

# 2021-2022 **ANNUAL REPORT**



## **Justice and Public Safety**





## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

In accordance with the requirements of a Category One Entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, I, the Minister of Justice and Public Safety and the Attorney General, submit the Annual Report for the Department of Justice and Public Safety for April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

2021-22 is the second year of the Department's three-year Strategic Plan and marks continued efforts to ensure progress is achieved on the Department's strategic issues, which are: Enhanced Community Safety and Well-Being, and to Improve and Modernize the Justice System. Examples of progress include continued investments in public safety, exploring implementing alternatives to traditional court processes, and enhancements to justice infrastructure. These efforts support Government's Strategic Direction of Better Living.

The results contained in this annual report identify the dedication of the Department's staff in delivering results for our Province's justice system and the people it serves. This is emphasized through continued collaboration with emergency service providers and community partners to ensure public safety is at the forefront of the Department's efforts.

Ensuring Newfoundland and Labrador remains a place where people feel confident to live, work, and raise a family is a priority for the Department and my signature below demonstrates my accountability for the results contained in this Annual Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Hogan'.

Hon. John Hogan, K.C.

Minister of Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General



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## Departmental Overview

### Organizational Structure

The Department of Justice and Public Safety (the Department) ensures the impartial administration of justice and the protection of the public interest through the dual offices of the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice and Public Safety. The Department has four Branches, with programs and services delivered through the Department's divisions.

#### **1. Corporate Services and Courts Branch**

- Court Services
- Policy and Strategic Planning and Information Management Division
- Finance and General Operations Division
- Support Enforcement Division
- Fines Administration Division

#### **2. Public Safety and Correctional Services Branch**

- Policing Services
- Corrections and Community Services
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- The Office of the High Sherriff

#### **3. Emergency Services Branch**

- Emergency Services
- Fire Services Division

#### **4. Legal Services Branch**

- Civil Division
- ATIPP Office
- Office of the Legislative Counsel

- The Office of the Public Trustee
- Serious Incident Response Team

#### **5. Public Prosecutions Branch**

- Public Prosecutions

In addition to the above divisions, in 2021-22, the following entities reported administratively to the Department pursuant to the **Transparency and Accountability**

**Act:**

- Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities;
- Child Death Review Committee;
- Commissioner of Lobbyists;
- Consumer Advocate;
- Criminal Code Mental Disorder Review Board;
- Human Rights Commission;
- Human Rights Commission Panel of Adjudicators;
- Newfoundland and Labrador Legal Aid Commission (Legal Aid NL);
- NL911 Bureau;
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner;
- RNC Public Complaints Commission; and,
- RNC Public Complaints Commission Panel of Adjudicators.

Each entity is responsible for preparing an annual report. These can be viewed on the Department of Justice and Public Safety's publications webpage at

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/jps/publications/>. In addition, the following are independent entities of the Department, but do not have any reporting responsibilities under the

**Transparency and Accountability Act:**

- Complaints Review Committee;
- Fitness to Practice Committee;
- Law Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador;

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- Law Society Disciplinary Panel;
- Legal Appointments Board;
- Judicial Complaints Panel; and,
- Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador.



## Staff and Budget

As of March 31, 2022, the Department employed 1,413 individuals, including the RNC. The overall gender breakdown for staffing in the Department is approximately 51 per cent women and 49 per cent men. In addition, pursuant to the Provincial Policing Services Agreement and Community Tripartite Agreements, the RCMP employed approximately 436 officers and 112 civilian members and support staff to provide frontline policing services in approximately 44 locations throughout the Province.

The Department employs a wide range of professionals including lawyers, police officers, social workers, psychologists, counselors, correctional officers, youth care counselors, deputy sheriffs, information management specialists, administrators, financial managers, educators and administrative support staff. Efforts to encourage employment equity within sectors of the Department that have historically been comprised of disproportionate numbers of men to women continues.

Branch	Staff Complement			2021-22 Budget (\$)
	Total	Women	Men	
Corporate Services and Courts	209	173	36	\$27,090,600
Public Safety and Correctional Services*	922	389	533	\$173,734,400
Emergency Services	16	9	7	\$19,554,200
Legal Services**	198	100	98	\$31,677,100
Public Prosecutions	68	42	26	\$9,654,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>1413</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>\$259,011,000</b>

\* The staffing count for Public Safety and Correctional Services does not include the RCMP, but does include its budget.

\*\*The staffing count for Legal Services does not include the Legal Aid Commission, but does include its budget.

## Vision

A justice and public safety environment that is accessible and understood and which plays a key role in creating a fair, equitable and safe society where all people can pursue their lawful rights and freedoms.

## Mandate

The Department is primarily responsible for the provision of legal services to Government through the Office of the Attorney General and the protection and safety of people in the Province in respect of their persons and property. These responsibilities are met through the provision of legal advice to Government Departments, police protection, the prosecution of accused persons, the administration of the courts, including family justice services, operation of the Province's correctional systems, services to victims of crime, protection of human rights and legal aid services. The Department also provides legislative drafting services by the Office of the Legislative Counsel and is responsible for the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office, the Support Enforcement Program, Fines Administration, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Serious Incident Response Team. The Department also has responsibility for the Fire Services Division and the Emergency Services Division. This mandate reflects the dual responsibilities of the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General for Newfoundland and Labrador.

## Lines of Business

- **ATIPP Office** oversees the implementation and coordination of the **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015** by providing guidance and assistance to public bodies that are subject to the Act. This is done through training, providing advice and guidance as well as the development of policies, procedures, guides and educational resources.

- **Civil Division** is responsible for providing legal services to Provincial Government Departments and agencies. These services include providing legal opinions, drafting commercial and financial documents, and representing the Provincial Government and its agencies in negotiations and civil actions before administrative tribunals, all levels of court and judicial inquiries.
- **Corrections and Community Services** is responsible for the safe and secure custody of young and adult offenders, for providing adult community corrections in the form of probation services, and for providing services to victims of crime.
- **Court Services** is responsible for providing infrastructure and administrative support to the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. Family Justice Services, which falls under the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, is responsible for promoting dispute resolution outside the Court process. The program assists parties in resolving parenting and support issues and offers parent information sessions, mediation, and counselling.
- **Emergency Services** develops and maintains an emergency management system in Newfoundland and Labrador to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. Services and programs include the Provincial Emergency Management Plan, Emergency Management Training Program, Emergency operations, 24/7 on-call system, and Regional Emergency Management Planning, among others.
- **Fines Administration** is responsible for the processing, billing and collection of fines penalties and surcharges imposed on individuals by Provincial Court, summary offence tickets, or other legislation. Ticket processing, billing and collection services are also provided to third parties such as municipalities, hospitals, and post-secondary institutions.
- **Fire Services** provides oversight to local governments, fire departments and other stakeholders on matters related to fire protection services, including firefighter training and certification, fire department assessments, and education. The division is also responsible for the Office of the Fire Commissioner in fulfilling the duties outlined in the **Fire Protection Services Act**.

- **Office of the Chief Medical Examiner** is an independent entity that is responsible for reporting, investigating and recording deaths pursuant to the **Fatalities Investigation Act**. The Chief Medical Examiner is also responsible for appointing physicians to act as medical examiners and appointment of medical investigators.
- **Office of the High Sherriff** is responsible for providing administrative services to the Supreme and Provincial Courts. The Office of the High Sheriff administers the jury system, provides court security, judgement enforcement and trust account services, and executes orders and decisions of the Court.
- **Office of the Legislative Counsel** provides legislative drafting services to Government. Additionally, in conjunction with the Queen’s Printer and the House of Assembly, the office ensures the publication and dissemination of provincial legislation.
- **Policing Services** are delivered through the province’s two policing agencies: the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Through a broad range of policing services, both police forces are responsible for fostering and maintaining peaceful and safe communities.
- **Public Prosecutions** is responsible for prosecuting all offences pursuant to the **Criminal Code of Canada** and provincial statutes. Prosecutors appear in every level of court in the province and in the Supreme Court of Canada. Public Prosecutions also provides legal opinions and advice on criminal and criminal-related matters to policing agencies and other government departments that enforce provincial statutes.
- **Serious Incident Response Team** is an independent civilian-led police oversight agency responsible for conducting independent investigations into serious incidents involving death, serious injury, sexual offence, domestic violence or any matter of significant public interest that may have arisen from the actions of a police officer in the province.
- **Support Enforcement** performs a number of services related to the collection and distribution of court-ordered funds for support, maintenance or alimony. This includes registering and transmitting Support Orders, issuing Notices of

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Garnishment, tracing delinquent payers, and receiving and transmitting Interjurisdictional Support Orders (ISO) applications.

More information can be found on the Department of Justice and Public Safety's webpage at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/jps/>.

## Highlights and Partnerships

### Highlights

#### **Release of the Final Report of the Ground Search and Rescue Inquiry**

The work of the Ground Search and Rescue Inquiry progressed throughout 2021-22, with the release of the Final Report of the Ground Search and Rescue Inquiry on December 1, 2021. Ground search and rescue is needed in the event of overdue, lost, injured, or stranded persons, commonly associated with outdoor environments and activities. The work of the Inquiry did experience delays due to the resurgence of COVID-19 and necessary public health restrictions on meetings and travel. It is also important in disasters, fire services, law enforcement and emergency medical services response. The Inquiry was led by former Provincial Court Judge James Igloliorte, and was mandated to examine the adequacy of the existing ground search and rescue systems in the Province and identify any deficiencies that need to be addressed. The Inquiry included public hearings, with one hearing dedicated solely to the search for Burton Winters. Research studies, interviews, surveys, and written submissions were also included. The Final Report included 17 recommendations, which the Provincial Government will work to review and evaluate as the next important steps. The final report can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.nlgsarinquiry.ca/files/11-30-2021-Final-Report-GSAR-Inquiry.pdf>.

#### **Report Released of Statutory Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015**

The **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015** (ATIPPA, 2015) is required to have a statutory review every five years. According to section 3 of the ATIPPA, 2015, the purpose of the legislation is to increase government accountability by providing the public with the right of access to records and protecting the privacy of individuals whose personal information is collected, used and disclosed by public bodies. The Act first came into force in 2005, and was amended in 2012 and again in 2015. The current review of the ATIPPA, 2015 commenced in mid-2020, with public

submissions continuing into early 2021. Former Chief Justice David B. Orsborn was appointed as a Commission of one to conduct a statutory review. The final report was released on June 9, 2021 and contained approximately 150 recommendations and suggestions. Upon receiving the Statutory Review, the Department commenced a review and evaluation of the recommendations and consultation with stakeholders to determine next steps. The Final Report can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.nlatippareview.ca/final-report/>.

### **Amendments to the Law Society Act, 1999**

In November 2021, the Minister of Justice and Public Safety introduced amendments to the **Law Society Act, 1999**, which received Royal Assent on November 16, 2021. This Act authorizes the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador to regulate the practice of law and the legal profession in the Province. The Act also governs the Law Foundation, which is mandated to advance matters related to legal education, legal research, law reform, legal aid, legal referral service, law libraries, and law scholarships. The changes to the legislation introduced a Fitness to Practice Committee, which modernizes the disciplinary process for lawyers by determining whether a lawyer is suffering from a medical, physical, mental or emotional condition, or addiction, affecting their ability to practice. This allows the application of non-disciplinary measures to determine what action may be necessary to help the lawyer and protect the public. Other key amendments included mandatory reporting of criminal activity, and publication of decisions. The proposed amendments came at the request and recommendation of the Law Society and the Law Foundation and demonstrates the Department's commitment to assisting the Law Society fulfil its mandate.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary**

April 2021 marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RNC. The RNC was established in 1871, with the 'Royal' designation added 100 years later in 1979 by the late Queen Elizabeth II. Police officers are role models in our communities with positions of responsibility and trust. The duties of a police officer have changed a lot in the past century and a half. The RNC of today has mobile mental health crisis response teams,

program and Stella, the police support dog. This legacy represents the dedication of the more than 400 hundred officers of the RNC to serving the citizens of our Province's communities.

### **Fire Prevention Week 2021**

The week of October 3 to 9, 2021 was Fire Prevention Week. The theme for Fire Prevention Week was "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety!" and was intended to encourage people to learn more about fire safety, as well as, simple but important actions anyone can take to keep themselves and their family safe. The week included education on how alarms detect smoke and alert danger in the event of fire. A smoke detector can do so more quickly than an individual would be able to sense something is wrong. If there is a fire, someone may have as little as two minutes to escape safely. Knowledge of alert systems can help save lives. A continuous set of three loud beeps means there is smoke or a fire alerting to evacuate immediately and call 9-1-1. Chirping sounds may mean that batteries need to be changed or the unit should be replaced. It is important that everyone takes time to learn the different sounds alarms can make and whether those can mean immediate danger or if an alarm requires maintenance. Fire prevention activities and awareness is everyone's responsibility, not only during Fire Prevention Week, but all year round. The Department encourages continued education on the importance of fire safety in homes, schools, and workplaces.

## **Partnerships**

### **All-Party Committee to Modernize the Elections Act, 1991**

An All-Party Committee to modernize the **Elections Act, 1991**, was established in April 2021. The All-Party Committee is chaired by the Minister of Justice and Public Safety and is comprised of Government, Progressive Conservative Caucus, and Independent Members of the House of Assembly. The review is led by the Department and is a commitment contained in the Minister's mandate letter. The Committee was established to review the 2021 General Election, as well as to review ways to modernize the legislation, and ensure accessibility to the democratic process for all Newfoundlanders



and Labradorians. In support of this work, the Department launched public consultations on November 29, 2021 on the EngageNL platform, with public comments accepted until January 31, 2022. The All-Party Committee also met with the Information and Privacy Commissioner to discuss privacy and security implications associated with introducing any new options, such as online voting. It is anticipated that the work of the Department and of the All-Party Committee will continue into 2022-23. The Department will start the next phase of virtual and in-person consultations during summer 2022. The All-Party Committee represents the importance of partnerships in promoting democracy and including as many different voices and perspectives as possible in the development of potential recommendations.

### **New RCMP Commanding Officer**

In November 2021, the Department joined the RCMP in Newfoundland and Labrador in welcoming its new Commanding Officer of the “B” Division, Assistant Commissioner Jennifer Ebert. Assistant Commissioner Ebert was born and raised in London, Ontario and joined the RCMP in 1997. She has been posted to Northwest Territories (G Division), Nunavut (V Division), Alberta (K Division), and Saskatchewan (F Division), before respectfully being named as the Commanding Officer of Prince Edward Island (L Division) and holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree from Lakehead University, a Police Leadership Certificate from Dalhousie University, and a Professional Leadership Certificate from the University of Regina. Assistant Commissioner Ebert takes command of the RCMP in Newfoundland and Labrador following the departure of Ches Parsons who was named Commanding Officer of the RCMP’s National Division in Ottawa in August 2021 after serving in the top position in Newfoundland and Labrador since October 2018. In addition, Superintendent Deanna Hill and Superintendent Pat Cahill, each served in an acting capacity during the year.

### **Joint Police Unit to Target Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime on West Coast**

The Department announced in February 2022 the formation of a joint RNC and RCMP police unit. This unit will target drug trafficking and organized crime on the west coast of the island portion of the province. The RCMP-RNC Joint Force Operation West (JFO

West), which includes dedicated police officers from both the RNC and the RCMP, is based out of Corner Brook. JFO West commenced work in March 2022 and reports directly to a joint management team that provides strategic and operational direction to the new unit. The work of JFO West supports the RNC Corner Brook, the RNC Criminal Investigation Division, RCMP Core Criminal Operations West District and the RCMP Federal Criminal Operations. This partnership represents an important collaboration opportunity to combine resources and expertise to enhance community and public safety.

## Report on Performance

### Issue One – Enhanced Community Safety and Well-being

The Department of Justice and Public Safety is committed to ensuring residents feel safe and secure by fostering initiatives that focus on public services, offender rehabilitation, and alternatives to traditional approaches in the justice system. The Department works to enhance community safety and well-being through the administration of public safety programs including fire services, emergency services, correctional services, and policing. It is important that the Department’s actions are responsive to the needs of the community and build upon those connections to support the Department’s objectives. This focus on the safety and well-being of citizens and communities aligns with Government’s strategic direction of better living and demonstrates that the Department continued its commitment to focus on these areas throughout 2021-22.

#### Goal

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have enhanced community safety and well-being.

#### Objective 1.2

By March 31, 2022, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have continued implementing initiatives to enhance community safety and well-being.

Indicators	Results
Provided funding for firefighting equipment.	Budget 2021 allocated \$2.7 million for fire protection vehicles and equipment, as well as support for the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Services, with 42 approvals for firefighting equipment across Newfoundland and Labrador.

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<p>Completed initial work to implement a province wide Public Safety Radio System.</p>	<p>In 2021-22, the Department completed the initial work to move forward with implementing a province-wide Public Safety Radio System for Government and first responders. The Department conducted a comprehensive Request for Proposals process and Bell Mobility has been awarded a contract to provide the system to the Province. Securing a service provider represents a significant step towards implementing the system. A new province-wide radio system will improve the way government and emergency responders, such as the RNC, RCMP, fire fighters, paramedics and other public service providers, communicate with each other during emergencies. Implementing a new system will enhance the ability of first responders to communicate with each other more efficiently and effectively to enhance overall safety in the Province.</p>
<p>Expanded the Electronic Monitoring Program.</p>	<p>The Department initiated an electronic monitoring pilot program in January of 2020. Electronic monitoring consists of ankle bracelets equipped with GPS technology to enhance the supervision of offenders when in the community. Electronic monitoring has several benefits, including allowing offenders to serve time in the community while still being monitored. This means they can participate in work and family life, depending on their individual conditions, which would not be possible if they remained in custody. In addition, community safety is enhanced as offenders can be monitored in real time. Budget 2021 invested \$508,000 to support the electronic monitoring program. In early 2021-22 Buddi Ltd. was identified as the successful vendor in the RFP process, and was awarded a three year contract for the provision of bracelets and monitoring services.</p>

<p>Continued work to address the Calls for Justice outlined in the Final Report of the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.</p>	<p>June 3, 2021 marked the second anniversary of the Final Report of the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The Government of Canada released the National Action Plan on June 3, 2021 with a focus on addressing racism and the disproportionate levels of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals across Canada. The Department, along with partners in the Office of Women and Gender Equality and the Department of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, prepared a submission for Newfoundland and Labrador that is included in the National Action Plan. The submission can be viewed on the <a href="#">National Action Plan's website</a>. Since the release of the National Inquiry's final report in 2019, the Department, along with Government of Newfoundland and Labrador partners, has been working with federal, provincial, and territorial colleagues to develop the National Action Plan. This constituted one of the steps in addressing the Calls for Justice set out in the MMIWG Inquiry Final Report.</p>
<p>Explored ways to implement Gladue Principles in the justice system.</p>	<p>Gladue Principles assess comprehensive, systemic or background factors that courts must take into account when sentencing Indigenous people. The requirement to consider Gladue Principles comes from R. v. Gladue, which is a 1999 Supreme Court of Canada decision that recognized the need to remedy the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in prison. The Department coordinated training on Gladue principles with the Indigenous Perspective Society and Royal Roads University in Victoria, British Columbia, for Adult Probation Officers on Gladue Principles during 2021-22. This training was to enhance the provision of Pre-sentencing Reports with Gladue Principles. The reports are completed by an Adult Probation Officer where</p>

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	<p>the court has ordered a Pre-Sentencing Report with Gladue Principles, the accused identifies as Indigenous, and has consented to the provision of Gladue information needed. In completing a Pre-Sentencing Report with Gladue Principles, the Adult Probation Officer endeavors to connect with the community/a community member to assist in fulfilling Gladue requirements.</p>
<p>Operationalized the Bail Supervision program.</p>	<p>The Bail Supervision Program was not fully operationalized during 2021-22 due to the persistence of COVID-19 and the continuation of public health measures to contain the spread of the virus in the community. Bail Supervision is an alternative to remand and provides a clear plan of supervision for accused persons who are seeking bail release, which includes support and referrals to community agencies for services. In-person services form an essential component of Bail Supervision, which was not always feasible throughout 2021-22. The Department has completed a significant amount of work to operationalize Bail Supervision once health guidelines allow for delivery of more in-person services. This work included the completion of the policies and procedures for the Bail Supervision Program and the retention of a Bail Supervisor position. Once fully implemented, the Bail Supervision Program will provide judges with an alternative to remand which allows the accused to be released and supervised in the community. Bail Supervision will be most beneficial in circumstances where offenders might be eligible for bail but cannot be released because they do not have access to stable housing or a surety. This should increase the number of individuals eligible for bail and supports, while reducing reliance on correctional institutions.</p>

**Objective 1.3**

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have implemented initiatives that enhance community safety and well-being.

**Indicators**

- Commenced the Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences, and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System.
- Transitioned 911 services into the Department of Justice and Public Safety.
- Enhanced investments to support ground search and rescue.
- Continued investments in support of the implementation of the Public Safety Radio System.
- Provided funding for firefighting equipment.
- Provided additional funding support for the RCMP.

## Issue Two – Improve and Modernize the Justice System

The Department continued its commitment throughout 2021-22 to improve and modernize the justice system. The Department worked with partners in Government to make progress on infrastructure improvements, including progress on the replacement of Her Majesty’s Penitentiary in St. John’s. New facilities will embrace modern approaches to corrections including better use of technology to enhance safety and will offer increased programming, recreation, mental health, and addictions services. The court system is another valuable partner with a new court in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the growth of alternative court processes through the Family Violence Intervention Court and the Drug Treatment Court. These initiatives support Government’s strategic direction of better living.

### Goal

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have improved and modernized the justice system through the enhancement of access, services and the availability of alternative measures.

### Objective 2.2

By March 31, 2022, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have continued to implement initiatives that improve and modernize the justice system through enhanced access, services and available alternative measures.

Indicators	Results
Continued collaboration with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on a new correctional	Throughout 2021-22, the Department continued to work closely and collaborate with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to make progress on the necessary steps to replace Her Majesty’s Penitentiary with a new correctional facility. This represents the Department’s commitment to improve and modernize the justice system. The new correctional



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<p>facility to replace Her Majesty's Penitentiary.</p>	<p>facility will include 264 beds for medium/high security incarcerated individuals, 12 beds for community reintegration, a dedicated mental health unit and will allow for more programming, recreation, and, modernize the services that can be offered by the Department. In November 2021, A Request for Proposals was issued to three teams of companies, of which two withdrew, interested in designing, building, financing and maintaining the new correctional facility.</p>
<p>Completed the new Court House in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.</p>	<p>The Department completed the new Provincial Court courthouse in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, which opened in October 2021. The courthouse in Happy Valley-Goose Bay is one of the busiest in the Province and the new building addressed many concerns by enhancing interview facilities, offering more office space, and larger courtrooms. Construction commenced in 2020 and progressed over 2020 and into 2021. The new courthouse is able to offer improved services for the different users of the courthouse, such as Victims Services and Legal Aid NL. There is a place in the courthouse to set-up an Indigenous courtroom that can accommodate culturally appropriate processes. This could include smudging, swearing oaths on an eagle feather or another item of significance, as well as the involvement of Elders in mediation and dispute resolution. New and improved infrastructure in the justice system can facilitate access to justice for all community stakeholders by providing more appropriate and supportive spaces to conduct necessary business and promote inclusivity. Providing improved infrastructure that can enhance service delivery is consistent with the strategic issue of improving and modernizing the justice system.</p>

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<p>Continued work towards the expansion of Family Violence Intervention Court and Drug Treatment Court.</p>	<p>To address the social and personal issues that can contribute to crime, Budget 2021 provided continued support for therapeutic courts by allocating more than \$200,000 for Drug Treatment Court (DTC) and \$350,000 to explore an expansion to the Family Violence Intervention Court (FVIC). FVIC is a specialized court that requires offenders to participate in intervention or programming regarding family violence. The Court focuses on improving victim safety and offender responsibility with the goal of preventing and reducing incidents of family violence by addressing the root cause of violence through teamwork with key community partners. Working together allows faster access to services for the victim and offender. FVIC is currently available in St. John's and Stephenville. With the investments from Budget 2021, the expansion of FVIC continued with a focus of opening an additional court location in central Newfoundland. Stakeholders worked to initiate this expansion throughout 2021 and by 2022, progressed to the final stages of recruiting the required staff and finalizing operations. The expansion is ongoing with anticipated start for Summer 2022.</p> <p>During 2021-22, federal funding was pursued through the Drug Treatment Court Funding Program to support the development and expansion of DTCs to other areas. Work has been ongoing to identify opportunities for expansion across the Province, determine necessary resources, stakeholder engagement and partnership opportunities, and location feasibility, as well as existing funding supports that could help support the DTC. A critical component of DTC expansion will be collaboration between the justice and health systems, as well as the availability of drug screening services and social/community supports. Currently, under the Government of Canada's DTC</p>
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	<p>Funding Program of the National Anti-Drug Strategy, the Department received over \$220,000 in support of the St. John's DTC. In 2021-22, there was a brief interruption due to COVID-19. The DTC remained operational through the use of teleconferencing for team meetings and court appearances for all participants. Counselling, support and case management services were provided, while adhering to mandatory public health requirements. Despite social, financial and personal vulnerabilities, all clients continued participation in DTC. When restrictions were lifted, DTC resumed normal in-person court appearances and maintained attendance at counselling and case management services.</p>
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**Objective 2.3**

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have advanced implementation of initiatives that improve and modernize the justice system through enhanced access, services and alternative measures.

**Indicators**

- Continued collaboration with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on the enhancement of correctional facilities in the Province.
- Initiated work on courthouse facilities for the Bay St. George area.
- Continued enhancements for the therapeutic courts.
- Established a traveling judicial position to enhance access to justice.

## Opportunities and Challenges

The Department is continuing to invest in initiatives and programs to enhance the justice system in the Province. This includes collaborating with other Government departments to improve services. A notable example is the partnership with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on the enhancement of correctional facilities such as the Labrador Correctional Centre and the replacement of Her Majesty's Penitentiary. Infrastructure projects are a long-term investment that will modernize and enhance access to justice for inmates by offering enhanced services and programming. Investments in multi-year infrastructure projects represents the commitment to a modern and enhanced justice system. June 3, 2022 is the third anniversary of the release of **Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**. The Department is continuing to work in collaboration and partnership with Indigenous governments and organizations (IGOs), and local, Federal, Provincial, and Territorial partners, to identify potential grassroots and holistic initiatives designed to address the Calls for Justice and the noted priorities of Indigenous people. The Department also launched the Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System in April 2022 to examine the experiences and outcomes of Innu children, youth and families as related to the child protection system, and to identify recommendations for change. Additionally the Department is continuing to expand therapeutic courts to more areas of the Province, in particular, Drug Treatment Court and Family Violence Intervention Court. Family Violence Intervention Court will be renamed Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Court in 2022-23 in order to better reflect the operations of this specialized court. The Department recognizes that bringing about transformational change is a long-term commitment but once achieved, aligns with the strategic issues of enhanced community safety and well-being.

The public health measures to address the spread of COVID-19 continued to present some challenges during 2021-22. The Department is dedicated to the health and safety of all staff and stakeholders. Many of the measures, such as remote programming and

virtual visitation in correctional facilities and supporting the Courts in establishing virtual trials and hearings continued in 2021-22. In addition, the persistence of COVID-19 also challenged the Department in operationalizing and implementing select initiatives, such as the Bail Supervision Program that requires in-person services. However, this allowed for an opportunity to review and enhance policies and procedures so that programs are ready to be initiated as soon as practicable. The Department anticipates that any outstanding new programs or services that were affected by the pandemic will be operationalized over the next fiscal year.

The Department is also working towards transitioning the Province's 911 service into the Department. The Department will have direct oversight over 911 service across Newfoundland and Labrador. This will ensure NL911 is part of the consolidation and coordination of public safety and emergency services functions within the Emergency Services Branch of the Department, including the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre, the province-wide emergency public safety radio system office and the Fire Services Division. This integration will bring the Province in line with the majority of jurisdictions in Canada that have 911 services as part of their government departmental structures. In December 2021, the Department released the final report from the Inquiry into Ground Search and Rescue for Lost and Missing Persons in Newfoundland and Labrador. The findings of this public inquiry will have long-lasting impacts in the area of ground search and rescue and represent an opportunity for the Department to support further investments into ground search and rescue capabilities, including funding for the Newfoundland and Labrador Search and Rescue Association. Funding will be used to implement the inquiry's recommendations, as well as for equipment and training. This is consistent with the Department's commitment to enhanced community safety and well-being.

## Financial Information

Expenditure and revenue figures included in this document are based on public information provided in the “Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2022” (unaudited). The full report can be viewed at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/exec/tbs/publications/public-accounts/>.

You can request a copy of the report by contacting: Comptroller General's Office

P.O. Box 8700 St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Phone: 709.729.4866

		Actual	Estimates	
			Amended	Original
<b>1.1.01.</b>	<b>Minister's Office</b>	<b>213,775</b>	<b>218,500</b>	<b>276,500</b>
<b>1.2.01.</b>	<b>Executive Support</b>	<b>1,584,253</b>	<b>1,591,200</b>	<b>1,266,700</b>
<b>1.2.02</b>	<b>Administrative and Policy Support</b>	<b>4,377,199</b>	<b>3,468,800</b>	<b>3,864,500</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(695,957)	(1,584,200)	(884,200)
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	(511,174)	(210,100)	(210,100)
<b>1.2.03</b>	<b>Legal Information Management</b>	<b>955,295</b>	<b>916,300</b>	<b>869,100</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	-	-	(6,500)
<b>1.2.04</b>	<b>Administrative Support (Capital)</b>	<b>807,668</b>	<b>824,500</b>	<b>824,500</b>
<b>1.3.01</b>	<b>Fines Administration</b>	<b>729,279</b>	<b>737,400</b>	<b>822,600</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(43,167)	(74,900)	(74,900)
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	(319,123)	(310,100)	(920,600)

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<b>2.1.01.</b>	<b>Civil Law</b>	<b>27,390,131</b>	<b>28,440,800</b>	<b>15,741,400</b>
<b>2.1.02.</b>	<b>Sheriff's Office</b>	<b>5,968,138</b>	<b>6,092,500</b>	<b>6,939,000</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(10,593)	(25,000)	(109,900)
<b>2.1.03.</b>	<b>Support Enforcement</b>	<b>998,129</b>	<b>1,019,900</b>	<b>1,032,000</b>
<b>2.1.04.</b>	<b>Access to Information and Protection of Privacy</b>	<b>697,124</b>	<b>705,600</b>	<b>697,800</b>
<b>2.2.01.</b>	<b>Criminal Law</b>	<b>7,091,718</b>	<b>7,196,300</b>	<b>7,012,200</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(57,416)	(57,500)	(57,500)
<b>2.3.01.</b>	<b>Legal Aid</b>	<b>16,796,200</b>	<b>16,796,200</b>	<b>16,796,200</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(1,321,173)	(2,204,100)	(2,204,100)
<b>2.3.02.</b>	<b>Commissions of Inquiry</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>2.3.03.</b>	<b>Other Inquiries</b>	<b>1,152,393</b>	<b>1,300,000</b>	<b>5,170,600</b>
<b>2.3.04.</b>	<b>Office of the Chief Medical Examiner</b>	<b>1,833,029</b>	<b>1,657,700</b>	<b>1,905,000</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(178,713)	(178,800)	(154,900)
<b>2.3.05.</b>	<b>Human Rights</b>	<b>856,550</b>	<b>851,800</b>	<b>873,400</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(103,740)	(103,800)	(109,200)
<b>2.3.06.</b>	<b>Office of the Public Trustee</b>	<b>732,911</b>	<b>719,800</b>	<b>718,700</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	(1,274,272)	(1,200,000)	(1,000,000)
<b>2.4.01.</b>	<b>Legislative Counsel</b>	<b>485,592</b>	<b>486,600</b>	<b>481,000</b>
<b>3.1.01.</b>	<b>Supreme Court</b>	<b>6,342,058</b>	<b>6,370,600</b>	<b>6,768,500</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(371,961)	(606,000)	(744,900)
<b>3.2.01.</b>	<b>Provincial Court</b>	<b>10,460,739</b>	<b>10,525,100</b>	<b>10,889,900</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(266,527)	(715,200)	(715,200)

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<b>4.1.01.</b>	<b>Royal Newfoundland Constabulary</b>	<b>55,362,524</b>	<b>55,982,800</b>	<b>57,532,000</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(381,404)	(450,400)	(629,000)
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	(468,861)	(557,800)	(513,700)
<b>4.1.02.</b>	<b>Royal Canadian Mounted Police</b>	<b>74,631,643</b>	<b>76,021,000</b>	<b>75,776,300</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	-	(166,900)	(166,900)
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	-	(77,800)	(77,800)
<b>4.1.03.</b>	<b>RNC Public Complaints Commission</b>	<b>435,146</b>	<b>444,500</b>	<b>227,500</b>
<b>4.1.04</b>	<b>Serious Incident Response Team</b>	<b>327,398</b>	<b>355,200</b>	<b>503,300</b>
<b>4.2.01.</b>	<b>Adult Corrections</b>	<b>40,116,697</b>	<b>39,277,700</b>	<b>36,833,000</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(9,450,671)	(10,952,100)	(6,952,100)
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	(1,871,582)	(757,000)	(757,000)
<b>4.2.02.</b>	<b>Youth Secure Custody</b>	<b>4,114,045</b>	<b>4,209,400</b>	<b>4,648,300</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(2,333,544)	(2,724,800)	(2,724,800)
<b>5.1.01.</b>	<b>Fire Services</b>	<b>1,262,314</b>	<b>1,279,300</b>	<b>1,421,900</b>
<b>5.1.02.</b>	<b>Emergency Services</b>	<b>773,024</b>	<b>771,300</b>	<b>677,000</b>
<b>5.1.03.</b>	<b>Disaster Assistance</b>	<b>4,431,585</b>	<b>5,244,400</b>	<b>18,499,800</b>
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	-	-	(6,800,000)
<b>5.1.04.</b>	<b>Fire Protection Vehicles and Equipment</b>	<b>2,690,106</b>	<b>2,710,000</b>	<b>2,710,000</b>
<b>5.1.05.</b>	<b>NL 911</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,045,500</b>	<b>2,580,800</b>
<b>Total: Department</b>		<b>256,712,190</b>	<b>256,304,200</b>	<b>259,011,000</b>



