System. This use of Justices of the Peace to handle first appearances for traffic and certain other offences significantly reduced the caseload in the courtrooms in Calgary and Edmonton Provincial Court.

Other activities relating to the Default Judgement System included the creation of specified penalties for several more provincial offences, as well as initiation of the Court Automation Project which will develop an automated case file for the Default Judgement System.

Other areas in which work begun by Project Omega was continued by the division included free witness parking in Calgary and Edmonton, planning for a centralized witness service, an improved subpoena, and the municipal bylaw project.

Consistent with its mandate to provide certain department-wide services, Planning, Research, and Development set up a Resource Centre containing information on corporate planning and systems development, took responsibility for producing a proposed response to the Fourth Report of the Kirby Board of Review (Natives and the Administration of Justice), and assisted in the first steps of a new budget development plan. The division also received and reviewed, on behalf of the department, a major report from private consultants outlining recommended systems development for the next several years.

## OTHER SECTIONS ON SPECIAL MATTERS

### Constitutional and Energy Law

Assistant Deputy Minister: William Henkel, Q.C.

The Constitutional and Energy Law Section gives legal advice to the government primarily on matters involving constitutional law. This involves analysis of proposed or actual provincial or federal legislation to determine if it is within the constitutional authority of the legislative body enacting same. Constitutional advice is also rendered on the applicability of legislation to a particular situation, that is whether federal or provincial labor legislation is applicable to a given undertaking. The section is also concerned with questions such as whether or not provincial legislation is operative in matters involving Indians, Indian reserves and national parks. And of particular concern is Alberta's energy legislation because of its importance to the province.

The Constitutional and Energy Law Section also appears in both criminal and civil courts at all levels in the province to argue constitutional matters, whether the government is involved as a party to the action or has been given notice pursuant to the Judicature Act. The section appears in the Supreme Court of Canada where the province is an intervenant or as a party when constitutional law issues are raised. This year the Assistant Deputy Attorney General appeared in the Supreme Court of Canada in March on the Senate Reference, involving consideration of those sections of the Constitutional Amendment Bill relating to abolition or alteration of Canada's upper house.

The section is responsible for legal advice and appearance in court on matters involving the Canadian or Alberta Bill of Rights or the Alberta Individual's Rights Protection Act. This is because these statutes can have the effect of rendering legislation completely inoperative, or at least inapplicable, in particular situations.

The section, which has three solicitors working under the Assistant Deputy Attorney General, also sits on inter-departmental committees of government where constitutional law or Bill of Rights matters are of concern. A few such examples are the Communications Committee and the Electronic Funds Transfer System Committee. As well, members of the section have been called upon occasionally to speak to groups both in and outside of government on matters of concern in their area of expertise.

The Constitutional Law Section was involved during the year in the discussions the province had with the federal government on the amendment of Canada's constitution. The subject matter under discussion and proposals put forward all underwent close scrutiny by the section. The Assistant Deputy and one of the solicitors

attended, with the Deputy Minister, the meetings of first ministers held in Ottawa in November and again in February. As well, representatives attended preparatory meetings held in advance and meetings held afterward between officials of the federal and provincial governments.

### Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Chief Medical Examiner: Dr. John C. Butt

The Chief Medical Examiner is based in Calgary with responsibility for the entire province as well as the southern region. The northern region is administered through an Edmonton office.

### Medical Examiner System

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner investigates unexpected or unexplained deaths in the province. This office replaced the Coroner's office in 1977.

In the new system, there is a requirement for the Medical Examiner's Office to be involved in documentation over disposal of some dead bodies.

Medical examiners are required to be practising physicians. There are about 150 working on a fee for service basis.

### Education

Extensive efforts are continuing to educate medical and other personnel such as police agencies, fire departments, ambulance operators, funeral directors, etc. on the Fatality Inquiries Act and policy changes on notification and investigation of sudden death.

The production of a short film, "Investigating Sudden Death — A Team Approach", on the medical examiner system was completed in 1978 through the facilities of ACCESS.

A two-day symposium was held in May 1978, at Calgary's Health Sciences Centre, where 150 participants and internationally recognized experts discussed identification problems in mass disaster. The event was co-sponsored by Alberta Disaster Services and the University of Calgary's Faculty of Medicine.

### Academic Involvement

During the period, preliminaries for the introduction of a forensic pathology residency training program were implemented. It will soon be introduced at the University of Calgary through the Division of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine.



### Deaths Reported 1978 (Fiscal Year)

Manner of Death	Calgary	S. Rural	Total S. Reg.	Edmonton	N. Rural	Total N. Reg.	Prov. Total
Natural	494	425	919	508	387	895	1,814
Accidental	70	127	197	90	159	249	446
Motor Vehicle Accident	68	181	249	92	236	328	577
Suicide	85	86	171	95	82	177	348
Homicide	19	12	31	24	25	49	80
Unclassified	50	26	76	72	47	119	195
Undetermined	27	16	43	54	19	73	116
Unknown	3	7	10	5	2	7	17
Med. Examiner Cases	816	880	1,696	940	957	1,897	3,593
Other Deaths Notified	821	220	1,041	186	15	201	1,242
<b>Total Reported</b>	<b>1,637</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>2,737</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>4,835</b>

Cremations, Ship-outs, Dissections

1,412

1,298

Ship-ins

92

135

Public Inquiries 64 in 1978 (fiscal year)  
84 in 1977 (calendar year)  
67 in 1976 (calendar year)

### Public Inquiries

Decisions on whether to hold a public inquiry (formerly known as an inquest) under the Fatality Inquiries Act are made by the Fatality Review Board. This board is composed of a lawyer (chairman), a physician, and a lay person. Public inquiries are held before a Provincial Court judge. There were 64 inquiries in 1978, down from 84 in 1977.

### Death Notification

A broader list of notifications has been implemented under the Fatality Inquiries Act which, for example, includes many institutional deaths and all deaths within ten days of surgery or anaesthesia. In the 1978 fiscal year, there were 4,835 deaths reported compared to 3,553 in the 1977 calendar year. It is hoped new procedures will promote lower autopsy rates through instruction and through encouragement to medical examiners to confine their investigations to external examinations of bodies. Nonetheless, in both the 1977 calendar year and the 1978 fiscal year, the autopsy rate has remained at 67%.

### Medical Investigators

The number of medical examiner's investigators in Calgary and Edmonton has increased to five in each city from four in 1977. These investigators are lay persons with a nursing or paramedical background who assist medical examiners. In rural areas, police officers often assume the role of investigators under the Fatality Inquiries Act.

### Statistical Unit

A computer system was developed, compiling information from 1975-1978 medical examiner cases. Access to the data is through a terminal linked to the Edmonton Data Centre. The system's primary function has been to supply statistics to interested agencies.

### Land Titles

Inspector of Land Titles Offices: Harris E. McCombs

The Inspector of Land Titles is responsible for the province-wide operation of the Land Titles system.

The province is separated into two Land Registration Districts. The office for the North Alberta Land Registration District is in Edmonton and the office for the South Alberta Land Registration District is in Calgary. Each office is responsible for the examination and registration of land-related documents, issuance of and updating of titles, custody of original titles and documents, and provision of title and document searches.

### Public Service

Volume of documents registered increased by 11% over the previous year. An increase of 29.6% was recorded in TWX searches, which shows a significant trend toward remote title searching. The 30.5% increase in registration of liens is noteworthy.

Effective November 1, 1978, a simplified tariff was implemented for ease of calculation of fees by Land Titles staff and by the general public.

### Productivity

Registrations rose 11% during the year to 1,486 registrations per man year. This was accomplished through revision of registration procedures, and with no increase in permanent positions. The Edmonton Land Titles Office continued its program of conversion toward the Loose Title System. During the current year, 122,026 titles were converted. Conversion is expected to be completed during next year in the Edmonton office.

### Legislative Changes

The Planning Act, 1977 and amendments to the Condominium Property Act resulted in new legal requirements to be enforced by staff in the examination of instruments, and some administrative procedure changes were necessary. The Metric Conversion Regulation was made pursuant to the Land Titles Act, which authorized the conversion of units of measurement to the International system of units.

### Alberta Land Titles Office

#### Type of Activity

#### Document Registrations

	1977-78	1978-79	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Transfers	128,236	138,830	10,594	+ 8.3
Mortgages	99,362	108,649	9,287	+ 9.3
Caveats	52,725	59,730	7,005	+13.3
Liens	7,657	9,993	2,336	+30.5
Discharges	122,136	136,344	14,208	+11.6
Easements	12,417	11,144	(1,273)	-10.3
Miscellaneous	40,472	49,452	8,980	+22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>463,005</b>	<b>514,142</b>	<b>51,137</b>	<b>+11.0</b>

#### Survey Plan Registrations

Subdivision Plans	2,083	2,134	51	+ 2.4
Condominium Plans	162	196	34	+20.9
Road Plans	672	621	(51)	- 7.6
Right of Way Plans	1,916	1,968	52	+ 2.7
Others	202	299	97	+48.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,035</b>	<b>5,218</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>+ 3.6</b>

#### Tax Recovery

Titles Endorsed	6,514	6,527	13	+ 0.2
Tax Notices Issued	14,679	16,270	1,591	+10.8

#### Certificates of Title Issued

On Transfers	174,356	191,393	17,037	+ 9.8
On New Subdivision Plans	34,236	38,845	4,609	+13.5
On New Condominium Plans	7,149	9,036	1,887	+26.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>215,741</b>	<b>239,274</b>	<b>23,553</b>	<b>+10.9</b>

#### Services

T.W.X. Searches	115,334	149,494	34,160	+29.6
Telephone Searches	37,035	40,076	3,041	+ 8.2
Photo Copies	3,344,014	3,693,532	349,518	+10.5

## Public Trustee

Public Trustee: L. W. Gardiner, Q.C.

The Public Trustee provides three major complete trust services to protect the assets and financial interests of disadvantaged persons by acting as:

1. Guardian of the estates of children under 18 years of age and missing persons;
2. Administrator of the estates of persons who are legally unable to handle their own business affairs by reason of mental or physical disability;
3. Administrator of the estates of deceased persons who die intestate having no relative in the province, or where the next of kin are not prepared to administer the estate and request the Public Trustee to act.

The following table provides a comparison of the number of new administrations commenced during the last two fiscal years by offices in Edmonton and Calgary.

	Edmonton		Calgary		Total	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Official Guardian Estates	1,118	1,142	—	—	1,118	1,142
Incapacitated Persons' Estates	119	153	33	43	152	196
Deceased Estates	507	486	282	258	789	744
	1,744	1,781	315	301	2,059	2,082
Total Number of Estates under Administration	15,074	15,220	1,228	1,146	16,302	16,366

The 1,142 guardianship administrations commenced represents an increase of 2.1% over the previous year. In the majority of cases, they involved a number of children who have individual interests in the estate of the deceased. Many trusts were also opened during the year for minors who received personal injury accident awards or settlements resulting from the accidental death of a parent involving negligence. Funds received, in excess of potential maintenance and education requirements, were normally invested in trustee securities at yields of approximately 10%. Cash held on deposit for current requirements earned 8% interest, compounded semi-annually.

The 196 new administrations opened by the division responsible for the protection of estates of incapacitated persons represents an increase of 28.9% over the previous year. The provisions of the Dependent Adults Act, proclaimed on December 1, 1978, have substantially increased the amount of work involved in this type of trust administration.

While the 744 deceased estate administrations commenced during the year represented a decrease of 5.7% from the previous period, the level of activity in the division increased because of a trend toward larger and more complex estates. Capital gains tax and complex estate income tax regulations continue to add to administrative and support service time in completing estate administrations.

Cash deposits to Public Trustee bank accounts during the year increased by 13.6% to \$43.4 million. Recorded assets under administration at the end of the fiscal period amounted to \$90.3 million, an increase of 10.9% over the previous year. The Public Trustee Trust Balance Sheet, shown below, provides a summary of the estate assets and liabilities under administration.

## Public Trustee

### Trust Balance Sheet

	1979	1978
<b>Assets</b>		
Estate and Beneficiaries Assets		
Consolidated Investment Fund	36,189,050	34,691,294
Cash in banks	<u>1,998,413</u>	<u>2,574,247</u>
	38,187,463	37,265,541
Investments	42,607,690	33,112,752
Mortgages, agreements and notes receivable	2,346,619	2,535,616
Accounts and rent receivable	712,691	888,717
Real estate	5,711,242	6,601,806
Miscellaneous assets	<u>707,512</u>	<u>1,008,734</u>
	<u>90,273,217</u>	<u>81,413,166</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Estate and Beneficiaries Liabilities		
Advances due to the Provincial Treasurer	14,184	11,818
Accounts payable	692,430	569,513
Agreements and mortgages payable	<u>642,294</u>	<u>772,212</u>
	1,348,908	1,353,543
Estate and Beneficiaries Capital	<u>88,924,309</u>	<u>80,059,623</u>
	<u>90,273,217</u>	<u>81,413,166</u>

## Legislative Counsel Office

Chief Legislative Counsel: H. Graham Reid

The Legislative Counsel Office prepared the 70 public and general acts assented to during the year ending March 31, 1979 and the 1,271 orders-in-council that were passed by Cabinet during that period. It also drafted the majority of the 426 regulations that were filed under the Regulations Act.

The office has a total staff of 22, including nine lawyers, three of whom are assigned primarily to the drafting of regulations. Another is assigned to preparing a revision of the Statutes of Alberta, expected to be available by the fall of 1981. A librarian joined the staff of the office to assist in the preparation of a subject matter index for the statute revision.

The process of computerization of the routine operations of the office continued. A study of the text processing, photocomposition and search and retrieval systems of the office by an independent consultant was completed and implementation of the recommendations contained in the consultant's report commenced.

### Legal Research and Analysis

Acting Director: E. F. Gamache

This section provides legal advice to the Attorney General and his Deputy in law reform and policy planning. Members of the section serve on interdepartmental committees studying law reform, the Rules of Court Committee, the joint Alberta government/Law Society Advisory Committee which is responsible for the provision of law libraries in Alberta, and the Institute of Law Research and Reform. This section also maintains a liaison with other law reform bodies and with the Uniform Law Conference.

During the fiscal year the section developed legislation relating to the Court of Appeal, the Court of Queen's Bench and the Provincial Court.

This section is also involved in research projects in personal property registration, and laws relating to juries, children, evidence, matrimonial and child support, expropriation, partition of land, and other matters.

## BOARDS AND ASSOCIATED AGENCIES

### Crimes Compensation Board

*Chairman: Ernest S. Watkins, Q.C.*

Alberta's Crimes Compensation Board was established in 1969 to help victims of violent crimes who suffer financial loss as a direct result of injuries.

#### Compensation

The board's compensation paid during the period totalled \$438,529, an increase of \$28,871 over the previous year. Of these, \$264,542 was compensation for lost earnings; \$81,465 was for expenses incurred as a result of a victim's injury or death; and \$35,270 was for loss incurred by dependents of dead victims.

#### Pain and Suffering

During the year the board made nine awards totalling \$15,750 in compensation for pain and suffering. The board may award compensation under this head only where the victim has been injured while making an arrest or preserving the peace or while assisting a police officer in carrying out his duties.

Police officers are not excluded from this type of compensation under this head, and four of the awards went to police injured on duty. A fifth was given to a security guard. The other recipients were a farmer, a carpenter, a supervisor and a woman lawyer who was injured while attempting to subdue a man threatening a class at which she happened to be present. All these awards were in addition to compensation for actual pecuniary loss.

The largest awards (two) were of \$3,000 each, the smallest was \$500. These amounts are less than the damages likely to be awarded by a civil court in an action based on the same incident, but the maximum the board may award is \$10,000. The board considers that its awards must be kept within that yardstick of assessment.

All these victims were able to continue in employment. Had the injuries been serious enough to have caused some permanent handicap at work, the victim would have been entitled to an award for continuing loss of earnings, probably on a monthly basis. At present, there are 40 victims receiving monthly payments from the board.

#### Applications and Decisions

The board's office received 190 new applications. It heard 280 cases during the period. Twenty-four applications were dismissed for non-appearance or because they were for claims under \$100. In two cases it made awards to victims who do not reside in Alberta. Seven people responsible for the maintenance of a victim received compensation as did 32 dependants of dead victims.

### Land Compensation Board

*Chairman: Kenneth J. Boyd*

The Land Compensation Board began the fiscal year with 24 active cases in its dockets. During 1978, it received 26 additional applications, of which 19 were applications for determination of compensation and seven were applications by way of notice of motion asking the board to decide issues arising out of the expropriation procedure.

The board heard 19 cases during 1978 and issued 12 orders determining final compensation for expropriated property and seven orders on notices of motion. Two cases were settled by the parties without need of formal hearings before the board, leaving 29 cases in the docket at the end of the year.

#### Extensive Review

During the past year, the board has undertaken an extensive review of the provisions of the Expropriation Act, relating to the determination and allowance of costs to owners who have been expropriated. Such review resulted in preparation of a report to the Attorney General containing an analysis of the present provisions of the act and the board's suggestions for restructuring and changing such provisions. This report was submitted to the Attorney General on March 28, 1979.

#### Staffing

The board consists of five members, including the chairman, two full-time members and two part-time members. At yearend, there was one vacancy on the board. The board has a support staff of three.

#### Board Orders

All decisions of the board are given in writing with reasons. Copies of each decision are filed in provincial courthouses, in the law libraries of the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary, with Canada Law Book Limited, and in the board's office in Calgary. The board provides free copies of specific decisions if requested.

### The Legal Aid Society of Alberta

*Executive Director: Thomas G. Schollie*

The Legal Aid Society arranges for legal services for qualified applicants. All serious criminal charges and those less serious where jail terms or loss of employment would likely result are covered by the plan. Where possible, applicants make a contribution towards the cost of supplying counsel. The ability to pay the society in full or in part does not weigh against an applicant. The society is directed in its day-to-day activities by three lawyers and a registered industrial accountant, and all legal advice and assistance is supplied by regular members of the Alberta Bar acting at a tariff of fees which is one-half to one-third of regular client/solicitor fees as their contribution towards the plan.

Policy is set by the Law Society of Alberta. Guidance is supplied by the Joint Committee on Legal Aid, which is composed of 15 members representing the provincial and federal governments, the Law Society of Alberta, and the public.

The society has an approved staffing level of 59 full-time staff throughout the province.

#### Funding

The Legal Aid Society received \$4,100,000 in funds from the Alberta government, which in turn will recover from the federal government a contribution of \$0.85 per capita for fiscal 1978/79, plus a sum from a formula tied to the gross national product.

#### Applications

In the 1978/79 fiscal year the society received 16,675 applications, a decrease of 5.6% over the previous year. The number of applications approved was 11,884, an increase of 1.3%.

#### Administrative Matters

The Tariff Sub-Committee met and drew up amendments to the tariff and put forth the amendments for discussion and approval. Eligibility guidelines were untouched in 1978/79.

A new agreement between the Law Society and the Attorney General was entered into on February 13, 1979.

Mr. S.M. Barnett, a member of the Joint Committee, served as Acting Director until September 1, 1978, when Mr. Thomas G. Schollie, L.L.B., B.A. was named to the position. Mr. Schollie was in general practice in Saskatchewan for ten years, then served for twelve years as a Provincial Court Judge in Saskatchewan and resigned that position to accept the appointment as Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society. The position of Southern Director was held by Miss Olga Dobrowney, B.A., L.L.B. and the position of Northern Director was filled by Ms. Halyna Freeland, B.A., L.L.B. The Director of Finance position was held by Mr. Neil Vanderkley, R.I.A.

#### Other Agencies

The Legal Aid Society continues to work in close co-operation with

other social agencies, referring applicants in appropriate cases. Co-operation with Native Counselling Service, with Legal Guidance Service in Calgary and Student Legal Services in Edmonton continues at a satisfying level.

#### Bar Admission Course

The Executive, Northern and Southern Directors attended at Calgary and Edmonton to acquaint the students with the Legal Aid Plan, in which interest was high.

#### Receipts and Disbursements

For the year ending March 31, 1979, the society received \$4,493,092 including \$4,100,000 from the Government of Alberta, \$348,188 from recoveries, \$41,816 from interest and \$3,088 in sundry receipts. Disbursements for 1978/79 come to \$4,178,383 of which \$2,998,343 or 71.8% went to pay lawyers' fees and disbursements. Salary and fringe benefit costs were 20.2% and administrative costs were held to 8%.

Recoveries and contributions for the year totalled \$348,188, an increase of 23.1% over the previous year.

The average cost per criminal case was \$224 (9,056 cases completed) and \$205 in civil cases (3,474 cases completed), for average decreases of 1/2 of 1% and 20.2% respectively. The Duty Counsel program assisted 13,241 persons, an increase of 1.3% at a cost of \$256,418.

## APPENDIX

### Acts Administered by the Attorney General

Administration of Estates Act  
Administrative Procedures Act  
Age of Majority Act  
Alimony Orders Enforcement Act  
Animal Protection Act  
Arbitration Act  
Assignment of Book Debts Act  
Bills of Sale Act  
Blind Persons' White Cane Act  
Builder's Lien Act  
Bulk Sales Act  
Chattel Security Registries Act  
Clerks of the Court Act  
Commissioners for Oaths Act  
Common Parties Contracts and Conveyances Act  
Conditional Sales Act  
Constitutional Questions Act  
Contributory Negligence Act  
Court Forms Act  
Criminal Injuries Compensation Act  
Dangerous Dogs Act  
Daylight Saving Time Act  
Defamation Act  
Defence of Common Employment Act  
Demise of the Crown Act  
Department of the Attorney General Act\*  
Devolution of Real Property Act  
District Courts Act  
Domestic Relations Act  
Dower Act  
Alberta Evidence Act  
Execution Creditors Act  
Exemptions Act  
Expropriation Act  
Extra-Curial Orders Act  
Extra-Provincial Enforcement of Custody Orders Act  
Factors Act  
Family Court Act  
Family Relief Act  
Fatal Accidents Act  
Fatality Inquiries Act  
Federal Courts Jurisdiction Act  
Fraudulent Preferences Act  
Frustrated Contracts Act  
Garagemen's Lien Act  
Gas Utilities Act  
Guarantees Acknowledgement Act  
Infants Act  
Inkeepers Act  
Interpretation Act  
Intestate Succession Act  
Judicature Act  
Jury Act  
Justices of the Peace Act  
Juvenile Court Act  
Land Surveyors Act  
Land Titles Act  
Land Titles Act Clarification Act  
Landlord's Rights on Bankruptcy Act  
Legal Profession Act  
Legitimacy Act  
Limitation of Actions Act  
Liquor Control Act\*  
Alberta Lord's Day Act  
Maintenance Order Act  
Married Women's Act  
Masters and Servants Act  
Matrimonial Property Act  
Mechanical Recording of Evidence Act  
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act  
National Housing Loans Act (Alberta)  
Notaries Public Act  
Oaths of Office Act  
Occupier's Liability Act  
Partnership Act  
Perpetuities Act  
Petty Trespass Act  
Police Act, 1973\*  
Possessory Liens Act  
Private Streets Act  
Proceedings Against the Crown Act  
Provincial Court Act  
Public Inquiries Act  
Public Trustee Act  
Public Utilities Board Act  
Queen's Counsel Act  
Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act  
Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act  
Regulations Act  
Reports of Judicial Proceedings Act  
Road Building Machinery Equipment Act  
Sale of Goods Act  
Seduction Act  
Seizures Act  
Sex Disqualification Removal Act  
Sheriffs Act  
Small Claims Act  
Statutes Act  
Summary Convictions Act  
Surrogate Courts Act  
Survival of Actions Act  
Survivorship Act  
Tort-Feasors Act  
Transfer and Descent of Land Act  
Trustee Act  
Ultimate Heir Act  
Unconscionable Transactions Act  
Uniformity of Legislation Act  
Warehouse Receipts Act  
Warehousemen's Lien Act  
Wills Act  
Women's Institute Act  
Woodmen's Lien Act

\* Jointly administered by the Solicitor General  
and the Attorney General

**END**