

2022-2023

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, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

In 2022-23, work to accomplish the Department's Strategic Issues continued. The Strategic Issues are contained in the Department's 2020-23 Strategic Plan and are: Enhanced Community Safety and Well-Being, and Improve and Modernize the Justice System. This work has included continued improvements to justice infrastructure, justice system programming, and enhancements to emergency services. The accomplishments highlighted in this annual report are reflective of the Department's commitment to ensuring Newfoundland and Labrador is a safe place to live and work through a justice system that is accessible and responsive to the people it serves.

The upcoming fiscal year of 2023-24 represents the commencement of a new Strategic Plan period, which will provide the Department an opportunity to build on progress achieved over the past three years. It continues to be my pleasure to serve the people of this province as the Minister of Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General. 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 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; and,
- 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; and,
- Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Staff and Budget

As of March 31, 2023, the Department employed 1,439 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	2022-23 Budget (\$)
Corporate Services and Courts	227	\$26,687,000
Public Safety and Correctional Services*	916	\$189,970,700
Emergency Services	27	\$19,329,700
Legal Services**	204	\$29,792,900
Public Prosecutions	65	\$6,999,600
Total	1,439	\$272,779,900

* 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 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 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. 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 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.
- **911 Division** is responsible for administering 911 as the primary emergency telephone number for use throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as the development and implementation of any enhancements to the 911 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 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 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.

Primary Clients

The Department primarily serves the general public and 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, 911, the public safety radio system, and emergency services. Government itself is also a significant client of the Department. Civil law services are provided to 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.

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

Highlights and Partnerships

Highlights

New Judge Appointments to the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador

In 2022-23, the Department announced appointments of a new Chief Judge, Associate Chief Judge, two Provincial Court Judges, and two per diem Judges to the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. In September 2022, Judge Robin Fowler was appointed as the new Chief Judge, bringing decades of experience working in the justice system. In December 2022, Judge Jennifer Mercer was appointed as the Associate Chief Judge. In January 2023, Andrew Wadden, KC, was appointed to the Provincial Court in Grand Falls-Windsor and Lloyd Strickland, KC, was appointed to the Provincial Court in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. In October 2022, Judge Pamela Goulding and Judge D. Mark Pike were appointed as per diem judges. Per diem judges support court operations and are available to sit when there are judge vacancies.

Proclamation of Access to Health and Educational Services Act

The **Access to Health and Educational Services Act** was proclaimed on June 1, 2022. The **Access to Health and Educational Services Act** expands safe access zones to health and educational facilities, similar to legislation that is in place for abortion clinics. This Act prohibits the interference and intimidation of service providers and users near health and educational facilities by providing safe access zones up to 50 metres from the boundaries from where these facilities are located. Contravention of the **Access to Health and Educational Services Act** can result in imprisonment or a fine of up to \$10,000 but provides exceptions for persons participating in lawful strike activities, as well as enforcement activities by the police. The Act balances the right to peaceful protest with the rights of individuals to access health and educational services free from physical and emotional distress.

100th Anniversary of Fire Prevention Week

The week of October 9 to 15, 2022 was Fire Prevention Week. This year marked the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week with the theme of “Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape”. The 2022 Fire Prevention Week theme was designed to encourage people to learn more about keeping themselves and their families safe. These actions include planning and practicing a home fire escape as in the event of a fire there may be limited time to escape safely. Ideally, there should be at least two ways out of every room, doors and windows should be accessible, a designated meeting area a safe distance from the house should be identified, and smoke alarms should be installed in every area of the house. Fire prevention 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

National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Provincial Government recognizes October 4 as the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The Department of Justice and Public Safety, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and the Office of Women and Gender Equality partnered to continue work alongside Indigenous Governments and Organizations to reduce and prevent gender-based violence in Newfoundland and Labrador. In July 2022, the final report titled “Hear Our Voices: MMIWG Policy Recommendation of the First Women of Newfoundland and Labrador” (Hear Our Voices), based on the knowledge shared at the most recent Provincial Indigenous Women’s Gathering, was presented to the Provincial Government. The recommendations from Hear Our Voices will inform the work to address and prevent gender-based violence in collaboration with the province’s Indigenous people, in particular the voices of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. In November 2022, the Provincial Government announced the establishment of the Provincial Indigenous Women’s Reconciliation Council. As recommended in Hear Our Voices, the Reconciliation Council is a collaborative and ongoing working relationship between Indigenous women and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The overall

goal of the Reconciliation Council will be to coordinate and lead meaningful action on implementation of the recommendations contained in Hear Our Voices. The Department continues to prioritize the safety of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals in Newfoundland and Labrador by supporting initiatives that directly target violent behavior and the normalization of violence.

Road Safety Week

During May 17 to May 23, 2022, the Provincial Government recognized Canada Road Safety Week which is a national campaign designed to increase public compliance with safe driving measures in order to save lives and reduce road accident injuries. The theme for the 2022 campaign was 'Safer You, Safer Me.', it emphasized that the decisions drivers make not only affect them, but also their passengers, other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. The Department of Justice and Public Safety continues to work alongside the RCMP, RNC, and other safety partners and advocates, in promoting safe driving behaviors on the province's roads and highways. Canada Road Safety Week is an enforcement-driven initiative led by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, and is part of Canada's Road Safety Strategy 2025. The Safety Strategy aims to make Canada's roads the safest in the world, focusing on behaviours that put drivers, passengers, pedestrians and other vulnerable road users most at risk from drug-impaired driving, alcohol-impaired driving, fatigue-impaired driving, distracted driving, aggressive driving, and driving without a seatbelt.

Establishment of an Acute Response Team in Happy Valley – Goose Bay

In June 2022, the Provincial Government established the Acute Response Team to address issues associated with the transient homeless population in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The Acute Response Team brings together senior leaders and decision-makers to lead the rapid development and implementation of acute responses to address the needs of individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the area. The Team has a mandate to address issues involving the vulnerable population that have arisen in the community. In addition to sharing information, ideas and perspectives, the Acute Response Team provides a forum to collaborate and coordinate actions and

solutions by organizations individually, or together with other entities. The Honourable Lisa Dempster, Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs and Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and the Honourable John Hogan, Minister of Justice and Public Safety serve as co-chairs, The Acute Response Team is composed of representatives of the Provincial Government, the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and Indigenous Governments and Organizations. The efforts of the Acute Response Team are in addition to the work that has been undertaken by an Action Team, which was convened in 2021 to focus attention on vulnerable populations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and address housing, health and other supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Report on Performance

Issue One – Enhanced Community Safety and Well-being

The Department of Justice and Public Safety is committed to continuing work towards strengthening the safety and well-being of communities through the administration of public safety programs. The Department recognizes the importance of supporting the safety and well-being of communities through, policing, fire services, emergency services, offender rehabilitation, and alternative measures. Throughout the 2020-23 planning period, the Department identified opportunities to enhance prevention initiatives that were intended to address offender behaviours and help to reduce future occurrences. The Department’s work in these areas over the past three years is identified below in reporting on its 2023 Goal and three associated indicators. The Department’s efforts also continued during 2022-23, which is the last year of reporting on the 2020-23 Strategic Plan. In accordance with its 2022-23 objective, the Department implemented initiatives that enhance community safety and well-being, which is a priority for the Department and aligns with the Government’s Strategic Direction of Better Living.

Goal

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

Indicators	Results
Work begun on initiatives to enhance community safety and well-being.	This indicator reflects the first year of progress for the 2020-23 Strategic Plan. In 2020-21, the Department of Justice and Public Safety began work on initiatives to enhance community safety and well-being. It is notable for 2020-21 that the Department continued its focus on maintaining and delivering critical services in alignment with public health measures in the response to the COVID-19 global pandemic which was ongoing

throughout that year. However, this also meant that there was variance in achieving the indicators. Work completed in 2020-21 included:

Continued Development of the Interpersonal Violence

Disclosure Protocol:

- On December 6, 2019, the Department introduced the **Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol Act** in the House of Assembly to provide police agencies authority to disclose relevant information about a person's abusive history to a partner who is determined to be at risk.
- The Department conducted a jurisdictional review of other provinces with similar legislation to gain insight into implementation in their respective provinces.

Conducted an Evaluation of the Electronic Monitoring Pilot Program

- In January 2020, the Department implemented the Electronic Monitoring pilot program with the deployment of ankle bracelets equipped with GPS technology in St. John's and Nain. The pilot demonstrated the effectiveness of Electronic Monitoring for enforcing court ordered conditions of offenders and meant that the option is now available for eligible offenders to serve sentences in the community as an alternative to incarceration.
- It has been determined that Electronic Monitoring is an effective tool for monitoring and enforcing curfew conditions, no-contact conditions (especially in cases of intimate partner violence) and conditions for offenders to remain away from specific businesses/establishments (where applicable).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The pilot has also provided insight into the technical requirements needed to operate the program provincially, including cellular network requirements. As a result, the Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2020 and awarded a three-year contract to Buddi Ltd. <p>Worked to Expand the Family Violence Intervention Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During 2020-21, the Department explored opportunities to expand the then named Family Violence Intervention Court to communities outside St. John’s and Stephenville. The court was later re-named as the Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Court (IPVIC) to better reflect that intimate partner violence can occur in any type of relationship. The Department identified suitable locations that met capacity and maximized service requirements for the Court. A dedicated position was staffed to coordinate the expansion of the Court. <p>Completed the Ground Search and Rescue Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Commission of the Ground Search and Rescue Inquiry was completed in November 2021. The Commission was established to review the organization and operation of ground search and rescue in the province, including air support. The findings of the inquiry included recommendations to enhance search and rescue. The final report from the Commission of Inquiry is available at: 11-30-2021-Final-Report-GSAR-Inquiry.pdf (nlgsarinquiry.ca) <p>Allocated Funding in 2020-21 to Support the Replacement of Fire Protection Vehicles and Firefighting Equipment</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Services joined the Department of Justice and Public Safety in September of 2020. • \$3 million was allocated to the Fire Protection Vehicle and Firefighting Equipment Program in 2020. • 13 applications under the program were approved in 2020-21 (eight pumper trucks, two fire fighting tankers, two rescue units, and one Rural Response Unit) for communities throughout the province.
<p>Advanced work towards implementing initiatives to enhance community safety and well-being.</p>	<p>This indicator reflects the second year of progress for the 2020-23 Strategic Plan. In 2021-22, the Department of Justice and Public Safety continued to advance initiatives to enhance community safety and well-being. Work completed in 2021-22 included:</p> <p>Completed Initial Work to Implement a Province Wide Public Safety Radio System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021-22, the Department conducted a comprehensive RFP process and awarded Bell Mobility a contract to install and support the system. This represents the first step in improving the way government, emergency responders, and other public service providers communicate with each other during emergencies. <p>Expanded the Electronic Monitoring Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 2021 invested \$508,000 to support the electronic monitoring program. Following the Electronic Monitoring pilot program, the Department identified Buddi Ltd. as successful vendor in the RFP process and was awarded a three year contract for the provision of bracelets and monitoring services in the province. This will enable

	<p>monitoring of select offenders if they are serving sentences in the community.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 Government of Canada’s National Action Plan. This constitutes one of the steps towards addressing the Calls for Justice set out in the MMIWG Inquiry’s Final Report. Newfoundland and Labrador’s submissions can be viewed at: National Action Plan (mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca) <p>Explored Ways to Implement Gladue Principles in the Justice System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2021-22, 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. The training better prepared Adult Probation Offices to utilize Gladue principles in Pre-sentencing Reports where necessary. <p>Operationalized the Bail Supervision Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bail Supervision Program was not fully operationalized in 2021-22 due to the COVID-19
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	<p>pandemic and public health measures to contain the spread of the virus in the community. The Department has completed a significant amount of work to operationalize the program. This includes the completion of the policies and procedures for the program and the retention of a Bail Supervisor position.</p> <p>Allocated Funding in 2021-22 for Firefighting Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.7 million was allocated for fire protection vehicles and equipment. In addition, Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Services received 42 approvals for firefighting equipment. The continued investments in firefighting equipment represents the Department's dedication to public safety and ensuring community well-being.
<p>Community safety and well-being initiatives implemented.</p>	<p>This indicator reflects the third year of progress for the 2020-23 Strategic Plan. In 2022-23, the Department of Justice and Public Safety advanced initiatives that enhance community safety and well-being. The work of the previous years demonstrate that progress was made by the Department to enhance community safety and well-being. Work completed in 2022-23 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inquiry into Treatment, Experiences, and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protective System commenced in 2022. • Legislation passed that transitioned 911 services into the Department of Justice and Public Safety. • The Department increased support of Ground Search and Rescue through a \$1 million investment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 2022 provided \$21 million to support the continued implementation of the Public Safety Radio System. • Budget 2022 allocated \$1.8 million to the Fire Protection Vehicle and Firefighting Equipment Program. • Budget 2022 provided \$17 million in additional funding for RCMP services. <p>These initiatives also demonstrate how the Department met the 2023 Objective and the results for the 2022-23 Indicators are reported below.</p>
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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	Results
Commenced the Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences, and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System.	The Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences, and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System commenced on April 29, 2022, with the Provincial Government and the Innu agreeing on a Terms of Reference on April 27, 2022. The Inquiry is led by former Provincial Court Judge James Igloliorte, former Grand Chief of the Innu Nation Anastasia Qupee, and Dr. Mike Devine, retired Associate Professor of the School of Social Work, Memorial University. The Inquiry seeks to examine the treatment, experiences and outcomes of Innu children, youth and families in the child protection system, and to identify recommendations through a final report. The Inquiry will also investigate the particular circumstances leading up to the deaths of three youths. The Government of Newfoundland and

	<p>Labrador allocated \$4 million in Budget 2022 to establish the Inquiry. The Inquiry is guided by a shared commitment of the Innu Nation, the Mushuau Innu First Nation, the Sheshatshiu First Nation, and the Provincial Government to ensure the safety and well-being of, and to act in the best interests of, Innu children and youth. The Inquiry acknowledges past wrongs and continues the work towards Reconciliation through listening, understanding, and mutual respect.</p>
<p>Transitioned 911 services into the Department of Justice and Public Safety.</p>	<p>Legislation was passed in Spring 2022, creating the Emergency 911 Act, 2022 which transitioned the corporation NL911 Bureau Inc. into the Department of Justice and Public Safety. This allows the Department to have direct oversight over the 911 service under the Emergency Services Branch, effectively streamlining and improving public safety and emergency services. The completed transition aligns Newfoundland and Labrador with the majority of jurisdictions in Canada that have their 911 services as a part of their government departmental structures.</p>
<p>Enhanced investments to support ground search and rescue.</p>	<p>Budget 2022 invested \$1 million to enhance Ground Search and Rescue in Newfoundland and Labrador, as recommended in the final report of the Ground Search and Rescue Inquiry. The Department's investments for ground search and rescue included an emergency response trailer and providing enhanced training for personnel and equipment to provide reliable support for ground search and rescue teams when an emergency response is required, including an expansion of teams in Labrador.</p>
<p>Continued investments in support of the</p>	<p>In 2022-23, the Department continued investments supporting the implementation of a province-wide Public Safety Radio</p>

<p>implementation of the Public Safety Radio System.</p>	<p>System for Government and first responders. Budget 2022 provided \$21 million for the system. The Department entered a contractual agreement with Bell Mobility to install and support the system. It is anticipated that the radio system will be active on the Avalon Peninsula by Spring 2023. Currently, the RNC and RCMP on the Avalon are using the radio system, with other government and emergency responders, such as fire fighters, paramedics, and other public service providers to transition to the radio system in the near future. Continued implementation of the new radio system will provide interprovincial support for all emergency responders enhancing communication during emergencies and natural disasters. This initiative supports the Department's priority of increasing community safety and well-being in the province.</p>
<p>Provided funding for firefighting equipment.</p>	<p>Budget 2022 allocated \$1.8 million to the Fire Protection Vehicle and Firefighting Equipment Program. Under the program seven truck applications were approved (five pumper trucks, one rescue truck and one rural response truck) along with 55 firefighting equipment applications (bunker suits, SCBA, fire hose/thermal imaging camera/portable pump) for communities across Newfoundland and Labrador.</p>
<p>Provided additional funding support for the RCMP.</p>	<p>Communities across the province have identified that funding for the RCMP is a priority. Budget 2022 provided \$17 million in additional funding for RCMP services in the province. The Department is committed to enhancing community safety and well-being and funding will assist the recruitment of additional police officers for rural communities. Funding also supports enhanced training and equipment for RCMP members in Newfoundland and Labrador.</p>

Issue Two – Improve and Modernize the Justice System

The Department remained committed to implementing initiatives that improve and modernize the justice system, enhance services, and promote access to justice. The Department’s work in these areas over the past three years is identified below in reporting on its 2023 goal and three associated indicators. During 2022-23, the Department continued its efforts and worked with its partners to further progress towards enhanced justice infrastructure, provision of alternative court processes, and the addition of a travelling judge position. These initiatives are intended to provide the public with an effective and efficient justice system that is responsive to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Department’s commitment to improving and modernizing the justice system that supports 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.

Indicators	Results
Commenced initiatives to improve and modernize the justice system through enhanced access, services, and the availability of alternative measures.	This indicator reflects the first year of progress for the 2020-23 Strategic Plan. In 2020-21, the Department of Justice and Public Safety commenced work towards initiatives to improve and modernize the justice system through enhanced access, services, and the availability of alternative measures. It is notable for 2020-21 that the Department continued its focus on maintaining and delivering critical services in alignment with public health measures in the response to the COVID-19 global pandemic which was ongoing throughout that year. Initiatives such as remote programming and virtual visitation in correctional facilities and support for the Courts in establishing virtual trials

	<p>and hearings. However, this also meant that there was variance in achieving the indicators. Work completed during 2020-21 included:</p> <p>Implemented the Bail Supervision Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Department developed the policies and procedures for the program, and identified a Bail Supervisor. However, due to the ongoing public health measures, the program was not fully implemented in 2020-21. <p>Completed the Statutory Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued public health measures delayed the statutory review of the Access to Information and Protection Privacy Act, 2015 (ATIPPA, 2015), an order was obtained by the Department under the Temporary Variations of Statutory Deadlines Act to commence the review no later than December 1, 2020. The review commenced in November 2020. Public hearings were held January 18, 2021 to January 29, 2021, with the final report scheduled for March 31, 2021.• The Provincial election paused the review and therefore it could not be completed in 2020-21. The review continued into the next fiscal year and the final report was released June 9, 2021. <p>Continued to Explore the Expansion of Drug Treatment Court (DTC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Throughout 2020-21, the Department continued identifying opportunities for expansion of the DTC, to
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	<p>determine necessary resources, stakeholder engagement and partnerships, and location feasibility for different areas of the province, as well as existing funding supports. The Department continued to pursue federal funding to support expansion under the DTC Funding Program, a partnership between the Department of Justice Canada and Health Canada.</p> <p>Explored the Expansion of Adult Diversion to Other Areas of the Province</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Department piloted Adult Diversion on the West Coast in areas serviced by the Provincial Court in Stephenville and Corner Brook. There were 44 referrals in 2020-21.• Adult Diversion was determined to be beneficial to other areas in the province, but expansion could not occur due to factors related to complying with public health measures that were in place during 2020-21. <p>Continued Planning Work, in Partnership with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, for the Construction of a New Correctional Facility to Replace Her Majesty's Penitentiary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In July 2020, The Provincial Government issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a new correctional facility to replace Her Majesty's Penitentiary (HMP). Budget 2020 allocated \$5.5 million to advance work towards a new correctional facility in St. John's and expand the Labrador Corrections Facility in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.
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<p>Continued to work towards implementation of initiatives that improve and modernize the justice system through enhanced access, services, and the availability of alternative measures.</p>	<p>This indicator represents the second year of progress for the 2020-23 Strategic Plan. In 2021-22, the Department of Justice and Public Safety continued work towards the implementation of initiatives that improve and modernize the justice system through enhanced access, services, and the availability of alternative measures. Work completed during 2021-22 included:</p> <p>Continued Collaboration with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on a New Correctional Facility to replace HMP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 2021, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued to three teams of companies, of which two withdrew their interest in designing, building, financing, and maintaining the new correctional facility. <p>Completed the New Court House in Happy Valley-Goose Bay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department completed the new provincial courthouse in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, which opened in October 2021. The new courthouse in Happy Valley-Goose Bay has enhanced interview facilities, increased office space, larger courtrooms, and improved services for different users of the courthouse, such as Legal Aid NL and Victim Services. <p>Continued Work Towards the Expansion of Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Court (IPVIC) and Drug Treatment Court (DTC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 2021 allocated \$350,000 to explore expansion opportunities for IPVIC. The expansion focused on opening an additional court location in central
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	<p>Newfoundland and work was initiated throughout 2021 and by 2022, the Department was in the final stages of recruiting staff and finalizing operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2021-22, the Department sought federal funding through the DTC Funding Program in support of development and expansion of DTCs to other areas of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Department received over \$220,000 in support of the St. John’s location.
<p>Implemented initiatives that improve and modernize the justice system through enhanced access, services and the availability of alternative measures.</p>	<p>This indicator represents the third year of progress for the 2020-23 Strategic Plan. In 2022-23, the Department of Justice and Public Safety implemented initiatives that improve and modernize the justice system, focusing on enhancing access, services and the availability of alternative measures. Work completed in 2022-23 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to collaborate with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on improvements to correctional facilities. • Budget 2022 allocated \$1 million to support improvements of courthouse facilities in the Bay St. George area which will improve access to justice in the area. • Continued to support the DTC and IPVIC, which are therapeutic court processes that support individuals by providing alternatives to the traditional court process. • Budget 2022 allocated \$277,300 to establish a traveling judicial position which will enhance access to justice by better ensuring a judge is available where needed. This position also better ensures timely access to court.

	These initiatives also demonstrate how the Department met the 2023 Objective and the results for the 2022-23 Indicators are reported below.
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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	Results
Continued collaboration with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure for the enhancement of correctional facilities in the Province.	In 2022-23, the Department of Justice and Public Safety continued collaboration with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, towards enhancement of correctional facilities in the province with \$6 million allocated in Budget 2022 to modernize and expand correctional facilities. The remediation process was initiated for the new adult correctional facility to replace HMP, in preparation for the next phase of development. The Labrador Correctional Centre had planned enhancements designed to increase capacity and the ability to house female and male offenders in Labrador, effectively reducing the need for transports to other facilities on the Island portion of the province and keeping people closer to their families and community supports. Additionally, the plan includes three living unit extensions, improvements to the Centre’s laundry, kitchen and programming areas, and the addition of a medical suite.
Initiated work on courthouse facilities for the Bay St. George area.	The Provincial Government allocated \$8.5 million towards converting the former College of the North Atlantic Campus in Stephenville Crossing into a courthouse and government service centre. Budget 2022 included \$1 million to begin design work

	<p>with renovations to the building in 2022. Tech Construction Ltd. was awarded the contract to begin work to update the building with suitable fixtures reflective of the modern renovations. The enhancements to the building will provide increased safety and security, optimized service delivery, and create a functional and accessible work environment for public service workers, including judges, lawyers, plaintiffs, and sheriff's officers. The Department is committed to investments that improve access to justice for the province's residents.</p>
<p>Continued enhancements for the therapeutic courts.</p>	<p>DTC is a comprehensive and collaborative process that includes judicial supervision, weekly court appearances, intensive treatment, case management, and frequent drug testing and is located in St. John's. During 2022-23, the DTC had a successful graduation of four participants from the court, with 20 participants continuing to have an active involvement. The Department continued work in support of further enhancements to DTC, reflected by a five-year agreement with the Government of Canada to continue the St. John's DTC, and expand the supports and services of DTC to other regions of the province.</p> <p>IPVIC is a specialized criminal court using an intervention based approach to address complex issues of intimate partner violence. The IPVIC operates in St. John's, Stephenville, and Grand-Falls Windsor. The court is a collaborative effort of various stakeholders in government, focusing on victim safety and emphasizing offender accountability and treatment. Participants must acknowledge responsibility by pleading guilty before proceeding through the program. A participant's progress in the programming is considered a mitigating factor for sentencing. In January 2023, a screening court was introduced</p>

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	<p>in Gander with the purpose of screening interested and eligible potential participants to transfer into the Grand-Falls Windsor Court making this a Central Newfoundland Court. As of March 31, 2023, the IPVICs have a total of 28 individuals who have completed the programming with 33 active individuals currently completing various stages of the programming.</p>
<p>Established a traveling judicial position to enhance access to justice.</p>	<p>Budget 2022 allocated \$277,300 to establish one judicial position to travel and be deployed to other court centres and circuits as needed. The Provincial Court established this traveling judicial position and assigned a judge to serve in the role. The position has not yet commenced. Once the traveling judicial position is commenced, the Department anticipates enhanced access to justice for areas of the province the position serves.</p>

Opportunities and Challenges

The Department is continuing to expand on initiatives and programs to enhance the justice system in the Newfoundland and Labrador. This includes extending the new province-wide Public Safety Radio System on the Avalon Peninsula to include paramedics and ambulance dispatchers, and additionally continuing to work with Bell towards installing and supporting the system to all emergency responders and government agencies across the province to enhance communication during emergency events occurring across jurisdictions. The Department continues its partnership with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure towards enhancing correctional facilities in the province including the Labrador Correctional Centre and the replacement of HMP. These infrastructure investments will improve and modernize the justice system by expanding the availability of services and programming to inmates closer to home, assisting in rehabilitation and increasing access to services. The fourth anniversary of the release of **Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls** is on June 3, 2023. The Department maintains its commitment in collaborating and working with Indigenous governments and organizations, and Federal, Provincial, and Territorial partners, to identify potential lasting grassroots and holistic initiatives designed to address the Calls for Justice that is responsive to the needs and values of Indigenous groups and communities.

In September 2022, Hurricane Fiona impacted the southwest coast of the Island. This historical and unprecedented weather event presented a challenge for the Department, requiring an immediate government-wide emergency response and recovery effort to ensure public safety. This was an opportunity for various government departments to work together with municipalities and emergency management partners to effectively organize and co-ordinate the emergency response. The Provincial Emergency Operations Centre was an integral part of the emergency response effort ensuring everyone had up-to-date information on the emergency situation. The Provincial Government, municipal governments, and other community organizations have worked

together to implement the process of recovery for affected residents and communities. The Provincial Government provided financial support to residents impacted by Hurricane Fiona. In 2022-23, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador spent nearly \$37 million on the Hurricane Fiona Financial Assistance Program. Actions included immediate emergency funding for home owners, including health and safety reimbursements, financial compensation for total loss of homes, a value for land, compensation for repairs to damaged homes, temporary accommodations, and funding for municipal and local government in the emergency response. The Department expresses gratitude to the first responders who went above and beyond during this difficult time and greatly appreciates the ongoing efforts from those continuing the work towards recovery.

The Department is committed to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and ensuring public safety in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, presenting an opportunity to collaborate with community organizations and Indigenous stakeholders to provide short-term and long-term supports and assistance. The Department is working with partners and stakeholders, including Indigenous and community partners, to contribute to the initial stages of development for the Integrated Health, Housing, and Supported Services Facility. This facility will provide accommodations and support services to vulnerable populations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and will offer services through a harm reduction and trauma-informed approach that is culturally appropriate and inclusive. The Department continues to work with community organizations and Indigenous stakeholders to identify opportunities that meet the needs of all residents of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

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 2023 (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	264,989	287,000	252,000
1.2.01.	Executive Support	1,464,892	1,487,700	1,265,200
1.2.02	Administrative and Policy Support	5,540,901	5,662,000	5,285,100
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(1,671,884)	(1,333,100)	(1,333,100)
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	(267,855)	(210,100)	(210,100)
1.2.03	Legal Information Management	854,467	861,300	864,800
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	-	-	-
1.2.04	Administrative Support (Capital)	99,295	397,500	312,500
1.3.01	Fines Administration	736,745	755,800	825,800
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(57,195)	(74,900)	(74,900)
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	(624,550)	(648,300)	(920,600)

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2.1.01.	Civil Law	16,312,455	16,625,500	13,769,300
2.1.02.	Sheriff's Office	6,232,358	6,384,000	6,921,700
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(29,434)	(109,900)	(109,900)
2.1.03.	Support Enforcement	1,031,886	1,055,100	1,127,200
2.1.04.	Access to Information and Protection of Privacy	650,026	675,100	694,500
2.2.01.	Criminal Law	7,694,224	7,774,300	7,057,100
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(57,416)	(57,500)	(57,500)
2.3.01.	Legal Aid	17,036,900	17,036,900	17,036,900
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(2,715,856)	(2,370,800)	(2,370,800)
2.3.02.	Commissions of Inquiry		100	100
2.3.03.	Other Inquiries	2,420,135	3,600,000	4,000,000
2.3.04.	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	2,113,754	2,256,000	1,841,500
2.3.05.	Human Rights	1,146,808	1,155,400	767,100
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(17,460)	-	-
2.3.06.	Office of the Public Trustee	808,669	811,900	773,100
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	(1,252,874)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)
2.4.01.	Legislative Counsel	420,160	421,700	492,700
3.1.01.	Supreme Court	6,861,533	6,913,100	7,171,200
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(426,312)	(772,400)	(722,400)
3.2.01.	Provincial Court	12,360,869	12,426,800	10,946,600
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(294,237)	(715,200)	(715,200)
4.1.01.	Royal Newfoundland Constabulary	57,793,948	58,130,800	57,628,300

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	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(181,488)	(563,800)	(563,800)
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	(484,862)	(513,700)	(513,700)
4.1.02.	Royal Canadian Mounted Police	89,305,079	89,313,100	92,723,100
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	-	(239,600)	(239,600)
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	-	(77,800)	(77,800)
4.1.03.	RNC Public Complaints Commission	346,938	401,400	257,400
4.1.04	Serious Incident Response Team	352,808	419,900	504,600
4.2.01.	Adult Corrections	39,312,613	39,659,500	37,154,800
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(7,256,979)	(7,869,500)	(7,869,500)
	Less Related Revenue (Provincial)	(1,386,125)	(757,000)	(757,000)
4.2.02.	Youth Secure Custody	4,059,914	4,168,300	4,602,400
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	(2,015,615)	(2,544,400)	(2,544,400)
5.1.01.	Fire Services	1,334,150	1,471,400	1,425,100
5.1.02.	Emergency Services	20,815,215	21,709,700	21,742,000
5.1.03.	Disaster Assistance	33,878,650	38,805,900	12,105,900
	Less Related Revenue (Federal)	-	(20,900,000)	(20,900,000)
5.1.04.	Fire Protection Vehicles and Equipment	4,020,835	4,130,000	1,880,000
5.1.05.	NL 911	1,560,009	1,960,200	3,076,700
Total: Department		318,080,812	305,727,100	272,779,900

