

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

Justice and Public Safety





MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

In accordance with Government's commitment to the requirements of a Category One Entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report for the Department of Justice and Public Safety for April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

2024-25 marked the second year of the 2023-26 strategic planning period. The Department focused on its mandate and the identified Strategic Issues throughout the year to continue to achieve success. The Department's success is demonstrated through the hiring of additional RNC officers, correctional officers, adult probation staff, and investments in supporting crime prevention initiatives. The Department also continued work to expand the public safety radio system across the province, and to improve infrastructure at the province's correctional and court facilities. This progress demonstrates the Department's continued commitment to supporting a justice system that is responsive to the public safety needs of the people and communities of Newfoundland and Labrador.

As the Minister of Justice and Public Safety and the Attorney General, I am responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and my signature below demonstrates my accountability for the results contained herein.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Haggie". The signature is stylized and includes a large initial "J".

Hon. Dr. John Haggie
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 public safety through the dual offices of the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice and Public Safety. The Department delivers programs and services through the following Branches:

1. Courts and Corporate Services 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
- Office of the High Sheriff

3. Emergency Services Branch

- Emergency Services Division
- Fire Services Division
- Public Safety Infrastructure Division
- 911 Division

4. Legal Services Branch

- Civil Division
- Office of the Legislative Counsel
- Office of the Public Trustee

5. Public Prosecutions Branch

- Public Prosecutions

The following entities under the Department are responsible for planning and reporting as Category 3 Entities, 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)
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission
- Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission Panel of Adjudicators
- Serious Incident Response Team of Newfoundland and Labrador

Activity plans and annual reports for the entities can be viewed on the Department's publications webpage at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/jps/publications/>.

In addition, the following are 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
- Law Society Disciplinary Panel
- Legal Appointments Board
- Judicial Complaints Panel
- Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador

Staff and Budget

As of March 31, 2025, the Department employed 1,521 individuals, including the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC). In addition, pursuant to the Provincial Policing Services Agreement and Community Tripartite Agreements, the Department funds approximately 456 officers and 115 civilian members and support staff in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to provide frontline policing services in approximately 44 locations throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. The Department employs a wide range of professionals including lawyers, police officers, social workers, psychologists, counsellors, correctional officers, youth care counselors, sheriff's officers, information management specialists, administrators, financial managers, educators and administrative support staff.

| Branch | Staff Complement | 2024-25 Budget |
|--|------------------|----------------------|
| Courts and Corporate Services | 237 | \$31,846,300 |
| Public Safety and Correctional Services* | 990 | \$214,869,900 |
| Emergency Services | 34 | \$50,608,800 |
| Legal Services** | 192 | \$32,262,500 |
| Public Prosecutions | 68 | \$8,882,900 |
| Total | 1,521 | \$338,470,400 |

* 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 responsible for the provision of legal services to the Provincial Government through the Office of the Attorney General and is responsible for the protection and safety of people in the province in respect of their persons and property. These responsibilities are met through provision of legal advice to Provincial Government departments, police protection, prosecution of accused persons, administration of the courts, including family justice services, operation of the province's correctional facilities, provision of services to victims of crime, protection of human rights and legal aid services. The Department also provides legislative drafting services through the Office of the Legislative Counsel, and is also responsible for 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 Divisions of Fire Services, Emergency Services, Public Safety Infrastructure, and 911. This mandate reflects the dual responsibilities of the Minister of Justice and Public Safety and the Attorney General of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Lines of Business

- **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.

- **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 Garnishment, tracing delinquent payers, and receiving and transmitting Interjurisdictional Support Orders applications.
- **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.
- **Policing Services** are delivered through the province's two policing agencies: the RNC and the RCMP, and the Department's Policing and Public Safety Division. Through a broad range of policing services, both police agencies are responsible for enforcing the law to protect public safety.
- **Corrections and Community Services** is responsible for the safe and secure custody of youth and adult offenders, for providing adult community corrections in the form of probation services, and for providing services to victims of crime.
- **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 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is also responsible for appointing physicians to act as medical examiners and appointing medical investigators.
- **Office of the High Sheriff** is responsible for providing 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.
- **Emergency Services** develops and maintains the 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, administering the Government of Canada Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Program, the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre, 24/7 on-call system, and Regional Emergency Management Planning officers.

- **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**.
- **Public Safety Infrastructure Division** is responsible for the implementation and operation of the Province-Wide Radio System, a single communications system for police, firefighters, paramedics and other public service providers, as well as departmental infrastructure requirements.
- **9-1-1 Division** is responsible for administering 9-1-1 as the primary emergency telephone number for use throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as the development and implementation of any enhancements to the 9-1-1 emergency telephone number service.
- **Civil Division** is responsible for providing legal advice 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.
- **Office of the Legislative Counsel** provides legislative drafting services to the Provincial Government. Additionally, in conjunction with the King's Printer and the House of Assembly, the office ensures the publication and dissemination of provincial legislation.
- **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 Provincial Government departments that enforce provincial statutes.

- **Office of the Public Trustee** is responsible for protecting the financial assets and well-being of clients under the **Public Trustee Act, 2009**. The Office of the Public Trustee is a Crown corporation created by legislation and operates fully independent of Government.
- **Policy and Strategic Planning and Information Management** is responsible for providing leadership in the identification, development and implementation of broad policy initiatives, departmental, horizontal, planning, and accountability processes in government, and for supporting informed policy development through internal and external stakeholder engagement. The Division holds Department-wide responsibility for all matters relating to records and information management.
- **Finance and General Operations Division** is responsible for planning, organizing, directing and controlling overall financial and administrative operations of the Department, including coordinating the annual budget submission, monitoring expenditures during the financial year for accurate financial information, and ensuring proper financial controls are in place.

Primary Clients

The Department primarily serves the general public and Provincial Government departments and agencies. The Department provides a range of services to individuals or groups of individuals through the courts, public prosecutions, family justice services, support enforcement, victims' services, correctional services, fines administration, policing, 9-1-1, the public safety radio system, and emergency services. The Provincial Government itself is also a significant client of the Department. Civil law services are provided to Provincial Government departments and agencies in the form of legal advice, as well as representation in litigation. Legislative drafting services are provided by the Office of the Legislative Counsel.

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

Highlights and Partnerships

Highlights

Law Enforcement Identity Management Act

On November 7, 2024, the Minister of Justice and Public Safety introduced the **Law Enforcement Identity Management Act** in the House of Assembly, receiving Royal Assent on December 4, 2024. This legislation restricts public access to law enforcement items and paraphernalia, with the intention of decreasing the likelihood that equipment would be used in unlawful activities. Specifically, the Act restricts the use, possession, sale and fabrication of law enforcement articles, uniforms, markings and vehicle equipment and requires asset management and disposal policies for law enforcement agencies subject to the Act. It also provides enforcement procedures and penalties. The basis for this legislation comes from a recommendation of the Mass Casualty Commission report that investigated the April 2020 mass shooting in Nova Scotia where the shooter impersonated an RCMP officer. Newfoundland and Labrador is the second province to introduce this legislation, after Nova Scotia. The next steps are to develop regulations to inform the legislation. This work is anticipated to include consultations including assessing the use of law enforcement items in dramatic works, and the potential for restricting the use of items from other non-police law enforcement agencies.

Proclamation of New Correctional Services Act and Regulations

On February 3, 2025, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador proclaimed the new **Correctional Services Act** (the Act) and **Correctional Services Regulations** (The Regulations). The new Act replaced the **Prisons Act** (1967) and **Adult Corrections Act** (1975). These legislative changes provide a significant step towards a modern correctional system that prioritizes safe, secure, and improved conditions for inmates and staff. The new Regulations detail procedures to accompany and operationalize the Act, including a new inmate disciplinary process, new procedures for inmate health care and updated correctional facility discharge procedures. The

Regulations also outline staff duties, inmate rights, rules governing inmate conduct, and circumstances under which some rights may be restricted. The new Act and Regulations are governed by the fundamental principles of justice for an effective and progressive correctional system. This demonstrates the Department's commitment to responsive public safety services.

Law Enforcement Oversight Commission Legislation

On March 3, 2025, the Minister of Justice and Public Safety introduced proposed legislation in the House of Assembly to amend the **Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Act, 1992**, to replace the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission, and establish a new process relating to police misconduct. The **Law Enforcement Oversight Commission Act** received Royal Assent on March 18, 2025. The Policing Transformation Working Group recommended these changes contained in the Act based on their research, jurisdictional reviews, and feedback they received during consultations conducted in 2024. The Act features new processes, with clearer timelines, ensuring greater transparency and efficiency for all complaints relating to RNC police discipline. The new complaint process provides improved oversight of police discipline by an independent commission, establishes an appeal panel hearing that would be open to the public, and makes the process of filing a complaint more accessible to the public. The Act will be proclaimed once Regulations have been finalized. When the Act is operationalized, it will be an important component in police oversight and strengthening public trust in the RNC.

Investments in Fire Protection Vehicles, Fire Protection Equipment, and Municipal Fire Departments

In 2024-25, the Department announced that 13 communities in the province will receive funding for fire protection vehicles. The Department also invested more than \$730,000 to purchase fire protection equipment for 39 volunteer fire departments, including bunker gear, cylinders, portable pumps, boots, vehicle extraction tools and more. This investment built on funding to replace almost 500 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units through a \$4.2 million investment.

Budget 2024 also included an increase of \$400,000 to support municipal fire departments responding to incidents outside their municipal boundary.

Fire Prevention Week 2024

October 6 to 12, 2024 was Fire Prevention Week. The theme of Fire Prevention Week 2024 was “Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You!” and was designed to educate residents about the importance of working smoke alarms in the home. It is essential for home safety to install smoke alarms in key areas in the home, test once a month, and replace all smoke alarms when they are ten years old or when they stop responding to testing. Fire Prevention Week also promoted carbon monoxide detectors. Carbon monoxide detectors are designed to alert of any build-up of carbon monoxide in the home. Fire Prevention Week is a great reminder that fire prevention and safety is everyone’s responsibility all year round. The Department encourages continued education on the importance of fire safety in homes, schools, and workplaces.

Partnerships

Funding to Enhance Public Safety in Newfoundland and Labrador

On November 6, 2024, the Minister of Justice and Public Safety announced a \$20 million investment in public safety over the next two years. Part of the \$20 million investment included the establishment of a provincial, 10-member Joint Task Force Unit. The unit is comprised of RNC and RCMP officers who will conduct targeted weapon, drug and contraband enforcement activities. The Joint Task Force Unit is focused on the Avalon region with future expansion to be determined by crime trends. Budget 2024 also invested in 10 new frontline police officers for the RNC, as well as continued funding to address gun and gang activity. Budget 2024 also provided an additional \$3 million to support RCMP policing.

Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Campaign

On March 31, 2025, the Department, in partnership with the Office of Women and Gender Equality (WGE) and the Department of Education, launched a \$100,000

Intimate Partner Violence Awareness campaign. The campaign focused on violence prevention and the supports that are available. The campaign raised awareness that sharing intimate images without permission is a crime, and explained how those at risk may obtain Emergency Protection Orders or make an application under Clare's Law. The campaign included outreach through online ads, social media and streaming services. Posters with QR codes and website links were displayed in junior and senior high schools and post-secondary institutions across the province. The awareness campaign was also featured on public buses, bus shelters and electronic billboards, where available. The campaign demonstrated the Provincial Government's commitment to making Newfoundland and Labrador a safer place for all. Anyone who feels they may be at risk of intimate partner violence is encouraged to visit the campaign website at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/jps/protectyourself/>.

Report on Performance

Issue One – Responsive Public Safety Services

The Department's mandate includes responsibility for the protection and safety of people in the province. The Department ensures the protection and the safety of the public through the provision of fire services, emergency services, policing, probation, and correctional services. These services are all essential to ensure that people feel safe in their communities. The Department recognizes the importance of delivering these services in a manner that is not only responsive to the needs of the residents of the province but also considers the appropriate and measured delivery of those services. This is demonstrated through the Department's investment in programs, crime prevention initiatives, community safety planning, and staffing in the areas of policing, victim services, probation, and corrections. Supporting these areas is necessary for the protection of families, communities and businesses throughout Newfoundland and Labrador as well as the proper functioning of the justice system. The results reported below demonstrate that the Department continued to deliver programs and services that promote public safety. These results are consistent with the Provincial Government's strategic direction of safer communities through responsive public safety services.

Goal

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have delivered public safety programs and services that are responsive to the public safety needs of the province.

Objective 1.2

By March 31, 2025, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have continued to deliver programs and services that promote public safety.

| Indicators | Results |
|--|---|
| <p>Doubled funding allocation to \$2 million to assist recruitment of up to 10 new frontline RNC officers to serve the Northeast Avalon.</p> | <p>Budget 2024 invested \$2 million to assist recruitment of up to 10 new frontline RNC officers for the Northeast Avalon. There were 16 new graduates from the Atlantic Police Academy in Prince Edward Island in September 2024, in addition to nine experienced officers who were recruited to the RNC. This recruitment has increased the number of RNC officers available to serve public safety needs for the growing communities of the Northeast Avalon.</p> |
| <p>Invested up to \$700,000 to support crime prevention initiatives to reduce gun and gang related crime.</p> | <p>In Budget 2024, the Department invested \$700,000 in equipment and training for the RNC to reduce gun and gang related crime. Investing in equipment and training for the RNC is an essential component of public safety services as this ensures the RNC have the appropriate tools available for keeping our communities safe. This investment also included community safety planning initiatives, and training for correctional officers, which provides additional opportunities to address gun and gang related crime. Community safety planning initiatives maintain communication with communities to ensure their public safety needs are met in a responsive manner. Training for correctional officers also ensures that they have the knowledge and skills to perform their duties in a variety of correctional circumstances with different types of offenders.</p> |

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| <p>Created 22 full-time positions for Her Majesty's Penitentiary and the Labrador Correctional Centre.</p> | <p>In 2024-25, the Department created 22 positions for Her Majesty's Penitentiary (HMP) and the Labrador Correctional Centre, consisting of 19 Correctional Officers and three managers. Increasing the number of staff in correctional centres helps to provide safe, secure, and improved conditions for both inmates and staff.</p> |
| <p>Created 12 new positions in adult probation to assist the administration of rehabilitative programming.</p> | <p>In 2024-25, the Department created 10 new positions in Adult Probation and two positions in Victims' Services, for a total of 12. One part-time position in Adult Probation was also made full-time, adding to the support available in Adult Probation. The breakdown of the positions in Adult Probation consists of 10 new full-time positions which are: three managers, five Adult Probation Officers, and two Clerk Typists, and the two new Clerk Typist positions added to Victim Services. These positions will better ensure adequate supervision of offenders, referrals to programs/services, and allow policy and training development for Probation Officers, as well as assist in the administration of the Victim Services program. The placement for the new positions covers different areas of the province, including St. John's, Central/West, Avalon/East, and communities in Labrador including Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Wabush, and Nain. This demonstrates the Department's commitment to building a responsive justice system by ensuring staff are available in communities to serve clients where they live.</p> |

Objective 1.3:

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have delivered select programs and services to enhance public safety in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the province.

Indicators:

- Invested \$4 million to support the justice system by adding six positions in Public Prosecutions and 15 positions to the Office of the High Sheriff.
- Increased the number of RCMP Officers in Happy Valley-Goose Bay by five officers in accordance with a recommendation of the Policing Transformation Working Group.
- Established a joint committee between the RNC and the RCMP to oversee provincial intimate partner violence matters.
- Collaborated with four regions: Mount Pearl, Conception Bay North, Gander, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay on the development of community safety and well-being plans.

Issue Two – Enhanced Investments in the Justice System

The Department recognized that investments in developing and improving infrastructure are essential components to support the delivery of programs and services in the justice system. This includes improvements to physical infrastructure or plans to improve physical infrastructure as well as implementation of new technologies that can be utilized within the justice system. Throughout 2024-25, the Department continued to enhance the justice system by investing in correctional facilities, court buildings, and emergency radio communications for first responders. These initiatives are intended to support the justice system by ensuring it is responsive and accessible to the clients and stakeholders of the Department and ultimately the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. The results reported below demonstrate that the Department continued to invest in the justice system to improve its capacity to deliver services. These results are consistent with the Provincial Government’s strategic direction of enhanced services by investing in the justice system.

Goal

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have enhanced investments in the justice system to develop infrastructure and improve the capacity to deliver services.

Objective 2.2

By March 31, 2025, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have continued to invest in the justice system in order to improve the capacity to deliver services.

| Indicators | Results |
|---|--|
| <p>Invested \$7 million to enhance existing infrastructure and the ability to deliver operational services and programming at Her Majesty’s Penitentiary.</p> | <p>The province invested \$7 million in 2024-25 to enhance existing infrastructure at HMP. This is an important investment to support the safety of staff and inmates and assist in delivering programs that provide physical space for rehabilitation and recreation activities. The Department worked in partnership with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (TI) to ensure that enhancements to new infrastructure meets the needs of staff and inmates and investment enhanced the Department’s capacity to provide operational services that otherwise would not have been available. Several projects have been completed, including: a new trailer for programing at HMP, the construction of two airing courts (i.e. outdoor recreational space), and the tendering for construction of a new admissions building has been awarded and construction is anticipated to continue into 2025.</p> |
| <p>Invested \$8 million to support the replacement of Her Majesty’s Penitentiary.</p> | <p>Budget 2024 invested \$8.2 million to support initiatives necessary for the replacement of HMP. The work to replace HMP was ongoing throughout 2024-25 and included the announcement that the TI closed the Request for Proposals and accepted the submission from New Avalon Corrections Partners. TI continued to advance procurement of the project with guidance from its independent advisors who helped develop the specifications and other project documents and helped ensure that the proposal results in the best value for taxpayers’ money. This is important groundwork to</p> |

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| | <p>ensure that the new facility is constructed with modern design considerations that will provide safety, areas for supportive programming, improved living space, visitor areas, and administrative space. The Department continues to work with TI on the replacement of the facility so that new infrastructure will meet the needs of a modern justice system now and into the future.</p> |
| <p>Enhanced court facilities through a \$5 million investment to support the redevelopment of the Martin Gallant Building in Stephenville Crossing.</p> | <p>Budget 2024 invested \$5 million to support the redevelopment of the Martin Gallant Building in Stephenville Crossing. While work to redevelop the building was not completed during 2024-25, the Department continued to work in partnership with TI on continued planning for the redevelopment. The new facilities are anticipated to increase the safety and security of court proceedings at the courthouse and provide a more functional and spacious working environment for public service workers, including judges, lawyers, plaintiffs, and sheriff’s officers. The new court facilities will also improve access to justice in the Bay St. George Area. This redevelopment project demonstrates the Department’s commitment to developing infrastructure in a way that supports the delivery of programming and services to better serve the community.</p> |
| <p>Enhanced emergency response capabilities by increasing the number of first responders using the</p> | <p>In 2024-25 the Department expanded the Province-Wide Radio System to additional users across the province. This continued expansion is part of an \$181 million investment over 12 years to support implementation of the Province-Wide Radio System. The expansion</p> |

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|------------------------------------|---|
| <p>Province-Wide Radio System.</p> | <p>includes police, firefighters, paramedics, ground search and rescue teams, and volunteer fire departments across the province. Increasing the number of first responders accessing the Province-Wide Radio System enhances their ability to communicate, respond to emergencies, and coordinate any necessary actions. It also allows new users to be added to the system and represents the Department's continued commitment to further develop its emergency response capabilities.</p> |
|------------------------------------|---|

Objective 2.3:

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Justice and Public Safety will have enhanced the capacity of the justice system to deliver services through improved infrastructure.

Indicators:

- Established an Advisory Committee of stakeholders with comprehensive experience in corrections to inform the ongoing development of the new Adult Correctional Facility.
- Implemented a digital evidence management system for the RNC.
- Over \$4 million invested in fire equipment, vehicles, and training to increase focus on fire protection and safety in communities.

Opportunities and Challenges

The Department continues to support initiatives and programs to enhance the justice system in Newfoundland and Labrador. This support includes continued investments in policing, public safety infrastructure, and fire services. The Department will continue working to ensure an effective and efficient justice system that is responsive to the needs of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

The Department made significant investments to further enhance policing and public safety. These investments included \$20 million to enhance the delivery of policing in the province and represents a commitment to community safety. In 2024-25, the Policing Transformation Working Group held extensive public consultations across Newfoundland and Labrador, and heard from municipal leaders, Indigenous communities, community organizations, business owners, and members of the public. The consultations, which included a public survey, revealed four themes: community engagement and communication, transparency on police actions and crime trends, accountability for police misconduct, and visibility and police presence. These themes will be reflected in the priorities for the Policing Transformation Working Group and represent an opportunity for them in their efforts towards improving policing services and enhancing public safety.

The work of the Police Transformation Working Group is demonstrated through the new **Law Enforcement Oversight Commission Act**, which was passed in 2024. This legislation transforms the RNC discipline process and will streamline the internal and public complaint systems into one process that is overseen by a civilian commissioner. Once this Act comes into force, it is anticipated to improve the RNC discipline and complaint process to be more efficient and transparent. This represents an opportunity to continue to enhance accountability in policing and continue to build public trust and confidence in the police, which in turn may help people feel safer in their communities.

Addressing intimate partner violence continues to be an area of focus for the Department. On January 23, 2025, WGE and the Department announced the establishment of a ministerial committee to end gender-based violence which will create multiple avenues for community involvement, including regular presentations, focus groups, and other consultation opportunities, to share insights, concerns and ideas. This represents an opportunity for the Department to work with partners to help address gender-based violence. In addition, the Policing Transformation Working Group examined the impacts of gender-based and intimate partner violence and, in consultation with numerous community stakeholders, made several recommendations. One recommendation suggested that additional resources be allocated to the RNC's Intimate Partner Violence Unit, including the creation of a civilian victim services navigator position funded through WGE. The recruitment process for this position is underway. Upon the recommendation of the Police Transformation Working Group, the RNC and RCMP have established a joint committee to oversee provincial intimate partner violence matters. These initiatives provide the Department with the opportunity to continue the important work of addressing intimate partner violence.

During 2024-25, the Department also faced challenges during forest fires season in Labrador West. Like other jurisdictions, Newfoundland and Labrador are experiencing increased risk of forest fires due to climate change. As a result, forest fires are larger and more intense and will test the Department's emergency response capabilities, especially when they threaten communities. The Emergency Services Division (ESD) of the Department regularly monitors potential emergency risks to the province and determines the appropriate response. If necessary, the ESD may activate the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC), which coordinates the provincial response to emergency events. A successful response to an emergency relies on the support of various emergency management partners, including other provincial departments and agencies, and municipalities. The Department will continue to respond to fire related emergencies, assist impacted communities, and provide appropriate and available services to anyone affected by wildfires.

The Department also continues to support the work of volunteer fire departments by investing more than \$730,000 to purchase fire protection equipment for 39 volunteer fire departments across the province. Additionally, the Department continues to support its commitment to the Province-Wide Radio System by expanding its range province-wide. The expansion incorporates thousands of radio users, from police, to firefighters, to paramedics. This also includes radios for ground search and rescue teams, as well as volunteer fire departments across the province. This expansion is anticipated to greatly improve the response time in crucial moments and enables all four Atlantic Provinces to communicate immediately during an emergency.

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 2025 (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 \$ |
| 1.1.01. | Minister's Office | 293,030 | 306,300 | 240,200 |
| 1.2.01. | Executive Support | 1,718,763 | 1,741,600 | 1,429,300 |
| 1.2.02 | Administrative and Policy Support | 5,275,639 | 4,949,900 | 4,573,600 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | (227,925) | (573,900) | (1,059,500) |
| | Less Related Revenue (Provincial) | (208,487) | (530,300) | (210,100) |
| 1.2.03 | Legal Information Management | 836,669 | 840,700 | 898,900 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Provincial) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1.2.04 | Administrative Support (Capital) | 697,742 | 914,800 | 1,177,500 |
| 1.3.01 | Fines Administration | 800,998 | 822,500 | 857,900 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | 0 | (16,300) | (65,400) |
| | Less Related Revenue (Provincial) | (589,649) | (479,200) | (920,600) |

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|----------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2.1.01. | Civil Law | 15,060,991 | 15,553,700 | 14,165,000 |
| 2.1.02. | Sheriff's Office | 6,449,725 | 6,622,900 | 7,215,600 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | 0 | 0 | (59,400) |
| 2.1.03. | Support Enforcement | 966,980 | 981,000 | 1,103,400 |
| 2.2.01. | Criminal Law | 8,333,218 | 8,392,800 | 8,940,400 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | (114,833) | (114,900) | (57,500) |
| 2.3.01. | Legal Aid | 20,296,600 | 20,296,600 | 20,296,600 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | (3,669,807) | (3,405,300) | (3,405,300) |
| 2.3.02. | Commissions of Inquiry | 0 | 100 | 100 |
| 2.3.03. | Other Inquiries | 3,316,230 | 4,403,100 | 2,500,000 |
| 2.3.04. | Office of the Chief Medical Examiner | 2,493,091 | 2,694,300 | 2,613,500 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | 0 | (70,000) | (200,000) |
| | Less Related Revenue (Provincial) | 0 | 0 | (120,000) |
| 2.3.05. | Human Rights | 1,097,842 | 1,101,100 | 1,025,700 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.3.06. | Office of the Public Trustee | 719,778 | 730,200 | 821,500 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Provincial) | 0 | (723,000) | (1,000,000) |
| 2.4.01. | Legislative Counsel | 569,218 | 572,700 | 573,700 |
| 3.1.01. | Supreme Court | 7,593,635 | 7,922,900 | 9,514,600 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | 149,521 | (966,500) | (1,923,800) |
| 3.2.01. | Provincial Court | 13,556,474 | 13,731,700 | 13,463,800 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | (489,409) | (609,800) | (759,300) |

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|----------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | Less Related Revenue (Provincial) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4.1.01. | Royal Newfoundland Constabulary | 67,670,844 | 67,951,500 | 70,891,700 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | (709,463) | (450,000) | (450,000) |
| | Less Related Revenue (Provincial) | (620,633) | (732,100) | (580,600) |
| 4.1.02. | Royal Canadian Mounted Police | 111,158,343 | 111,489,000 | 96,760,400 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | 0 | (857,100) | (857,100) |
| | Less Related Revenue (Provincial) | 0 | (141,300) | (141,300) |
| 4.1.03. | RNC Public Complaints Commission | 592,593 | 676,300 | 336,200 |
| 4.1.04 | Serious Incident Response Team | 387,291 | 424,400 | 474,800 |
| 4.2.01. | Adult Corrections | 48,709,383 | 48,974,800 | 45,969,700 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | (6,762,427) | (7,500,400) | (7,149,900) |
| | Less Related Revenue (Provincial) | (1,461,282) | (1,300,000) | (1,300,000) |
| 4.2.02. | Youth Secure Custody | 5,838,618 | 6,170,900 | 4,821,700 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | (2,238,907) | (2,544,400) | (2,544,400) |
| | Less Related Revenue (Provincial) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5.1.01. | Fire Services | 1,663,583 | 1,722,800 | 1,868,100 |
| 5.1.02. | Emergency Services | 15,768,395 | 16,587,600 | 16,236,500 |
| 5.1.03. | Disaster Assistance | 32,574,344 | 33,959,300 | 31,396,500 |
| | Less Related Revenue (Federal) | (6,370,865) | (6,370,900) | (5,918,600) |

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|--------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 5.1.04. | Fire Protection Vehicles and Equipment | 8,024,344 | 8,125,000 | 3,760,000 |
| 5.1.05. | NL 911 | 2,741,550 | 3,075,300 | 3,266,300 |
| Total: Department | | 361,891,745 | 364,350,400 | 338,470,400 |