



Provincial Court of British Columbia

Annual Report 2023/24



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This report features paintings and photographs by local artists, judicial officers and IJS staff members. The Court thanks them for permission to use their work.

Chief Judge's Message

The Provincial Court of British Columbia is committed to a process of continuous improvement as we strive to achieve our vision of providing an accessible, fair, efficient and innovative system of justice for the benefit of the public. In the 2023/24 fiscal year we continued to evaluate and fine-tune a number of initiatives implemented in the last few years.

The Early Resolution approach to Provincial Court *Family Law Act* cases continued to help families in Victoria and Surrey resolve parenting and support disputes sooner, with less stress for parents and children.

Many Provincial Court appearances other than trials are now virtual. In 2023/24, 66% of all criminal, family, and small claims court appearances involved at least one participant appearing remotely by video conference. Virtual conferences and bail hearings, digitized court files, email and e-filing, digital orders, and digitized telewarrant applications have increased convenience and decreased costs for many court users and enabled the Court to use its judicial resources efficiently.

Everyone involved in the Provincial Court's work has had to learn new skills and adjust to new technology. I am grateful for the way the Court's judicial officers and employees, Court Services Branch employees, lawyers, and litigants have adapted to the changes we have made to increase British Columbians' access to justice.



The Court is committed to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. This year we engaged actively with Indigenous groups around the province, we opened our ninth Indigenous sentencing court in Lillooet, and the Duncan First Nations Court moved to a Cowichan First Nation's building. We also published *Reconciliation in Action*, a report assessing the impact of the New Westminster First Nations Court on its clients' overall wellbeing.

Since I was appointed Chief Judge in 2018, the BC Provincial Court's work has undergone profound changes. Our criminal and family trials have become more complex, and they take longer to complete. Multiple-day trials of serious offences lasting many days or weeks now take place regularly in all regions of the province. While the number of trials of minor offences has declined, judges' workload has not. The changing nature of the Court's work means that a decrease in the number of cases it deals with does not create a corresponding decrease in the need for judicial resources. The increased complexity and length of trials offsets the reduction in volume. We are working to analyse data on the impact of these changes.

I feel privileged to work with a stellar administrative team including Associate Chief Judges Wishart and Dohm, Regional Administrative Judges Bowry, Koturbash, Milne, Rogers, and Struyk, Executive Director of Operations Ryan Mahar, the Court's legal counsel, and Integrated Judicial Services managers and staff. I thank each of them for their continuing support and commitment to public service.

Melissa Gillespie
Chief Judge

Judicial Independence

An independent judiciary protects the public, not just judges. As the Rule of Law and judicial independence are increasingly threatened in different ways around the world, it is more and more important to understand this cornerstone of democracy.

British Columbia's system of government has three branches: judicial, executive, and legislative. The function of the judicial branch (the courts) is to interpret the law, resolve disputes, and defend the Constitution, including the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. To fulfil this role judges must be distinct from, and operate independently of, all other justice system participants, including the other two branches of government.

Judicial independence has many definitions, but basically it means that a court's judicial officers are free to decide each case on its own merits, without interference or influence of any kind from any source, including politicians. While judges' decisions rarely result in everyone being happy, our justice system is founded on public confidence that decisions, whether popular or not, are fully heard and fairly made. It is crucial that judges are both actually independent and appear to be independent so the public can be confident that judicial decisions are made without bias.

Every Canadian has the constitutional right to have their legal issues decided by fair and impartial judges. To guarantee the right to an independent and impartial judiciary, the law in Canada has three constitutional protections or "essential conditions" that ensure judicial independence:

- Security of tenure, preventing the arbitrary removal of judges;
- Financial security, providing an arm's length mechanism, through an independent remuneration commission, for determining the salaries and benefits of judges; and
- Administrative independence, enabling a court to manage itself, rather than be managed by others.

While these protections apply to judges, they are for the benefit of the public. They allow courts to apply the rule of law that Canadians, through the electoral and legislative processes, have decided should govern them.

The Court's website provides more information on [judicial independence](#).

Vernon Law Courts

Original painting by Judge Gregory Koturbash



The Provincial Court of British Columbia

The Provincial Court is a statutory court created by the *Provincial Court Act*. The BC government appoints judges and judicial justices who exercise powers given to them by laws enacted by the federal and provincial governments.

The Court's mission, vision, core values, and goals express its commitment to providing a forum for justice that:

- is independent, impartial, and consistent
- ensures equal access for all
- maintains respect for the rule of law
- enhances confidence in the administration of justice
- reflects core values of independence, fairness, integrity, and excellence



The Court's Work

The Provincial Court is one of two trial courts in British Columbia. (The Supreme Court of British Columbia is the other.) Provincial Court trials are usually conducted in person while the majority of bail hearings and conferences are now conducted virtually, with participants using the Microsoft Teams video conferencing platform.

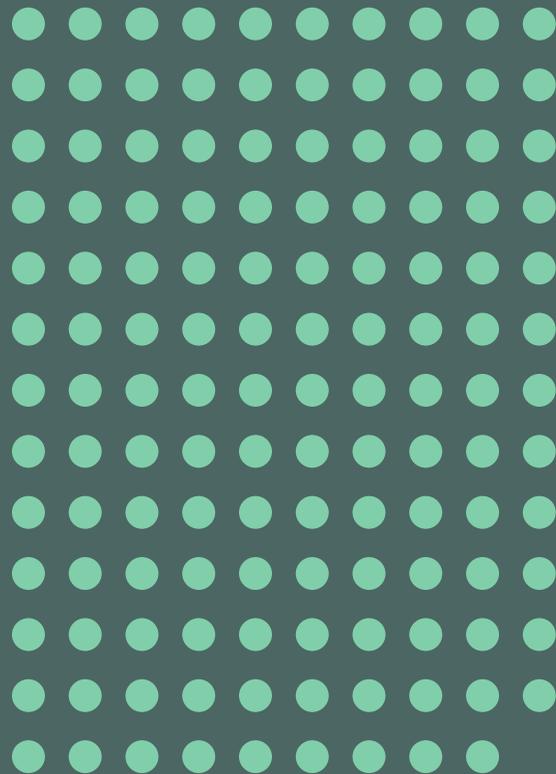
The BC Provincial Court deals with cases in five main categories:

- **Family Matters** - Provincial Court judges conduct trials and mediation conferences in disputes about guardianship of children, parenting arrangements, and child and spousal support under the *Family Law Act* and other BC statutes as well as in child protection matters under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.
- **Youth Court Matters** - Provincial Court judges deal with young persons aged 12 through 17 who are charged with criminal offences under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
- **Small Claims Matters** - With some exceptions, the BC Provincial Court deals with civil cases involving from \$5001 to \$35,000.
- **Traffic, Ticket, and Bylaw Matters** - The Court's judicial justices hear trials of traffic and bylaw offences, as well as other provincial and municipal offences prosecuted under the *Offence Act* and the *Local Government Act*. They also deal with certain federal contravention tickets.
- **Criminal Matters** - Over 95% of criminal cases in BC are heard in Provincial Court. Under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, Provincial Court judges conduct bail hearings, preliminary inquiries, pre-trial conferences, trials, and sentencing hearings in criminal matters except for adults charged with murder and a few rare offences such as treason and piracy.

2023/24 By the Numbers

Judicial Officers as of March 31, 2024:

129 full-time judges



21 senior judges

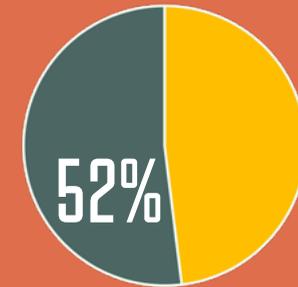
32 full & part-time judicial justices

48 full & part-time judicial case managers

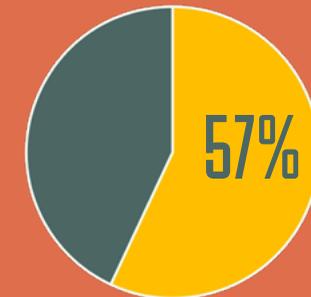
3 part-time justice of the peace adjudicators

59 full-time judges' average age

66 judicial justices' average age



of full-time judges were women



of senior judges were men



of judicial justices were women

14 judges retired or became senior judges

12 judges were appointed

4 judicial justices retired

4 judicial justices were appointed

Caseload

145,784 total new cases in 2023/24

83,091 new criminal, family, and civil cases

62,693 new traffic, ticket, and bylaw offences

The Justice Centre considered:

31,140

applications for warrants and production orders

+ **48%**

and conducted:

24,079

bail hearings

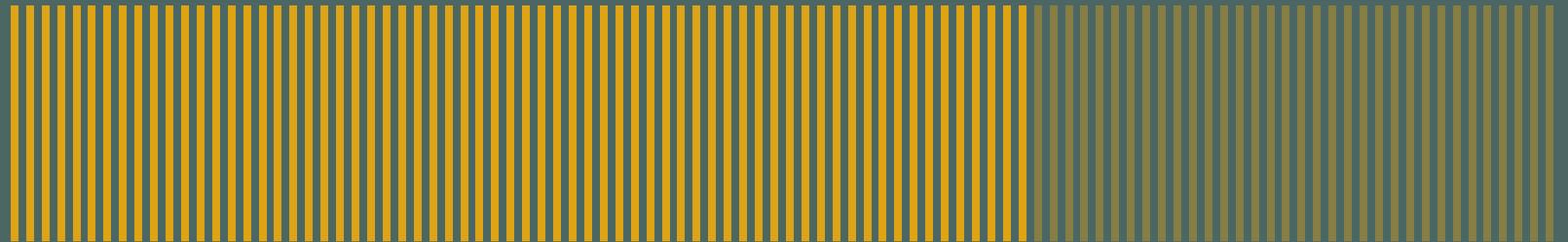
+ **22%**

New Caseload Breakdown



Remote Appearances

66% of all court appearances, excluding traffic and bylaw matters, were made remotely



Self-Represented Appearances

60,596
total self-represented
appearances in criminal,
family, and small claims cases

Rate of Self-Represented Appearances



Progress in Access to Justice

The Court is engaged in a continuing process of improvement to increase access to justice and strengthen efficiency while maintaining fairness. In recent years, use of technology and user-centred changes have had promising results.



Early Resolution of *Family Law Act* Cases

The Early Resolution approach to resolving family disputes in the BC Provincial Court continues to yield benefits for families and children. Early in the process, Justice Access Centres provide separating couples with information, needs assessment, at least one consensual dispute resolution session unless family violence is involved, and referrals to meet both legal and non-legal needs..

After participating in these services, about 60% of families do not proceed to court with unresolved issues. The families who do proceed to court have often narrowed their issues, so their cases can be managed more expeditiously. As Early Resolution reduces the number and duration of cases needing hearings, the Court can shorten wait times for those that do, reducing stress for those families too.

By helping families resolve issues sooner, the Early Resolution approach makes families healthier, reduces future conflict, reduces the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) related to parental separation, and decreases costs for our justice and health systems.

Currently, the Victoria and Surrey courthouses have full Early Resolution services and there are regional variations in other BC courthouses. The entire Lower Mainland will have full Early Resolution by the end of 2025.

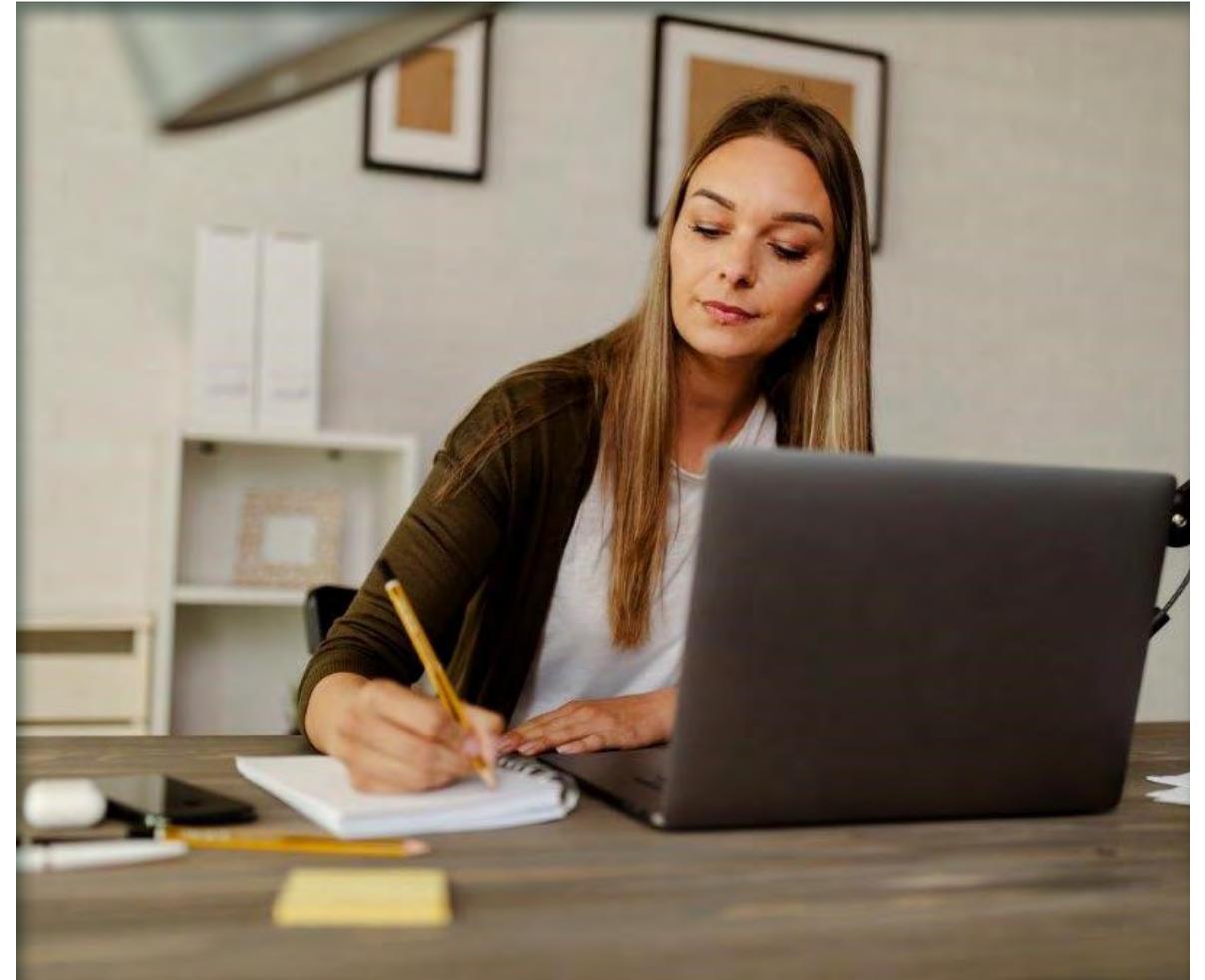
Virtual Conferences and Bail Hearings

The Court has conducted virtual conferences in family, small claims, and criminal cases since 2020. These conferences help to settle issues and ensure parties are prepared for trial when a trial is needed. Because everyone attends remotely by video conference or telephone, the judge can be anywhere in BC, allowing the Court to use its judicial resources effectively. Many litigants and lawyers, particularly those in the North, appreciate being spared the time and expense of travelling to court, but people who face barriers in attending remotely may ask to attend in person.

Beginning in the Northern region in 2019, virtual bail hearings have been implemented around the province with scheduling systems reflecting regional requirements. While assessment continues, having the judge, lawyers, and accused person appear virtually at bail hearings appears to be:

- reducing accused people's displacement from their own communities;
- reducing overnight remands in police cells;
- reducing travel for sheriffs, prisoners, and lawyers;
- reducing interruptions and resulting delay in previously scheduled trials; and
- increasing access to duty counsel, Crown, and other resources.

The Court's judicial justices also conduct virtual bail hearings for people in police custody during evenings and weekends.



Digital Advances

Over the last decade, the BC government's Court Services Branch has digitized Provincial Court family and criminal files. This means people can now use efilings or email to submit documents. Judges can see court file documents on their computers during a hearing or conference and when preparing beforehand.

In collaboration with government and the BC Law Society, the Court worked to provide lawyers with digital access to family and some criminal court documents in 2023. Accredited media can also access some documents digitally and listen to audio recordings of court proceedings remotely. This digital access increases convenience and speed of delivery for lawyers and media while reducing workload for court registry staff.



Digital desk orders also save time and expense. When notice to the other party is not required, applications are processed electronically. A judge can sign an order digitally and the court registry emails back a signed order. People can now get signed orders in just a few days.

Judicial justices deal with some traffic court applications digitally and the Court continues to work with the BC government on developing online tools for certain steps in disputing a ticket.

Non-Lawyers Appearing in Court

The Law Society of BC is working with other groups to see whether access to justice can be improved by having non-lawyers provide competent and affordable legal services to people who aren't otherwise getting legal help.

In keeping with its commitment to improve access to justice and ensure there is clear information about when and in what circumstances non-lawyers can appear in court to assist people, the Court issued a practice direction in 2023. It sets out when designated paralegals, certain non-lawyer agents, and proponents of the Law Society's Innovation Sandbox may generally appear in court to represent a client.

GEN 05 Non-Lawyers Appearing for Clients in Court



Salmon Arm Law Courts

Original painting by Judge Gregory Koturbash

Communications

Communicating with the public is an important part of the Court’s commitment to transparency. The Provincial Court continues to publish eNews articles on its website twice a month to inform the public about the Court and its judicial officers in an interesting, readable way. [Subscribe to eNews](#).

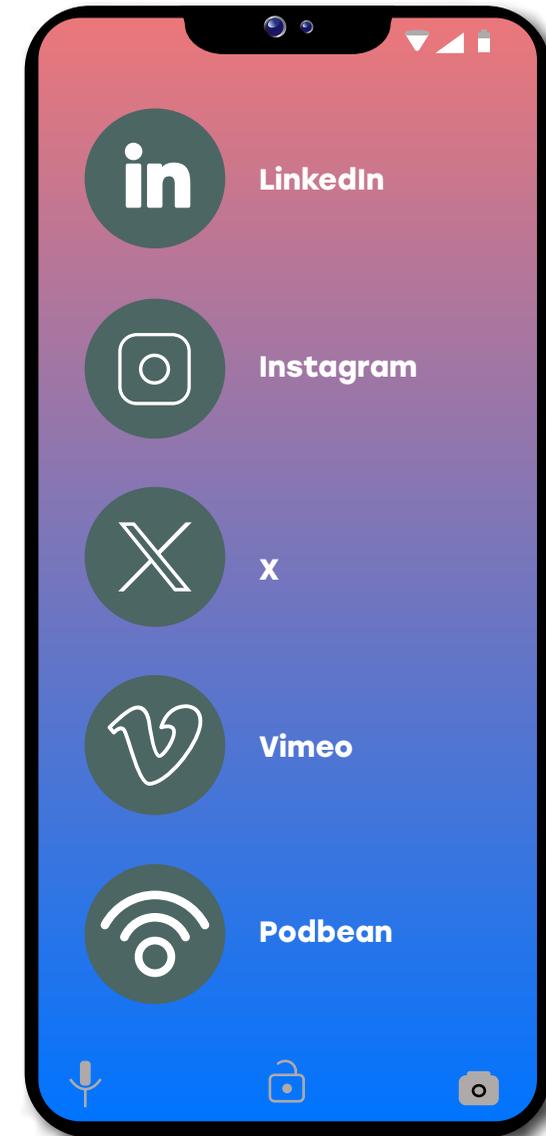
In February 2024, the Court added LinkedIn and Instagram to its other social media accounts. These accounts post Court updates, judges’ and justice system news, high profile judgments, and helpful information for court users. The Court interacts with followers on these accounts as time permits.

In 2023 the Court’s popular website provinciacourt.bc.ca had:

- **1,231,309** website page views
- **418,493** website users
- **205,624** downloads
- **171,928** eNews page views

However, the website’s operating system is nearing the end of its life. Work continues on building a new site that is mobile friendly, meets accessibility standards, makes information easy to find, and uses plain language. Launch of the new site is planned for 2024.

In another step towards plainer language, the Court has announced that when the new website goes live, the name of its “Notices to the Profession and the Public” will be shortened to “Notices”.



Reconciliation

The BC Provincial Court has demonstrated its commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in ways that include working with Indigenous communities to develop Indigenous courts; educating judges on the history, cultures, and unique systemic factors experienced by Indigenous peoples; and engaging with Indigenous groups.

In some situations, judges of the Court connect with community members to better understand how we can meet Indigenous communities' needs. The Court's continuing outreach to Indigenous communities is supporting reconciliation and we are working together to find better ways to reduce over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system.



Opening of Lillooet Indigenous Court
September 15, 2023

Indigenous Courts

Indigenous sentencing courts incorporate aspects of First Nations justice and culture and Indigenous healing practices. In September 2023, the Court opened its ninth Indigenous sentencing court in Lillooet. This was the culmination of several years' work by and with Indigenous and local communities.

In another measure intended to contribute to reconciliation, the Duncan First Nations Court moved to a Cowichan First Nation's building in 2023.

Indigenous sentencing and specialized criminal courts



Celebrating the opening of
the Lillooet Indigenous Court
March 13, 2024



Judge Cutler, elected Cowichan Tribe Council members, and Tzinquaw dancers at Band Council swearing-in, March 13, 2024



Judge Cutler and Chief Daniels at the Cowichan Band Council swearing-in ceremony, March 13, 2024

Circuit and Remote Courts

BC Provincial Court judges regularly hold court in smaller BC communities that don't require a full-time court. They travel together with sheriffs, court staff, probation officers and lawyers, by charter plane, float plane, boat, or four-wheel drive vehicle, to hold court in community halls, recreation centres, band offices, or other community facilities that can act as a courtroom.

These trips are called “circuit courts” because the judge sometimes makes a circuit, holding court in several communities during a week. Many circuit courts are held in remote Indigenous communities where judges engage with community members and justice workers to develop a deeper understanding of their history, customs, laws, and challenges. With this knowledge, judges are able to incorporate restorative justice, reconciliation, and healing in sentencing decisions. In some cases, sentencing circles are held.

Child Protection

The Aboriginal Family Healing Case Conference Court conducts supportive child protection conferences in a culturally safe environment for Indigenous families in some parts of the Lower Mainland.



Sign on Cowichan Tribes' building where Duncan First Nations Court is held

In 2023, the Cowichan Tribes voted to assume authority of child and family services for its residents. The Cowichan Tribes worked with government agencies to develop rules that would apply to child protection cases heard under Cowichan laws. The Court has been consulted about these rules which are anticipated to take effect in 2024.

Aboriginal Family Healing Case Conferences

Indigenous Judges

As of March 31, 2024, the Court had six judges who self-identify as Indigenous¹. Their presence reflects BC's diverse population and strengthens the Court.

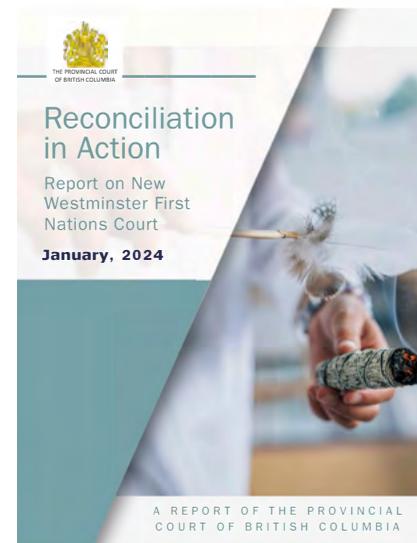


Cknu'cwentn First Nations Sentencing Court blankets

1. As of September, 2024, that number has been reduced to five as Judge (now Justice) Tina Dion has been appointed to the BC Supreme Court.

Reconciliation in Action

In January 2024, the Court published *Reconciliation in Action*, a report assessing the impact of the New Westminster First Nations Court on its clients' overall wellbeing.



By examining the stories of 20 clients, the report concluded that the First Nations Court improved clients' overall wellness and addressed factors that led to offending. Specific results included attending counselling, re-establishing contact with children and home communities, improving housing, and avoiding re-offending.

Education

This year's education programs for all judicial officers and employees included Indigenous perspectives and topics. The Court's Indigenous judges played an important role in these education programs.



Chief Judge Gillespie and Elder Art Wilson at the Hazelton Indigenous Court graduation on October 3, 2023

Engagement

Throughout the year, the Chief Judge and other judges participated in a variety of Indigenous ceremonies including:

- the tenth-anniversary of the Cknu'cwentn First Nations Sentencing Court in Kamloops on May 6, 2023
- the Williams Lake Indigenous Court's celebration of 2.5 years in operation on June 2, 2023
- the tenth anniversary of the Duncan First Nations Court and its move to a Cowichan First Nation's building on July 21, 2023
- a Hazelton Indigenous Court graduation on October 3, 2023
- the opening ceremony of the Lillooet Indigenous Court on March 13, 2024



Tzinquaw dancers and drummers at Duncan First Nations Court ceremony July 21, 2023

Truth and Reconciliation Day

For the last two years all Provincial Court locations in British Columbia have been closed on September 30th, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. In addition to honouring survivors of residential schools, the children who never returned home, and their families and communities, the day provides an opportunity to recognize the year-round commitment individuals and the Court must make to advance reconciliation and consider their responsibilities under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s calls to action.



Duncan First Nations Court graduation blankets – the Thunderbird represents power, protection, and strength



Williams Lake Indigenous Court display, June 2, 2023

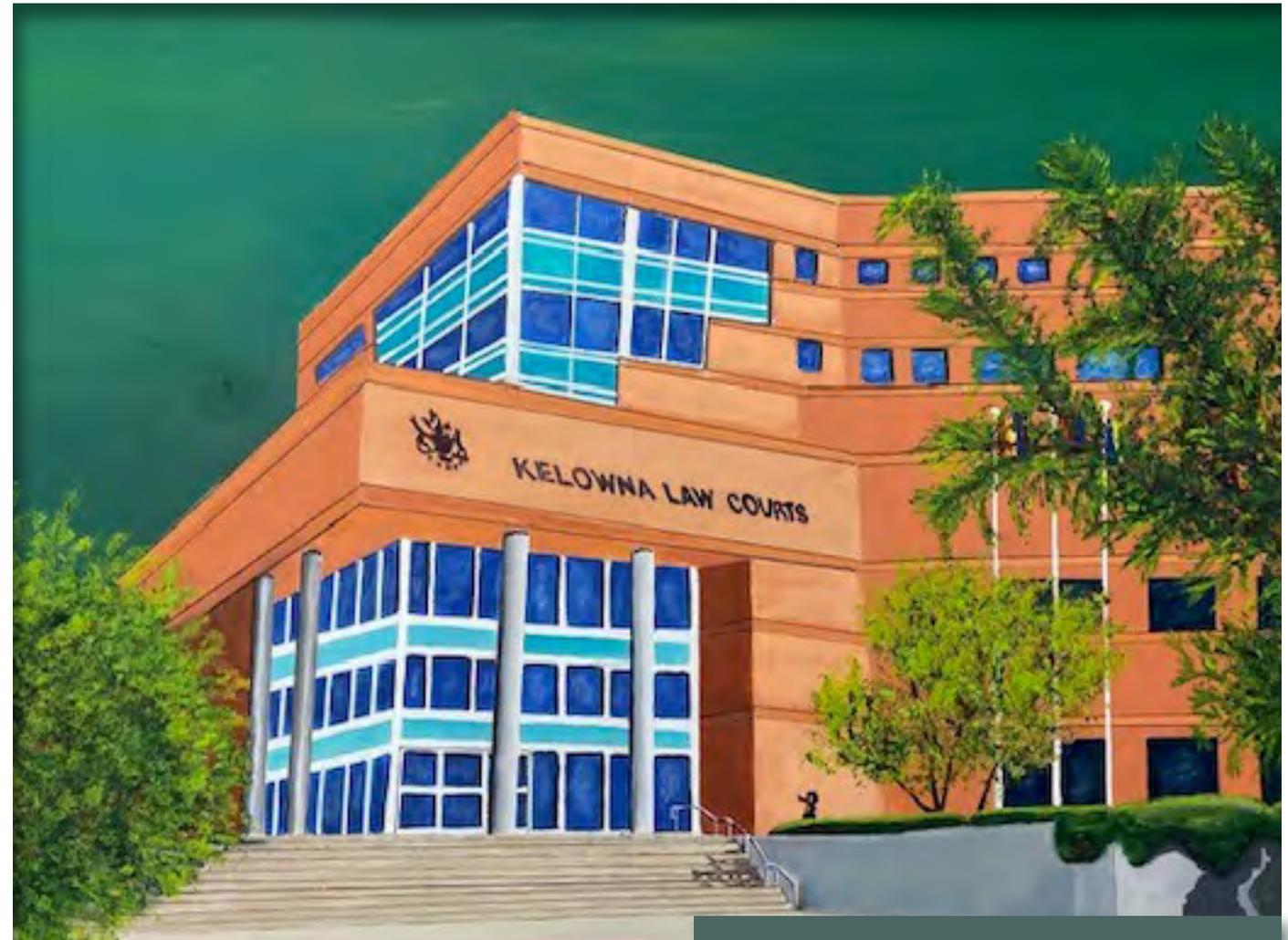
Specialized Courts

In addition to its Indigenous courts, the BC Provincial Court has established other innovative courts to better meet communities' needs.

These include four types of specialized courts:

- a Drug Treatment Court in Vancouver
- a Community Court in downtown Vancouver
- integrated sentencing courts in Victoria and Kelowna
- local courts dealing with intimate partner violence.

The Court's website offers more details on [Indigenous sentencing and specialized criminal courts](#).



Kelowna Law Courts

Original painting by Judge Gregory Koturbash

Regional Roundup

Vancouver Island Region

In July 2023, judges in the region joined Elders, community members, the Chief Judge, and government representatives to celebrate the Duncan First Nations Court's 10th anniversary and its move to Si'em Lelum, the Cowichan Tribes' building.

In November, the Regional Administrative Judge and judicial case managers welcomed members of the Ontario Court of Justice who visited Victoria to learn about the virtual bail system being used on Vancouver Island.

Judges frequently speak to students, but the courthouse in Port Hardy saw something different on March 14, 2024, when a judge, sheriffs, and Court Services Branch staff volunteered their time to host students from Quatsin/ k'ak'ot'lats'l School and help them with a mock trial.



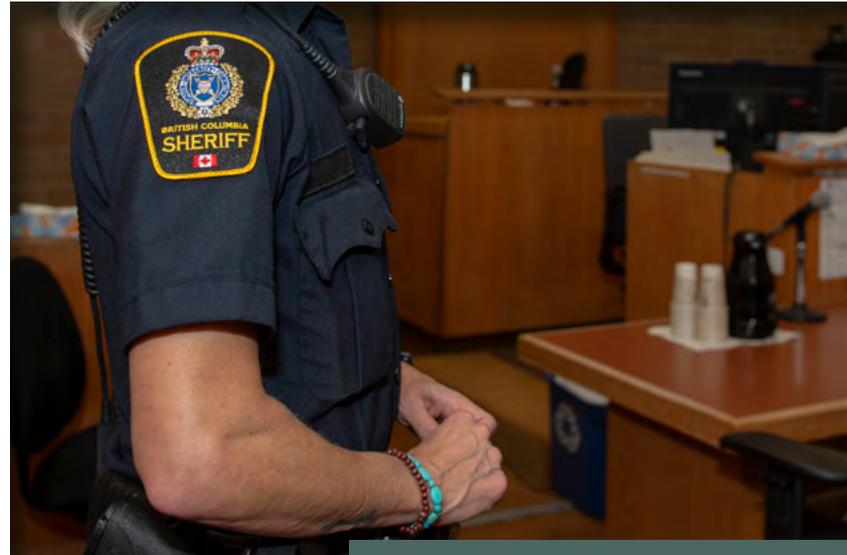
Duncan First Nations Court Elders and Native Courtworker July 21, 2023

Judges in this region are actively involved in supporting University of Victoria Law students by volunteering as guest lecturers and coaching and judging moot courts, both course-related and competitive. Many judges spent several evenings and weekends during the year judging students' advocacy and providing feedback.

Vancouver Region

Due to the shortage of sheriffs in BC courts, judges in the Vancouver region had to triage cases on a daily basis to decide which cases could be heard in the courtrooms that could be staffed by a sheriff. Despite their efforts to minimize the resulting cost and inconvenience to parties, many people were frustrated when their cases could not proceed as scheduled.

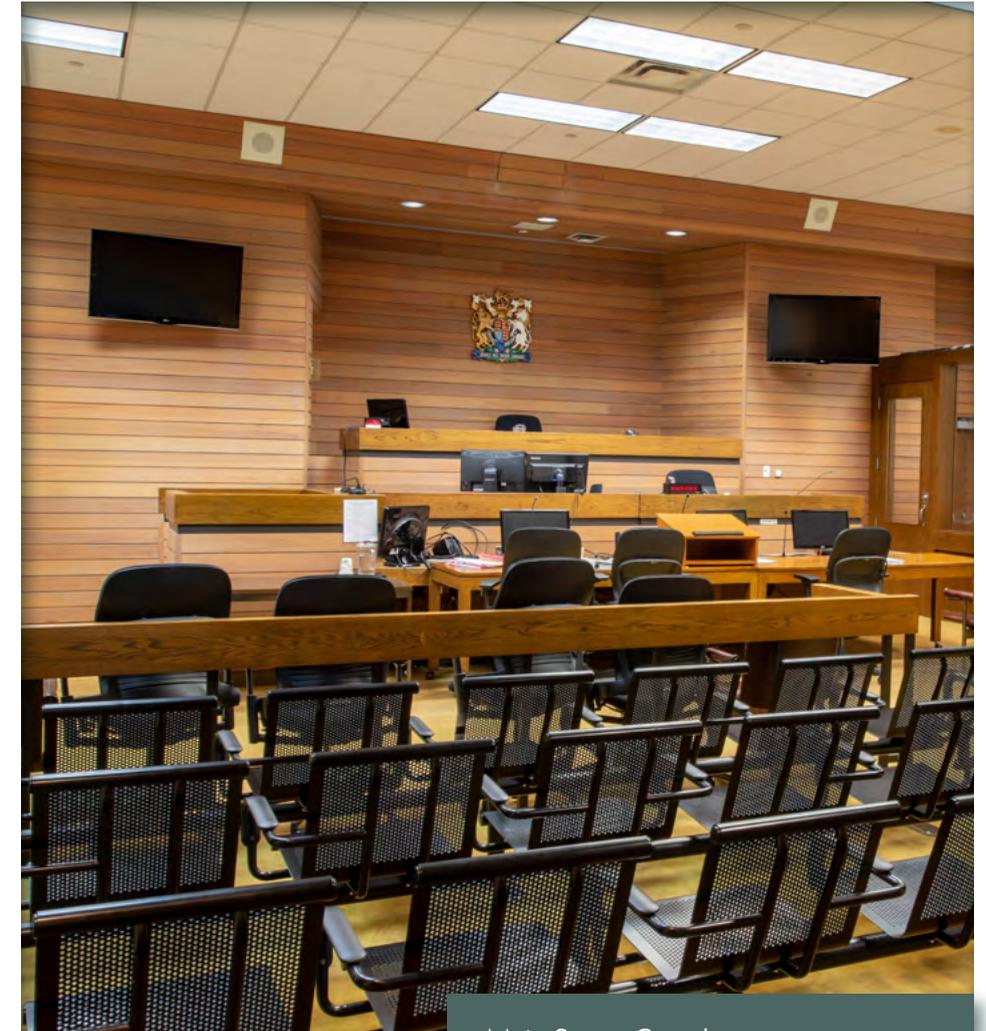
At the Main Street courthouse, judges participated in a “Safe Walk and Safe Ride Program” to ensure judges and staff were safe coming to work in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside.



Deputy Sheriff

Cliff MacArthur provincialcourt.bc.ca

Judges in the region are active volunteers within their community, as mentors to recently appointed judges, and with the Peter A. Allard Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia. One judge in the region is a sessional lecturer at the law school. Another serves as adjunct professor for Allard’s criminal law clinic at the Main Street courthouse. A third chairs the Court’s legal interns committee placing Allard Law third year students in judges’ chambers to observe court and assist in legal research.



Main Street Courthouse

Cliff MacArthur provincialcourt.bc.ca

Interior Region

Kamloops and Okanagan judges play a dynamic role at Thompson Rivers University Law School, including teaching courses, guest lecturing, coaching and judging in moot and bail competitions, mentoring students, and providing the keynote speech for the 2023 incoming first year class.

Milestones in this region in 2023/24 included:

- opening the Court's ninth Indigenous court in Lillooet
- participating in law days at the Penticton and Rossland Law Courts (more than 200 people attended in Rossland)
- welcoming the first female resident judge in the West Kootenays to Cranbrook
- holding the judges' and judicial case managers' regional meeting at the Okanagan Correctional Centre



Judge Frame judges a Mock Bail Hearing Competition for Thompson Rivers University law students, February 12, 2024

Northern Region

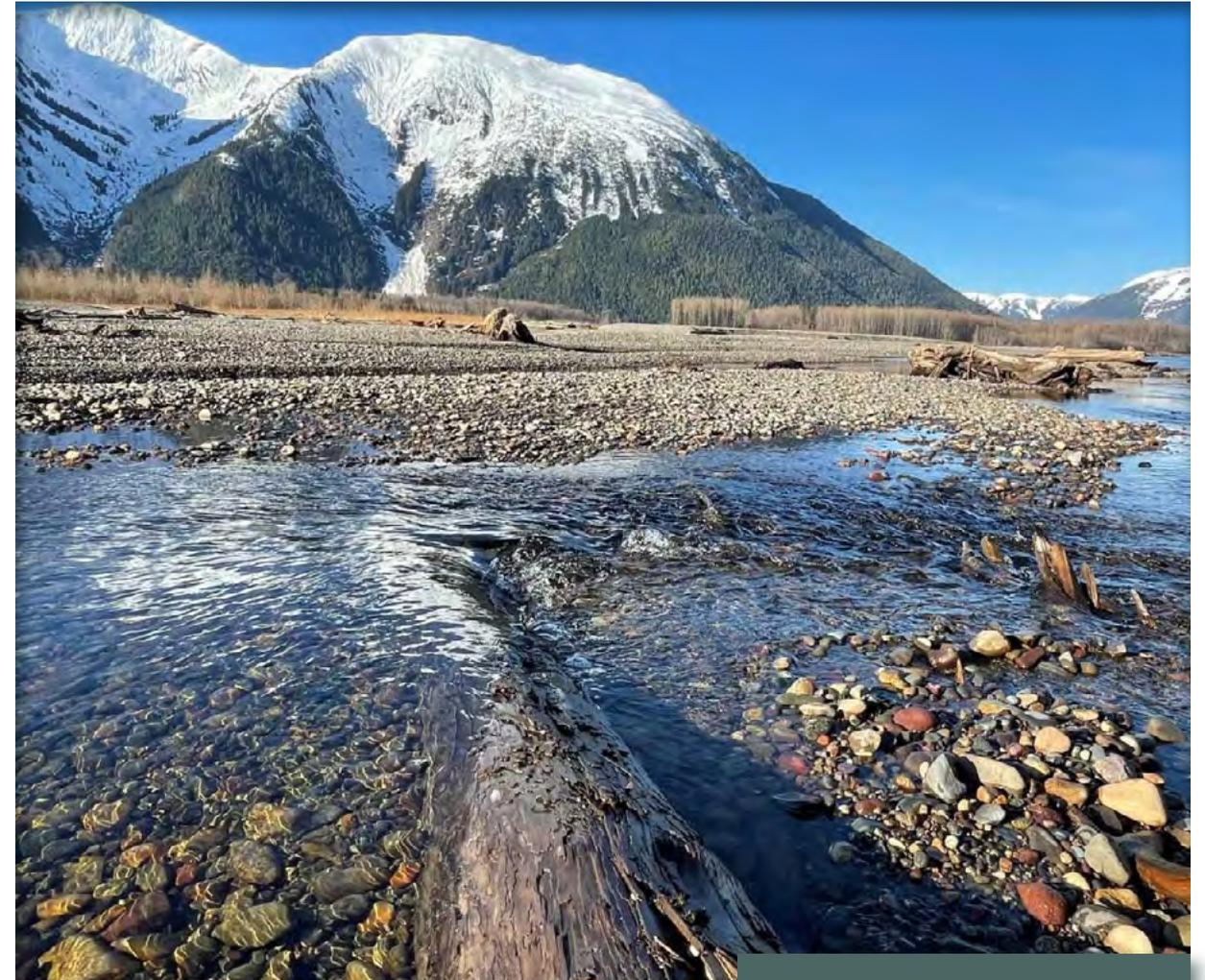
More than 90% of bail hearings held in BC's Northern region are conducted remotely by video conference. Virtual bail hearings have significant benefits in this vast area, including reducing transportation of accused people and ensuring that if they are released, they are closer to supports in their communities. Removing bail hearings from trial courtrooms also allows scheduled trials to proceed uninterrupted, so fewer trials are adjourned. The Court has worked with government, RCMP, Legal Aid, Crown, and defence lawyers to ensure installation of required video conference equipment in smaller RCMP detachments across the region.

Other technological changes continue to have an impact on Northern courts. Police officers, experts, and other witnesses may be able to testify by video conference, avoiding the significant expense of travel into the Northern region.

Judges and lawyers in Terrace volunteer for two evenings each year to participate in a mock trial with criminal law students from Coast Mountain College. Members of the community act as witnesses, so they learn about court processes along with the students.

Chief Judge Gillespie joined judges, Elders, and community members at a graduation ceremony in the Hazelton Indigenous Court in October 2023.

Judges in Prince George were pleased to see changes within the courthouse this year. A new family duty counsel office opened in the building. Improvements to courtroom equipment has improved the sound and quality of remote appearances.



Skeena River

Photo: Judge Dwight Stewart

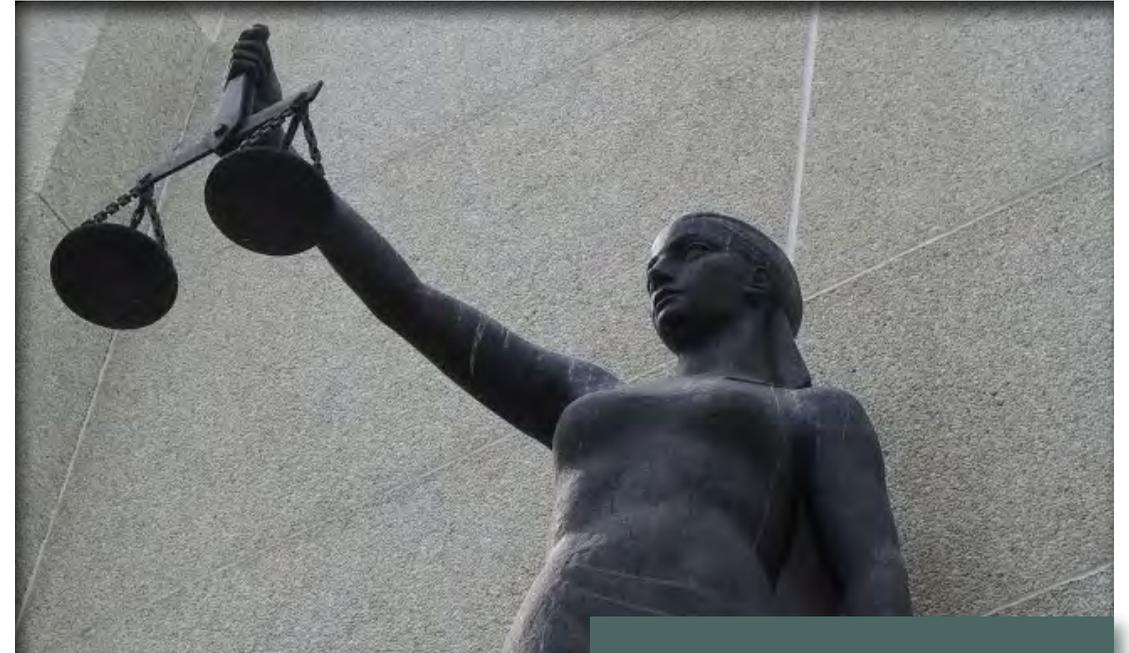
Fraser Region

After a year of testing and evaluation, the Fraser region's Virtual Bail pilot project became an ongoing program in July 2023. Bail hearings for five courts in the region are conducted remotely by video conference from three "hub" courts: Abbotsford, Surrey, and Port Coquitlam. Virtual bail hearings have reduced movement of accused persons and provided earlier bail hearings.

In December 2020, the Surrey courthouse followed Victoria in implementing the Early Resolution approach to family disputes. As a result of this program's success, it will be expanded to Port Coquitlam in 2024 and to the Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and New Westminster courthouses in 2025.



Judges and lawyers in the Surrey Inns of Court program, 2022/23



New Westminster Law Courts
Photo: John Deacon, KC

Like their colleagues province-wide, judges in the Fraser region volunteer for a variety of speaking engagements. In conjunction with the Surrey Bar Association, they have developed and implemented a successful Inns of Court mentoring program for lawyers with up to five years of experience. They also conduct swearing-in ceremonies for justices of the peace, police officers, and others.

Governance

The Chief Judge is responsible for the administration of the Court. She is supported by Integrated Judicial Services, the collective name for the Court's employees province-wide. They include judicial case managers and judicial administrative assistants who work in courthouses and employees at the Office of the Chief Judge (OCJ).

Located in the Robson Square courthouse in downtown Vancouver, the OCJ is the administrative headquarters of the Court. Its primary function is to provide administrative support to the Chief Judge and judicial officers in the exercise of their duties. Under the Chief Judge's direction, the OCJ is also responsible for the Court's communications with individuals and organizations, including media and government agencies, wishing to engage with the Court.

The Court's Associate Chief Judges, Regional Administrative Judges, Administrative Judicial Justices, and Executive Director of Operations assist with the Court's administrative work as members of one or more of four administrative committees: the Governance, Judicial Administration, Judicial Justice Administration, and Executive Operations Committees.



Judicial Administration Committee 2023/24

Front row: Regional Administrative Judge Gregory Koturbash, Regional Administrative Judge John Milne, Chief Judge Melissa Gillespie, Regional Administrative Judge Rita Bowry, Associate Chief Judge Sue Wishart, Regional Administrative Judge Calvin Struyk; *Back row:* Senior Legal Counsel Caroline Berkey, Legal Counsel Karen Leung, Executive Director Ryan Mahar, Associate Chief Judge Paul Dohm, Regional Administrative Judge Carmen Rogers, Judicial Coordinator Rebecca Jensen (secretariat)

Law Committees

The Court has three committees, each composed of about eight judges from around the province. They volunteer their time to advise the Chief Judge on issues related to areas of law affecting the Court's work. These committees also contribute to judicial education, respond to queries from judges, and create resources to help judges, lawyers, and court users.

In 2023/24, the Family Law Committee provided advice on the *Provincial Court Family Rules and Forms*. It continued to update the Standard Wording Picklists for orders made under the *Family Law Act*, *Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act*, and *Family Maintenance Enforcement Act*. It also engaged with lawyers to create a new wording picklist for *Child, Family and Community Service Act* orders. The new and updated picklists will be posted on the Court's website in the fall of 2024.

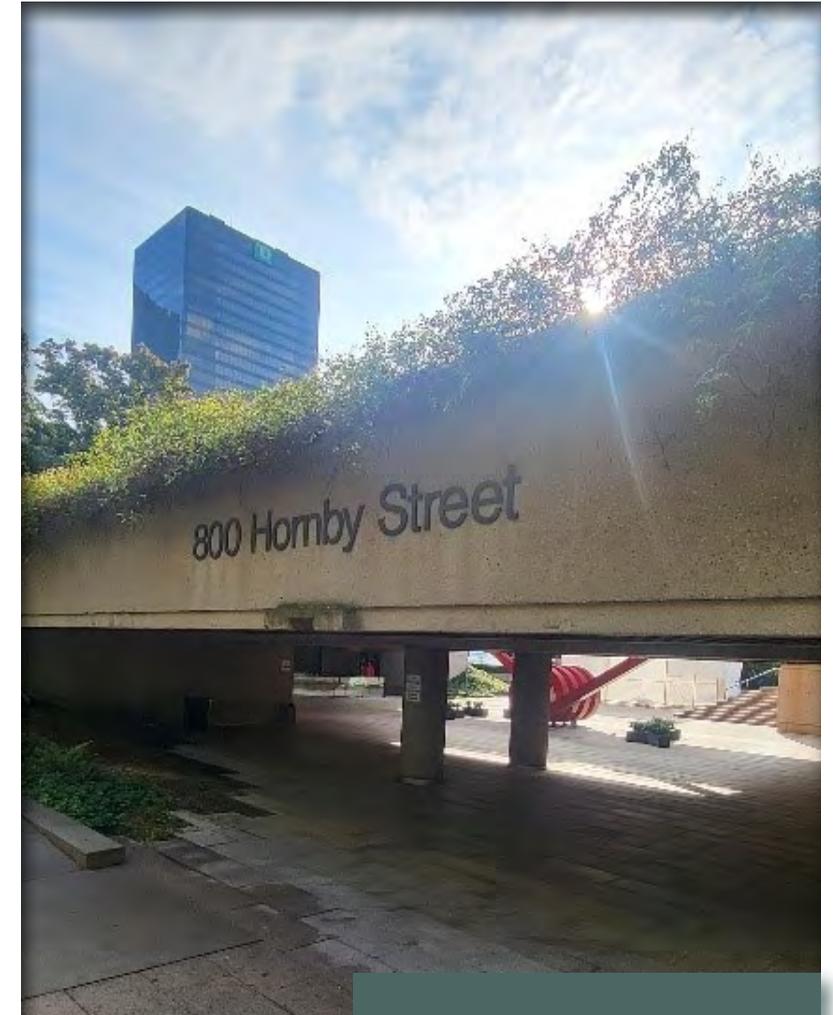
In November 2023, four Committee members presented a three-day Family Law boot camp to 19 judges. Committee members also spent many hours of personal time speaking to lawyers and the public on family law topics.

In addition, the Committee started publishing a quarterly newsletter in an engaging format to provide Provincial Court judges with tips and updates on case law and procedures. Portions of newsletters have been published as eNews articles on the Court's public website to share the information with lawyers and litigants.

The Civil Law Committee continued to provide updates to the Court on areas of substantive and procedural law and respond to judges' questions. It began preparing to present one of the Court's education conferences focussed entirely on small claims court issues in 2025.

Criminal Law Committee members provided updates on the law and responded to enquiries from judges about criminal law issues. They presented a four-day Criminal Law boot camp to 20 judges in May 2023. The Committee also continued to work closely with lawyers and community corrections staff to draft and implement new bail and sentencing picklists for *Youth Criminal Justice Act* cases.

The Court's website offers more information on its governance and committees. See [Governance](#).



Robson Square Law Courts
Photo: Erin Ellis

Education

The BC Judicial Council is responsible for overseeing the Court's judicial officers' education. Judges and judicial justices receive orientation training and mentoring following their appointment. They attend at least two education conferences each year as well as self-directed online courses.

Committees of judges and judicial justices volunteer their personal time to organize and present education programs to their colleagues. The Office of the Chief Judge provides training on digital tools and the technology used for virtual proceedings, as well as focussed small-group courses.



Judges' Fall Education Conference 2023

Judges' Education

Organized by the Judges' Education Committee, the judges' spring 2023 education conference focussed on social context issues. It highlighted issues that may bring people to court and the specialized responses available. One speaker provided insight into the challenges faced by families with a member struggling with addiction. Other presentations involved the dual challenges of adolescent mental health and addiction, personality disorders, innovative courts, treatment options for Indigenous persons, and circuit courts.

In the fall of 2023, Provincial Court judges participated in a joint conference with judges from the BC Supreme Court and BC Court of Appeal. This provided an opportunity for judges of all three levels to share perspectives on common issues like access to justice, reconciliation, challenges in a socially media driven world, and appellate review.

This year the Court presented two judgment writing courses, family and criminal law boot camps, and a program on sexual assault trials to newly appointed judges. Judges and judicial case managers also attended education sessions during regional meetings.

In addition to education presented by the Court, judges attended education programs and used the educational resources offered by the National Judicial Institute and other organizations.

Judicial Justices' Education

Collaborating with other judicial justices, Administrative Judicial Justice Lori Plater organized two education conferences in 2023. Topics at the spring conference included: bail supervision, technology aspects of working remotely, developments in online traffic court, and Indigenous relations and reconciliation. Fall conference topics included: forensic issues related to mental illness and addiction, Integrated Threat Assessment, managing stress in professional lives, reconciliation through transformation, assessment of witnesses, the *Motor Vehicle Act*, and emerging technologies.

Judicial justices conduct independent legal research on new law and current issues and share their findings with colleagues. They continue to adjust to new technology, uneven provision of courtroom equipment, and operational changes. In 2023/24 they undertook intensive training on technology including management of virtual bail hearings, the digital workspace, and new electronic transmission procedures for telewarrants.

Employee Education

The Court's employees include judicial administrative assistants (JAAs), judicial case managers (JCMs), and staff at the Office of the Chief Judge, collectively known as Integrated Judicial Services (IJS). Strong peer support, including mentorship and open communication, helps the Court's employees maximize their effectiveness and efficiencies.

Their training in 2023/24 included:

- a two-day annual education conference for judicial case managers
- a two-day biennial education conference for judicial administrative assistants
- Indigenous cultural training;
- regional conference calls and regular virtual training and refresher sessions for judicial administrative assistants on technology and procedure;
- review of the Standards of Conduct and Oath of Employment;

- information management: access, security, privacy, and records management;
- fraud awareness and prevention; and
- additional Integrated Judicial Services and Public Service Agency training to enhance and update skills.

IJS employees also undertook stretch assignments to support learning, growth, and succession management.

Legal counsel and professionals with designations in Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology attended courses necessary to meet annual professional development requirements.

In addition, the Court continues to support IJS employees with access to higher education by sponsoring employees approved to the Pacific Leaders Scholarship program for the BC Public Service.

For more information, see [Judicial education](#) on the Court's website.

Community Engagement

In addition to volunteering in their communities, BC Provincial Court judges devote countless hours of their own time to speaking and teaching about the law and the Court, serving on committees and boards, mentoring, and administering oaths of office.

Examples in 2023/24 include:

Teach

Allard Law

courses | Teach TRU law courses | Mock trials | Moot courts | Mock bail hearings | Family court users' meetings | Youth court users' meetings | Police swearing-in ceremonies | JP swearing-in ceremonies | Law Days | Surrey Inns of Court | Kamloops Inns of Court | Nanaimo Inns of Court | Vancouver Inns of Court | Women in Law Forums | Japanese judicial students | Allard Law classes | TRU Law classes | UVic Law classes | Elementary school classes | High school classes | Keynote addresses | Judicial interns | Judges' conferences | Judicial justices' conferences | Retirement ceremonies | CLE programs | CBA programs | Local bar association programs | Advocates Society programs | South Asian Bar Association programs | CAPCJ programs | National Judicial Institute programs | Justice Education Society school visits | British Columbia Conservation Service course | Major Crime Investigators course | Use of Force Experts course | Elizabeth Fry forum | West Coast Brain Injury conference | Korean judges delegation | Vancouver Island Research Ethics Board | BC Restorative Justice Association Board | Amici Curiae Friendship Society Board | Access Pro Bono Board | Justice Education Society Board | Mediate BC Board | BC Law Foundation Board | CLE's Annotated *Small Claims Act*



Judicial Justices Padron, Hayes, and Sandor swear in Justices of the Peace Jita, Kou, and Botchkareva
June 28, 2023



Judge Bennett at Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law
International Association of Women Judges' Evening with Women Judges
January 16, 2024

Judicial Officers

Chief Judge

The Chief Judge of the BC Provincial Court is the Honourable Melissa Gillespie. As the head of the Court, she is its official spokesperson and is responsible for its administration.

In addition to overseeing the Court's judicial officers, the [Chief Judge](#) supervises the Integrated Judicial Services employees, administers a budget, facilitates continuing education for all judicial officers, acts as presiding member of the [Judicial Council of British Columbia](#), and speaks frequently at programs for the public, lawyers, and judges.

Associate Chief Judges

The Honourable Paul Dohm and the Honourable Sue Wishart continued as the Court's [Associate Chief Judges](#) in 2023/24.

Associate Chief Judge Wishart's responsibilities included technology, specialized courts, family and civil law reform, and business intelligence and continuity. Associate Chief Judge Dohm's responsibilities included the judicial justice division, regional operations, scheduling, criminal law reform, and the Justice Centre.

Regional Administrative Judges

On the recommendation of the Chief Judge, the Lieutenant Governor in Council designates Regional Administrative Judges for each of the Court's judicial regions. These judges served in that capacity in 2023/24:

- the Honourable Carmen Rogers (Vancouver Island)
- the Honourable John Milne (Vancouver)
- the Honourable Rita Bowry (Fraser)
- the Honourable Gregory Koturbash (Interior)
- the Honourable Calvin Struyk (Northern)

The Court's website contains a [map](#) showing the five judicial regions.

Provincial Court Judges

The Lieutenant Governor in Council appoints Provincial Court judges on the recommendation of the [Judicial Council of BC](#). The Judicial Council's [annual reports](#) provide details of the appointment process, applicants' demographics, and analysis of application trends, while this report includes details of judicial appointments and demographics.

Judges conduct trials and other proceedings in criminal, youth, family, and civil matters in more than 80 court locations in British Columbia. They also perform judicial mediation in family and civil settlement conferences. When not presiding in court they research and write reserved decisions, keep current by reading the law, and consider complex applications for warrants.

They also volunteer their time for court committees, speaking engagements, and other activities contributing to the justice system.

When appointed, each judge is assigned to a region, with an office ("chambers") in one courthouse. Most judges travel regularly to work in other court locations in their region, and sometimes to other regions, although the ability to conduct some proceedings remotely has reduced this travel..

Most Provincial Court judges work full-time. However, judges aged 55 or older with at least ten years of service may choose to hold office as a part-time "senior judge".

See [Judges](#) for a current list of judges.



Administrative Judicial Justices

Administrative Judicial Justice Gerry Hayes is responsible for criminal matters at the Justice Centre. Administrative Judicial Justice Lori Plater is responsible for the Court's Traffic Division, which includes hearings of traffic, by-law, cannabis, and other tickets, as well as small claims payment hearings.

Judicial Justices

Judicial justices are judicial officers who exercise authority under various provincial and federal laws. They are assigned a variety of duties by the Chief Judge, including presiding in traffic and bylaw courts and small claims payment hearings, conducting bail hearings, and considering search warrant applications at the Justice Centre.

Find a current [list](#) of judicial justices on the Court's website.

Justice of the Peace Adjudicators

The Court has three justice of the peace adjudicators. They are senior lawyers appointed on a part-time (per diem) basis under the *Provincial Court Act* to hear civil cases having a monetary value from \$5,001 to \$10,000 in the Robson Square and Richmond courthouses.



Nelson Law Courts
Photo: John Deacon, KC

Judicial Case Managers

Judicial case managers (JCMs) are justices of the peace who exercise judicial discretion and authority within their assigned duties. As of March 31, 2024, there were 37 full-time, ten part-time, and eight auxiliary judicial case managers.

Working both remotely and in person within courthouses, they manage the flow of Provincial Court appearances and skilfully schedule trials and hearings to minimize delays and facilitate access to justice. They also manage the scheduling of virtual bail courts across the province.

In addition, judicial case managers preside virtually in Initial Appearance Courts, often conducting “hybrid” proceedings in which they and lawyers sometimes appear remotely while some litigants appear in person. In BC’s seven busiest courthouses, they also preside in Assignment Courts, triaging trials to ensure they are ready to proceed before assigning them to trial courts.

Judicial case managers work closely with stakeholders and are an important source of information for litigants, lawyers, sheriffs, and court staff about Court operations.



Nelson Law Courts

Original painting by Lainey Bensons

Judicial Complement

Judges

The Court reports changes in its complement of judges each month in a [Judicial Complement Report](#) posted on the Court's website.

For judges, "judicial complement" refers to the number of judicial full-time equivalents (JFTEs²) available to the Court. This is distinct from the number of judges, since some work part-time.

As of March 31, 2024, there were 129 full-time judges (FT), 21 senior judges, and one judge sitting part-time in the Provincial Court. This equates to a complement of 138.78.

During the 2023/24 fiscal year:

- 12 judges were appointed;
- eight judges retired; and
- six judges elected to participate in the Senior Judges' Program³.

Figure 1 - Judges Appointed in 2023/24

Judge	Judicial Region	Date
Judge Hermanson	Vancouver Island	May 4, 2023
Judge McQueen	Vancouver	May 5, 2023
Judge Preovolos	Fraser	May 8, 2023
Judge Lucky	Vancouver Island	August 8, 2023
Judge Sandhu	Fraser	August 8, 2023
Judge Erina	Northern	January 2, 2024
Judge Loucks	Fraser	January 2, 2024
Judge Underwood	Interior	January 2, 2024
Judge Elden	Fraser	March 4, 2024
Judge Leung	Vancouver	March 4, 2024
Judge Wagner	OCJ	March 4, 2024
Judge Churchill	Vancouver Island	March 21, 2024

2. JFTE is calculated based on the number and status of Provincial Court judges. Full-time judges are counted as 1, senior judges are counted as 0.45, and any part-time judges are counted according to their sitting time as a proportion of a full-time judge. Complement numbers do not include judges on long term disability.
3. This program allows judges 55 years or older with at least ten years' service to continue sitting on a part-time basis.

Several judges left the Provincial Court or elected to participate in the Senior Judges' Program during the past fiscal year.

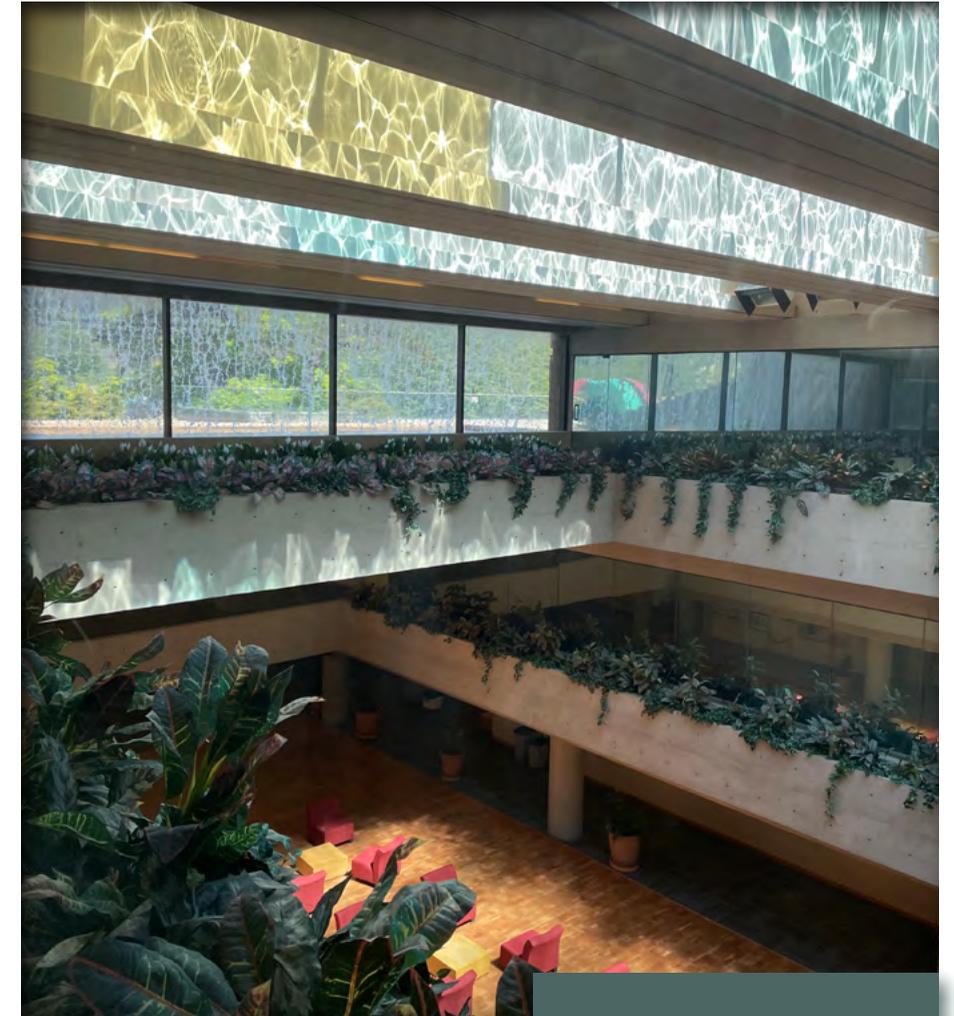
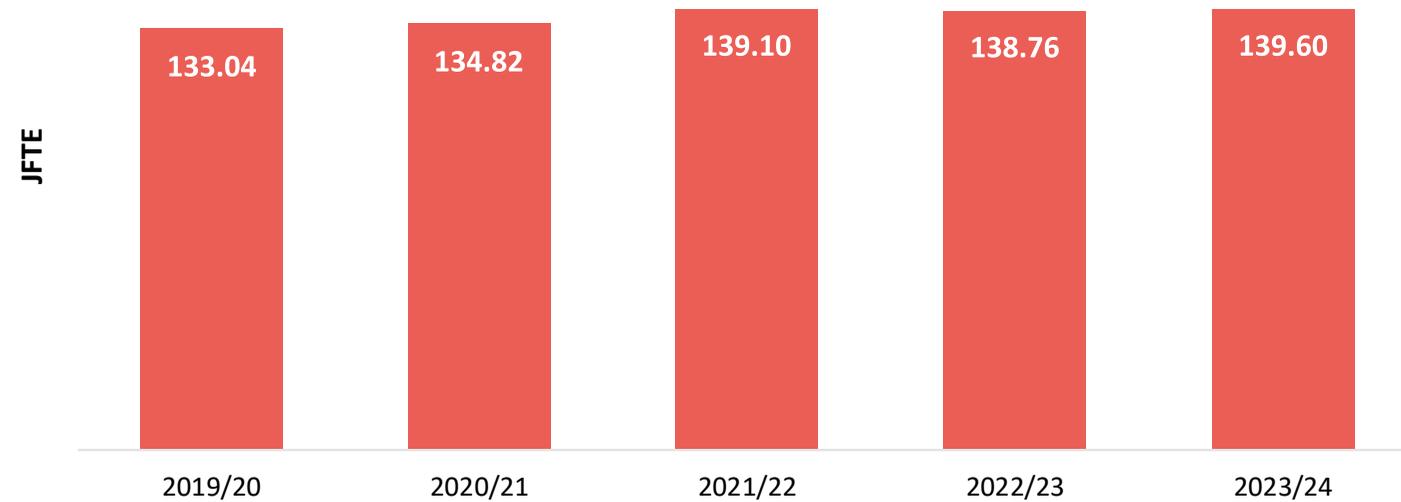
Figure 2 - List of Judges Who Retired or Elected to Sit Part-Time as of March 31, 2024

Judge	Judicial Region	Date	Reason ⁴
Judge Mrozinski	Vancouver Island	April 1, 2023	Senior Judge Election
Judge Wingham	Fraser	May 31, 2023	Retirement (Senior Judge)
Judge Bahen	Vancouver	July 1, 2023	Retirement
Judge Flewelling	Vancouver Island	August 31, 2023	Retirement
Judge MacLean	Vancouver	September 1, 2023	Senior Judge Election
Judge Rideout	Vancouver	October 31, 2023	Senior Judge Election
Judge Saunders	Vancouver Island	November 17, 2023	Retirement (Senior Judge)
Judge Skilnick	Interior	November 23, 2023	Retirement (Senior Judge)
Judge Gunnell	Fraser	December 29, 2023	Retirement
Judge Sheard	Interior	January 31, 2024	Retirement
Judge Hewson	Interior	February 1, 2024	Senior Judge Election
Judge Cohen	Fraser	February 15, 2024	Retirement (Senior Judge)
Judge Frame	Interior	April 1, 2024	Senior Judge Election
Judge Young	Fraser	April 1, 2024	Senior Judge Election

4. In this table the last sitting day of a judge or senior judge is recorded as their retirement date.

The monthly Judicial Complement Reports represent a snapshot in time, which can be influenced by the timing of appointments or retirements. Average daily complement, calculated over the course of a year, is less likely to be affected in this way and can provide a more accurate gauge of complement over time. The average daily complement for 2023/24 was 139.60.

Figure 3 - Average Judicial Complement, 2019/20 – 2023/24



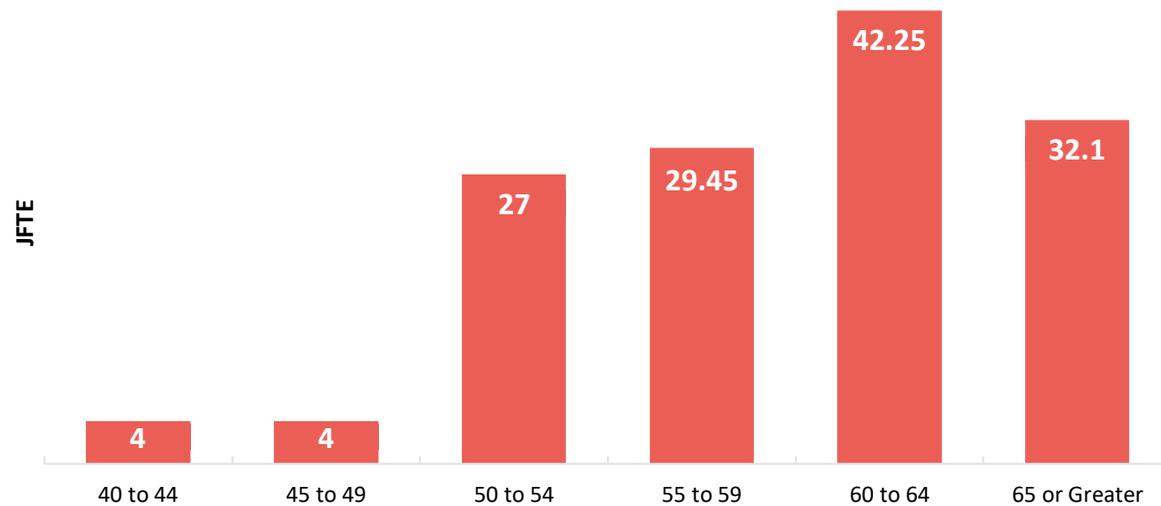
Robson Square Law Courts
Photo: Rebecca Jensen

Judges' Demographics

Age

As of March 31, 2024, most Provincial Court judges were between the ages of 50 and 64, with an overall average age of 60 years and the median age of 61 years – similar to the previous year.

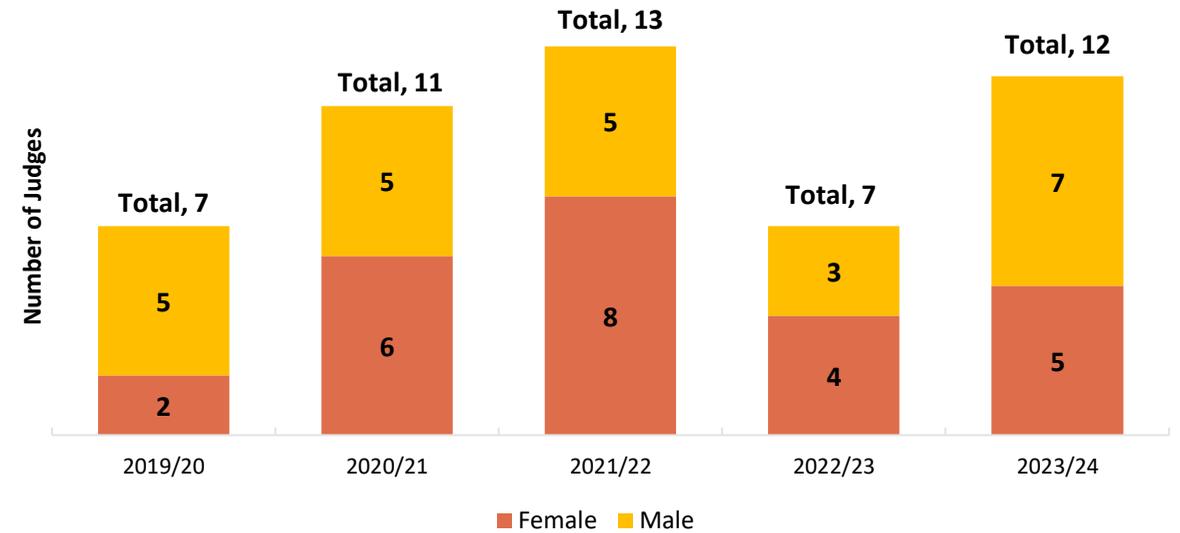
Figure 4 - JFTE by Age Category



Gender

Of the 50 judges appointed during the past five fiscal years, half (25) have been women.

Figure 5 - Judges by Gender and Year of Appointment



The number of active⁵ female judges (76) is close to but slightly higher than that of active male judges (74) in the Provincial Court.

Figure 6 - Percentage of Judges by Gender and Status

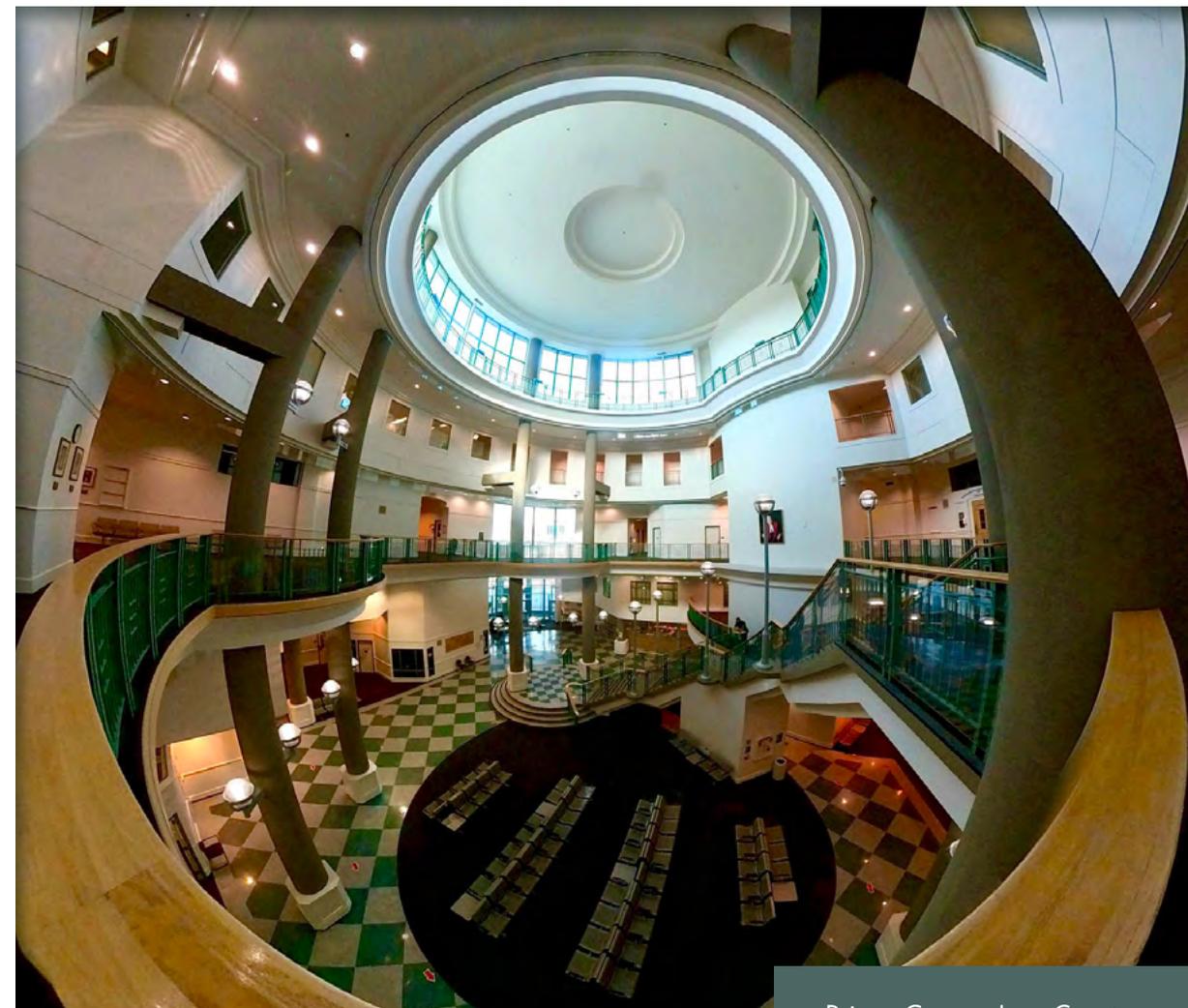
Gender	Full Time		Senior		JFTE	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Female	67	52%	9	43%	71.38	51%
Male	62	48%	12	57%	67.40	49%

A greater proportion of active male judges currently sit as seniors (16% vs. 12% of active female judges). The average female Provincial Court judge is 59.7 years of age, whereas the average male judge is 61.2.⁶

The cultural and ethnic backgrounds volunteered by applicants for judicial appointment are outlined in the annual reports of the Judicial Council of BC.

5. The term “active” excludes judges on long term disability.

6. Age is measured as at March 31, 2024.



Prince George Law Courts
Photo: David Greenberg

Judicial Justices

As of March 31, 2024, there were four full-time judicial justices and 28 who work in a part-time (ad hoc or per diem) capacity. Figure 7 shows the changes in their complement through retirements and appointments.

Figure 7 - Judicial Justices Changes in 2023/24

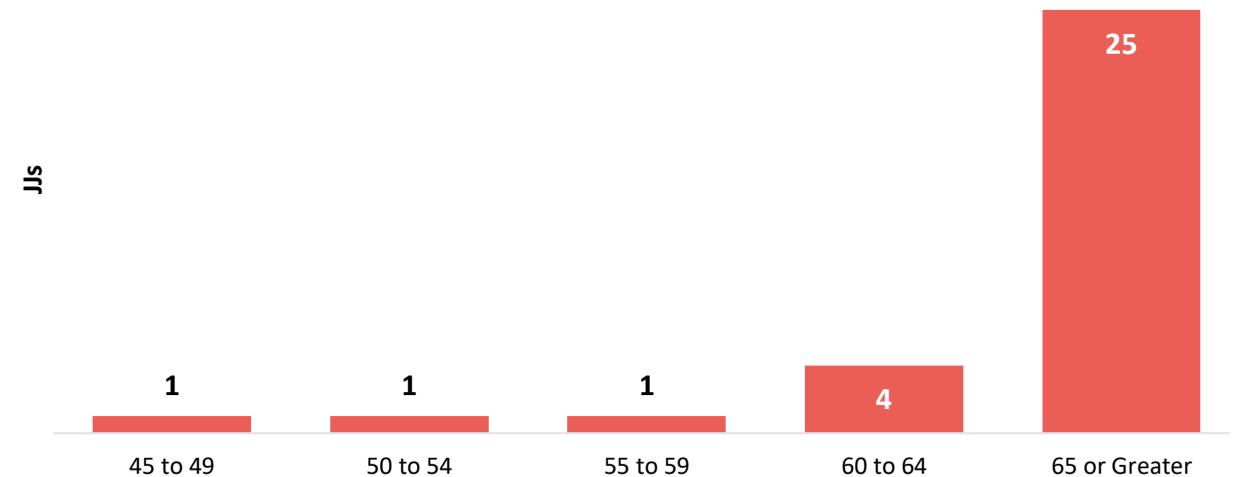
Judicial Justice	Reason	Date
Judicial Justice Cederberg	Appointment	May 1, 2023
Judicial Justice Begg	Appointment	August 9, 2023
Judicial Justice Lesperance	Appointment	August 9, 2023
Judicial Justice Maddock	Retirement	October 31, 2023
Judicial Justice Maihara	Retirement	November 30, 2023
Judicial Justice Riddle	Appointment	December 12, 2023
Judicial Justice Mayner	Retirement	December 31, 2023
Judicial Justice Rogers	Retirement	March 25, 2024

Judicial Justices' Demographics

Age

As of March 31, 2024, the majority of Provincial Court judicial justices were over the age of 65, with an overall average age of 66 years and the median age of 67 years.

Figure 8 - Judicial Justices by Age Category



Gender

Of the total complement of 32⁷, there are 19 female and 13 male judicial justices.

Figure 9 - Gender Distribution of Judicial Justices, 2023/24

Gender	Full Time		Part-Time	
	#	%	#	%
Female	1	25%	18	64.3%
Male	3	75%	10	35.7%



Kamloops Law Courts
Original painting by Judge Gregory Koturbash

7. This does not include two judicial justices on long term disability.

The Court's Caseload

Changing Complexity

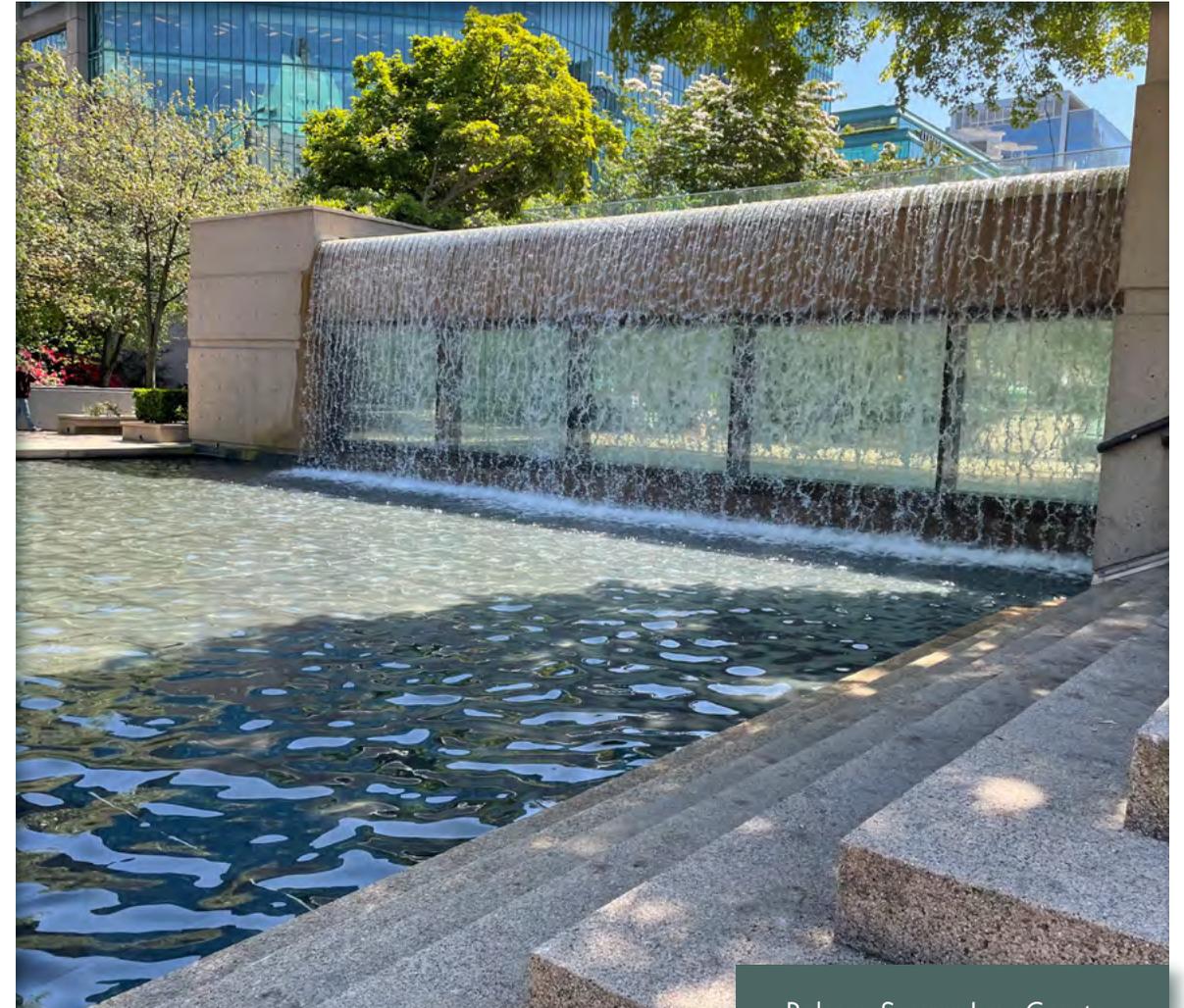
Cases vary by complexity and the time needed to conclude them. Trials of more complex cases generally take longer, and judges may need longer to prepare their reasons for judgment. Although the Court's total number of cases has decreased in recent years, the complexity of the remaining cases has increased significantly.

The number of Provincial Court trials of serious criminal offences has not changed significantly, although there are fewer trials of minor criminal offences. Trials of very serious offences lasting days or weeks now take place regularly throughout the province.

For example, the vast majority of sexual assault and violent offence charges in BC are tried in Provincial Court. Generally, there are fewer guilty pleas in this category of offences. A high proportion of these cases proceed to trial. The law in the area of sexual assault has become more complex and there have been significant legislative changes, resulting in longer, more complex trials.

In family court, although Early Resolution services have reduced the number and length of Family Law Act trials in Victoria and Surrey, the average length of these trials province-wide has increased.

The Court is working to analyse data on the impact of case complexity and will report its findings to the public in the next fiscal year.



Robson Square Law Courts
Photo: Rebecca Jensen

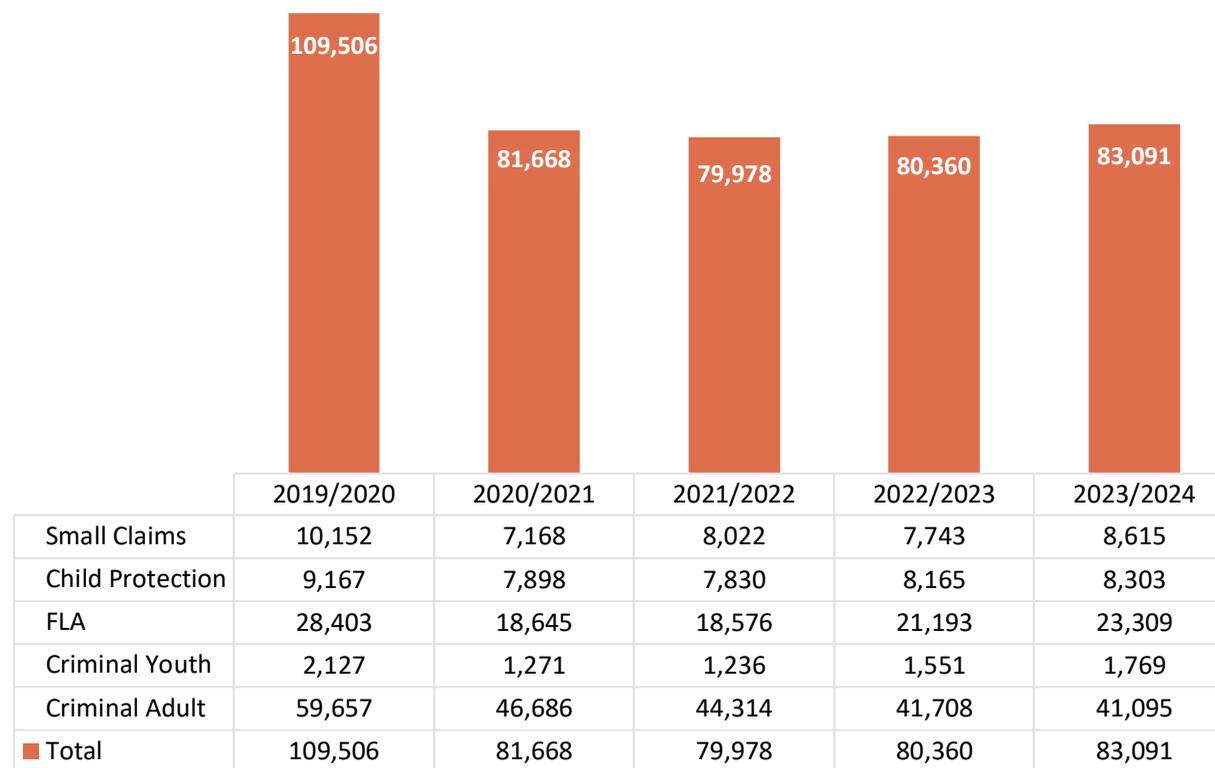
New Cases

Excluding traffic and bylaw matters usually dealt with by judicial justices, there were 83,091 cases initiated in the Provincial Court of British Columbia in 2023/24.⁸ These numbers are slightly higher than the previous year. Figure 10 shows Provincial Court caseloads over the last five years.⁹

In 2023/24, the number of new *Family Law Act (FLA)* cases increased by 10% over last year. New small claims cases increased by 11%. Youth criminal cases increased by 14% while adult criminal cases remained relatively stable.

Data from 2020 through 2022 should be interpreted with caution due to the temporary suspension of some court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 10 - New Cases by Division, 2019/20- 2023/24



Excluding traffic and bylaw matters, criminal cases have made up around half of the Court’s new caseload volume over the past five years, family cases have made up a third, and small claims cases about a tenth. This distribution is consistent with the pre-pandemic caseload volume.

8. New case counts include all cases typically overseen by a judge. Therefore, family subsequent applications are included, and traffic and bylaw cases are excluded.

9. Data are preliminary and subject to change - small fluctuations in the reported totals and percentages for new cases are expected due to continuing improvements in data quality.

Criminal

Adult criminal cases have decreased over the past five years, although the number of trials of serious criminal offences has not changed significantly. Youth criminal cases have increased by 14% since last year; however, these numbers are lower than the pre-pandemic volume of youth criminal cases.

Family

Most family cases in the Provincial Court are governed by the *Family Law Act (FLA)* or the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*. In 2023/24, the caseload for both *CFCSA* and *FLA* increased by 2% and 10% respectively. Compared to 2019/20, the number of *CFCSA* cases has decreased by 9%, and the number of *FLA* cases has decreased by 18%. However, both court classes are at their highest point since 2020/21.

Four out of five new family cases (81%) come from subsequent applications against existing files.¹⁰ The percentage of new cases from subsequent applications has been slightly higher in *CFCSA* cases than in *FLA* (87% vs. 79%) over the past five years. These family distributions have been consistent for the past five years.

Small Claims

New small claims cases have decreased 15% since 2019/20. New small claims cases, however, have increased by 11% since the last year (2022/23).

Data from 2020 through 2022 should be interpreted with caution due to the temporary suspension of some court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Revelstoke Law Courts

Original painting by Tina Lindegaard

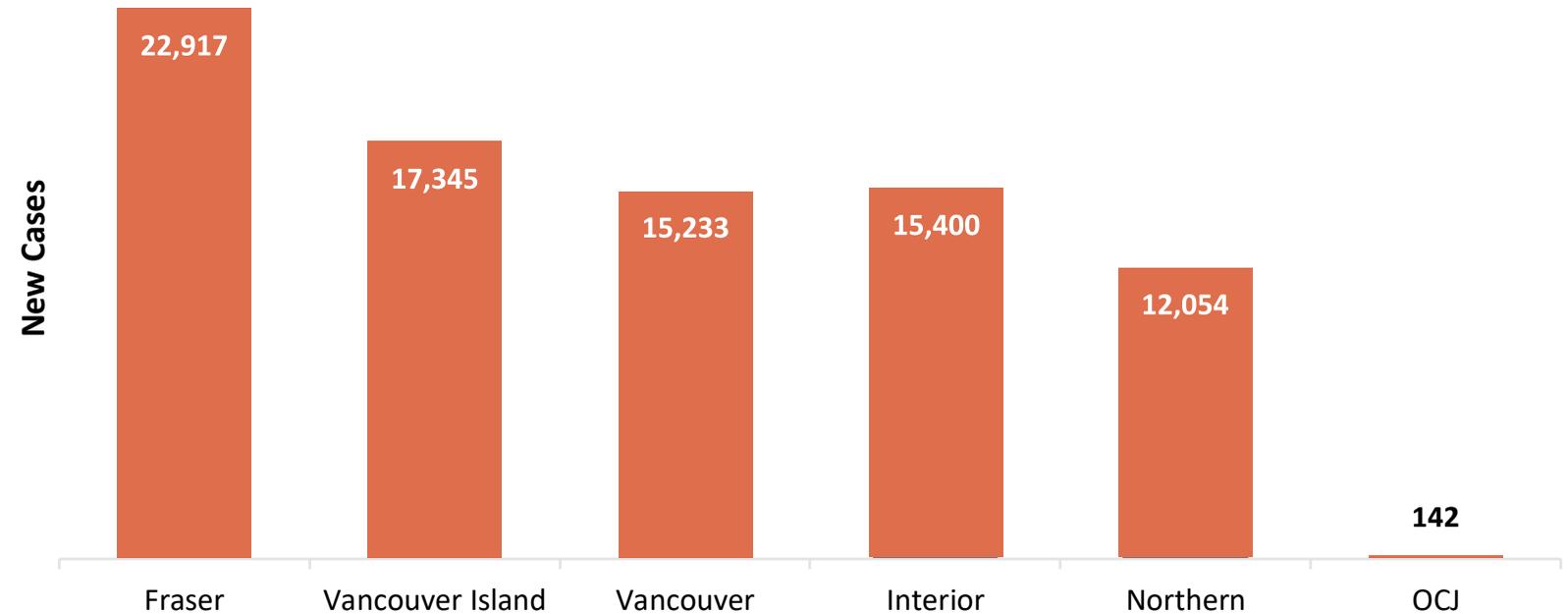
10. Subsequent applications are additional motions or applications filed in a case after the initial application is filed. Applications to change or enforce an order are a common example of *FLA* subsequent applications. Under the *CFCSA*, subsequent applications are required to determine custody of a child who is not returned to a parent.

New Cases by Region

The Fraser region continued to have the highest new caseload (28%) in 2023/24, while the small remote locations administered directly by the Office of the Chief Judge (OCJ) had the lowest (<1%). This distribution has been consistent for the past five years.

Data from 2020 through 2022 should be interpreted with caution due to the temporary suspension of some court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

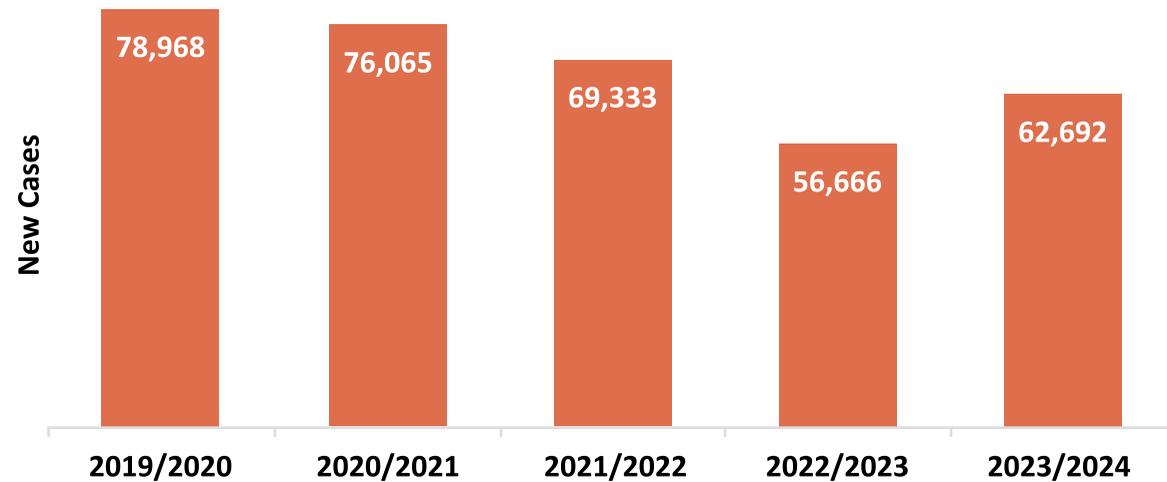
Figure 11 - New Cases by Region



Traffic and Bylaw Cases

In addition to the criminal, family, and small claims cases typically handled by judges, the Provincial Court also handles traffic and bylaw cases (typically adjudicated by judicial justices). In 2023/24, there were 62,693 new traffic and bylaw cases, up 17% from last year.

Figure 12 - New Traffic and Bylaw Cases, 2019/20 - 2023/24



Revelstoke Law Courts
Photo: John Deacon, KC

The Justice Centre

About two dozen judicial justices work through the Justice Centre operated by the Provincial Court in Burnaby. It provides access to judicial justices from anywhere in British Columbia.

Working on site or remotely and using telephone and sophisticated video conferencing methods, they conduct bail hearings from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm daily, including weekends. They also consider applications for search warrants and production orders 24 hours a day, seven-days-a-week.

In 2023/24 they considered 31,140 applications for search warrants and production orders (an increase of 48% over last year) and conducted 24,079 bail hearings (an increase of 22%).



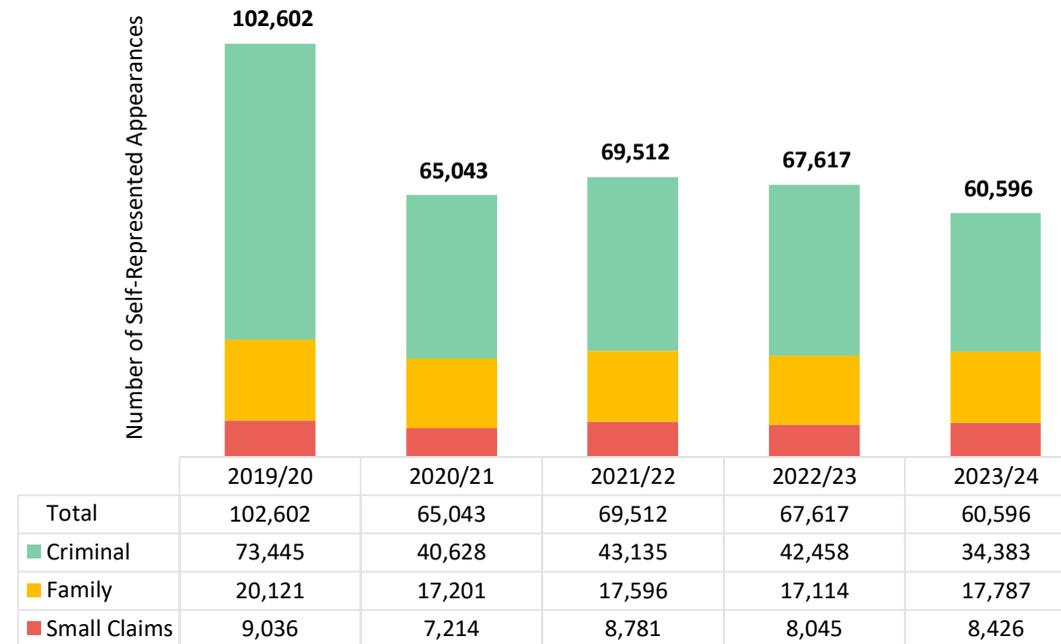
Pentiction Law Courts

Original painting by Judge Gregory Koturbash

Self-Represented Litigants

The Court oversaw 60,596 self-represented appearances in 2023/24,¹¹ representing a 10% decrease compared to last year.

Figure 13 - Number of Self-Represented Appearances by Division, 2019/20 – 2023/24¹²



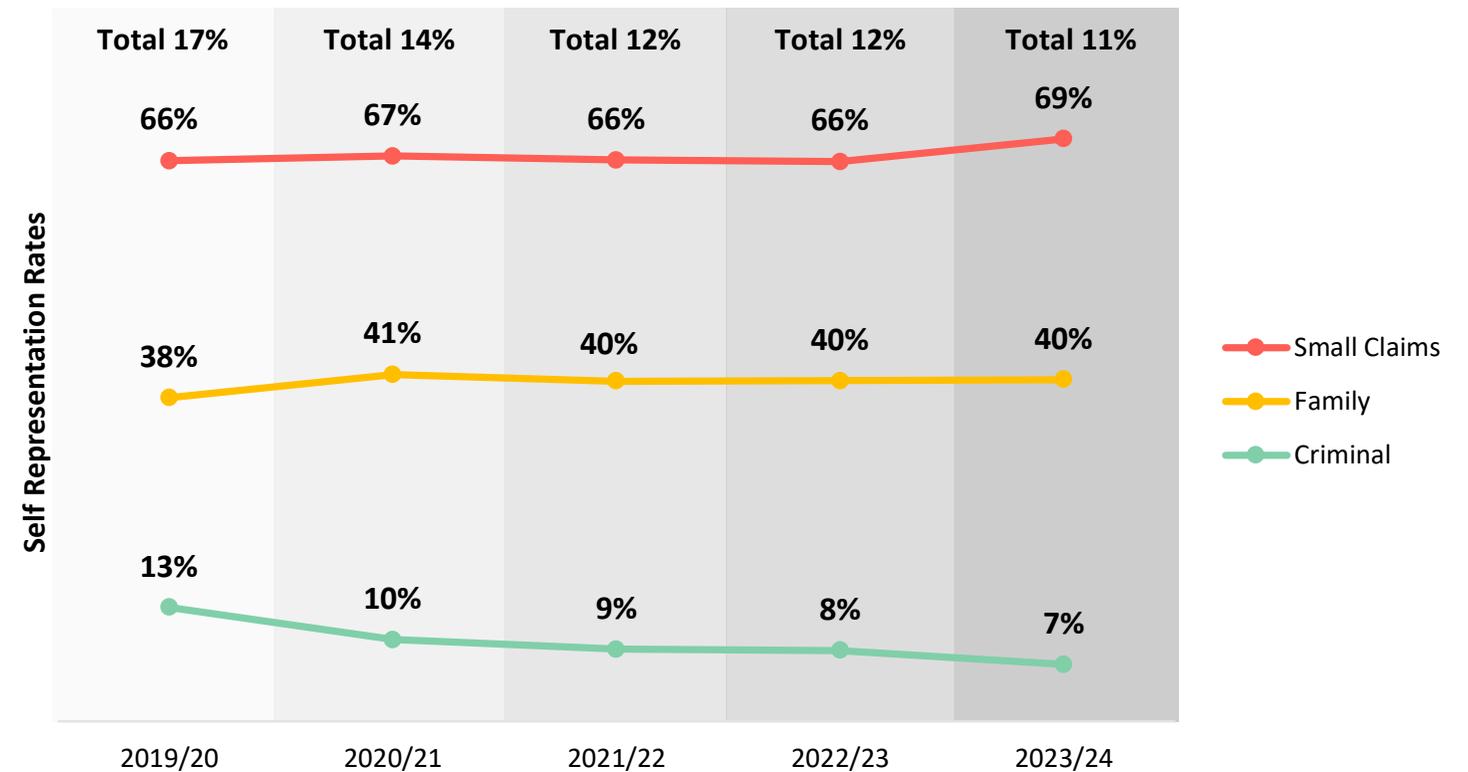
While the number of self-represented appearances is highest in the criminal division (it includes appearances early in a case before accused persons retain lawyers), the *rate* of self-representation is lowest. The rate of self-represented appearances is the percentage of all appearances in which a party appeared without a lawyer or agent.

11. A self-represented appearance is when a party is recorded as appearing in court with no counsel or agent present. Data Source: Criminal BI Database. Data are preliminary and subject to change. This analysis counts only appearances that took place, excluding cases that have been adjourned or cancelled prior to the appearance or that do not have any appearance duration recorded.

12. Data are preliminary and subject to change - small fluctuations in the reported totals and percentages for new cases are expected due to continuing improvements in data quality.

Figure 14 shows the self-representation rate for each division over time. The overall rate of self-representation has declined from 17% in 2019/20 to 11% in 2023/24. In 2023/24, the rate of self-representation slightly decreased (11%). However, data from 2020 through 2022 should be interpreted with caution due to the temporary suspension of some court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 14 - Rate of Self-Represented Appearances by Division, 2019/20 - 2023/24

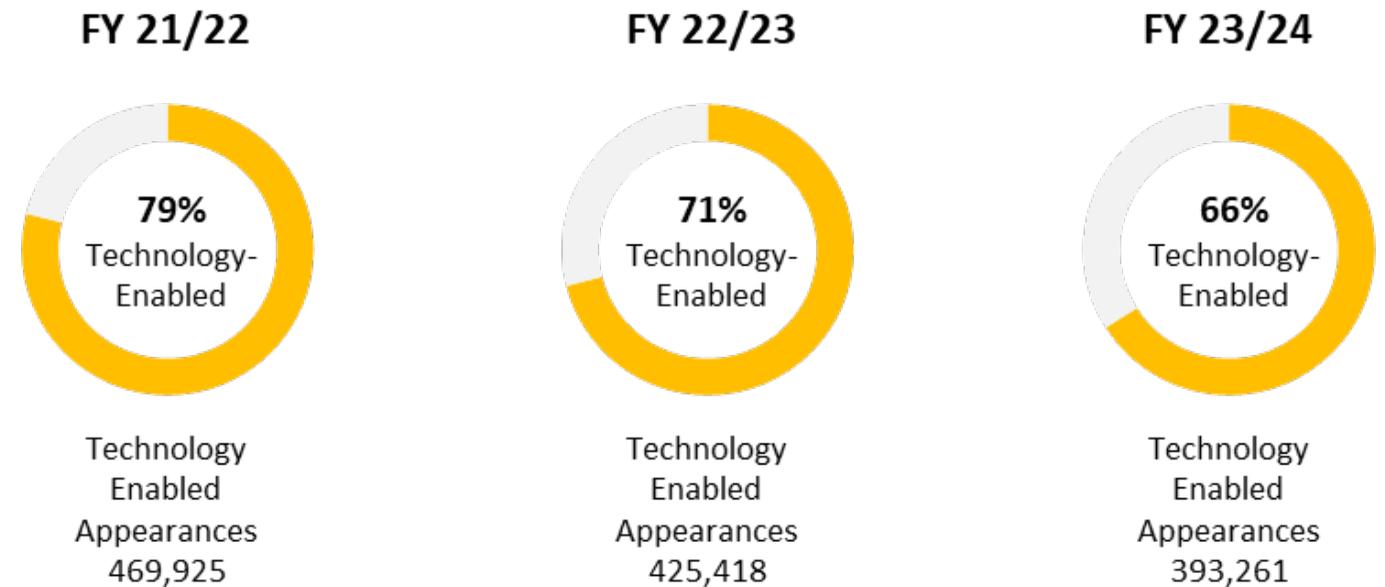


Remote Appearances

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court moved swiftly to decrease the number of people in courthouses by increasing the appearances made by Microsoft Teams audio or video conferencing and telephone. Virtual appearances proved effective and efficient. As a result, bail hearings, small claims settlement conferences, family case conferences, and family management conferences are generally held virtually today, and lawyers may appear remotely in criminal sentencing hearings. Proceedings in which evidence is heard are generally held in person.

In 2023/24 there were 393,261 criminal, family and small claims court appearances in which at least one participant appeared remotely. This constituted approximately 66% of all court appearances, excluding traffic and bylaw matters.

Figure 15 – Technology-Enabled Appearances, 2021/22 – 2023/24



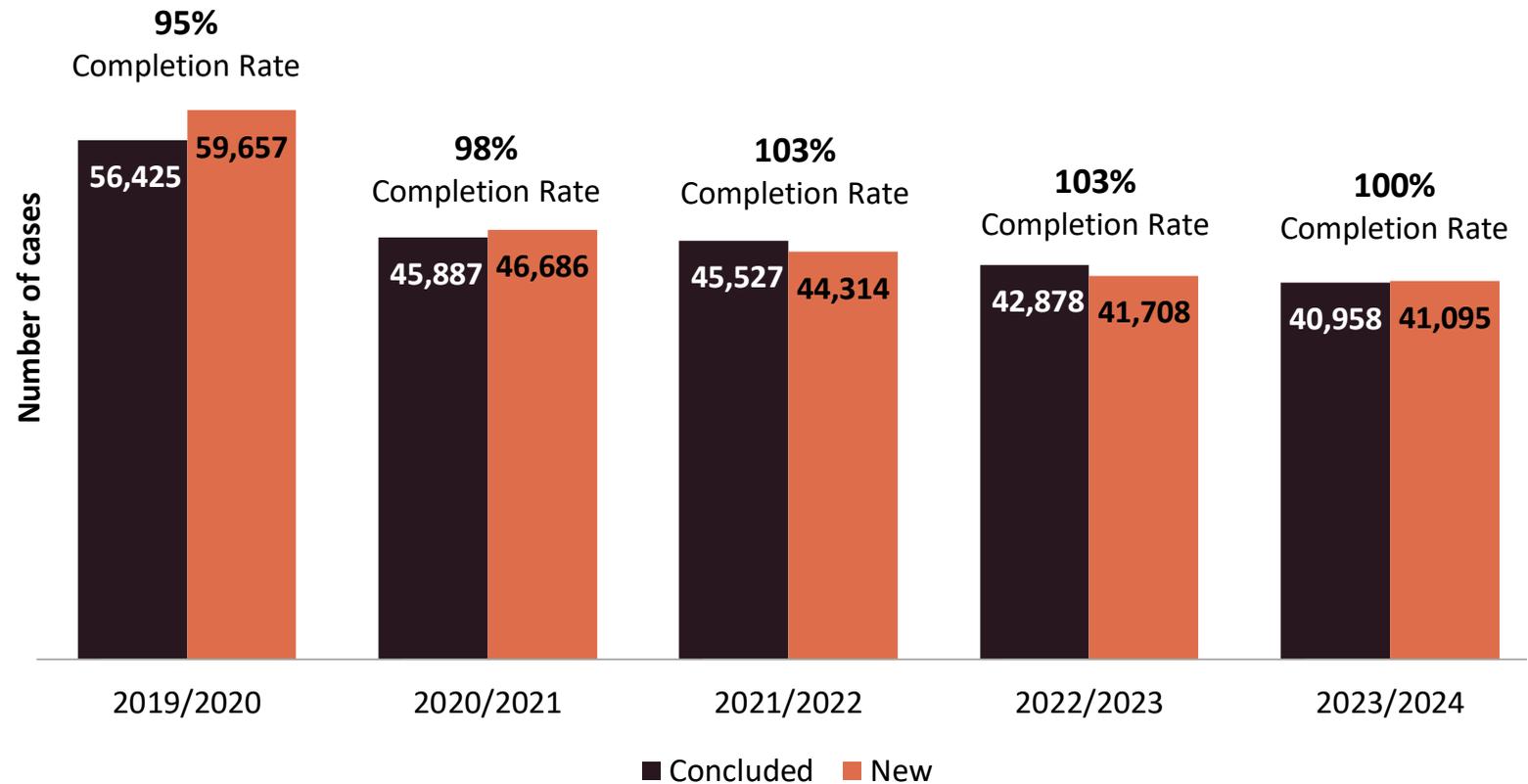
Operational Court Standards

The Office of the Chief Judge began developing operational standards to assess the Court’s ability to manage its caseload effectively in 2004. These standards represent performance targets and objective goals that the Court strives to meet with its available judicial resources. Where standards are not met, the Office of the Chief Judge examines underlying causes, monitors trends, and takes appropriate steps, including reallocating available resources where possible.

Adult Criminal Case Completion Rates

The Court’s standard for the adult criminal case completion rate is 100%, calculated over a fiscal year.¹³ This measure provides an indication of the Court’s ability to conclude cases at the same rate that new cases enter the system. In 2023/24 the numbers of new and concluded cases decreased slightly from the previous year. The ratio of new and concluded cases was so close that the completion rate calculates as 100%.

Figure 16 Adult Criminal Case Completion Rates, 2019/20 - 2023/24



13. Data Source: Criminal BI Database. Rates are calculated by dividing the total number of concluded cases in a fiscal year by the total number of new cases in that year. If the numbers are equal or nearly equal, the completion rate is 100%. Concluded case information is only available in the criminal division.

On-Time Case Processing

The purpose of this measure is to assess the timeliness with which Provincial Court cases are concluded. This is accomplished by examining the percentage of cases heard by judges that reach a final or important interim outcome (disposition or significant event) within established timelines. This information is only currently available for the criminal division.

The Court's standard for criminal cases is to have 90% of cases concluded within 180 days. The Court has not met this standard during the past five years.

This standard reflects the Court's goal for early conclusion of criminal cases. However, some factors that affect this measure are beyond the Court's control, such as whether an accused sets the matter for trial, the amount of time it takes for the Crown to provide disclosure, and lawyers' availability when setting court dates. With improvements in data collection, the Court can now track the time between specific events to determine where improvements, if required, can be made.

Figure 17 shows the percentage of cases completed within 180, 365, and 540 days, respectively.

Figure 17 - Percentage of Judge Cases Concluded Within Three Time Frames, 2019/20 - 2022/23

Percent of Adult Criminal Cases Concluded Within...			
Year	180 Days	365 Days	540 Days
FY 19/20	67%	89%	96%
FY 20/21	52%	80%	93%
FY 21/22	52%	79%	91%
FY 22/23	53%	80%	91%
FY 23/24	54%	81%	92%
Five Year Average	56%	82%	93%

Pending Cases

A pending case is a criminal case¹⁴ that has not yet been completed and for which a future appearance has been scheduled. The pending status of a court case is distinct from the total age of the case. However, the two measures are linked, as pending cases that exceed a certain age are of concern due to the possibility of unreasonable delay.

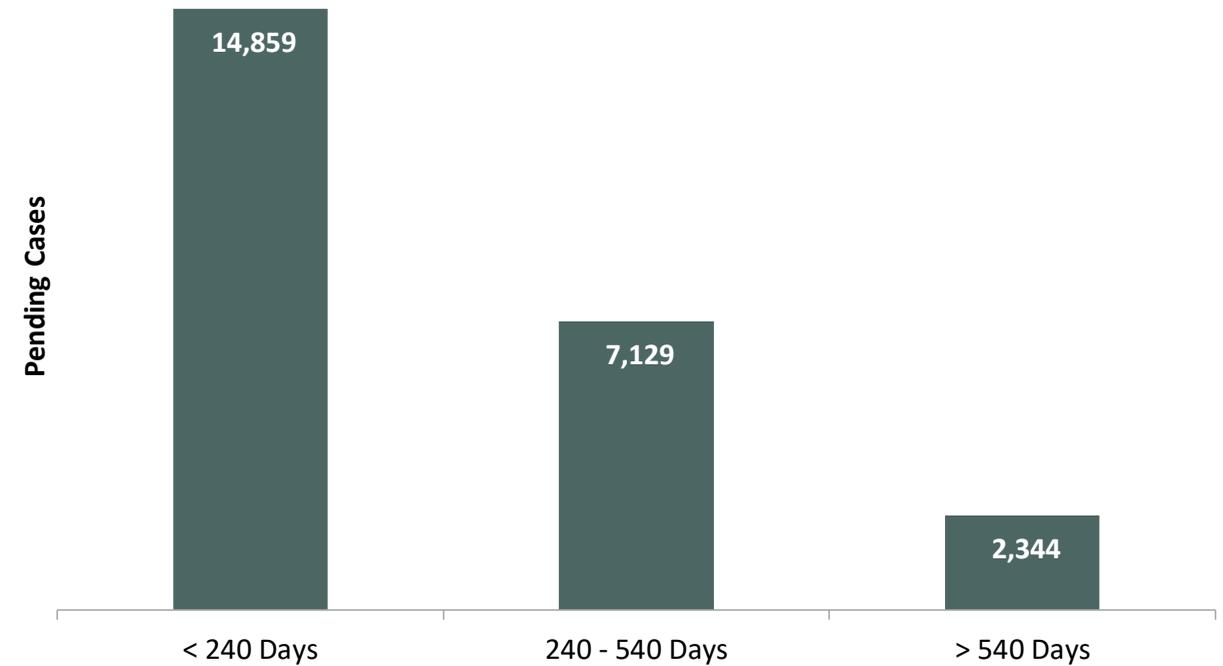
Case age calculations for pending cases count from the date an Information is sworn to the next scheduled appearance occurring after the “as at” date (in this case, March 31, 2024). These calculations exclude inactive time (e.g. bench warrants). The number and age of pending cases provide a general indication of the Court’s ability to process criminal cases in a timely manner.

For criminal cases, the Court’s standard for pending cases is for 60% of its pending caseload to be less than 240 days old.

As of March 31, 2024, there were 24,332 adult criminal pending cases, of which 61% had a pending date less than 240 days from the sworn date (that is, there are fewer than eight months between the date the information was sworn and the next appearance date).¹⁵ This means that the Court met its standard this year - as it has for the past five years. The remaining 9,473 (39%) cases had pending dates greater than 240 days from the sworn date.

Figure 18 shows the number of adult criminal pending cases in the Provincial Court system on March 31, 2024, broken down by age category.

Figure 18 - Adult Criminal Pending Cases by Age Category¹⁶



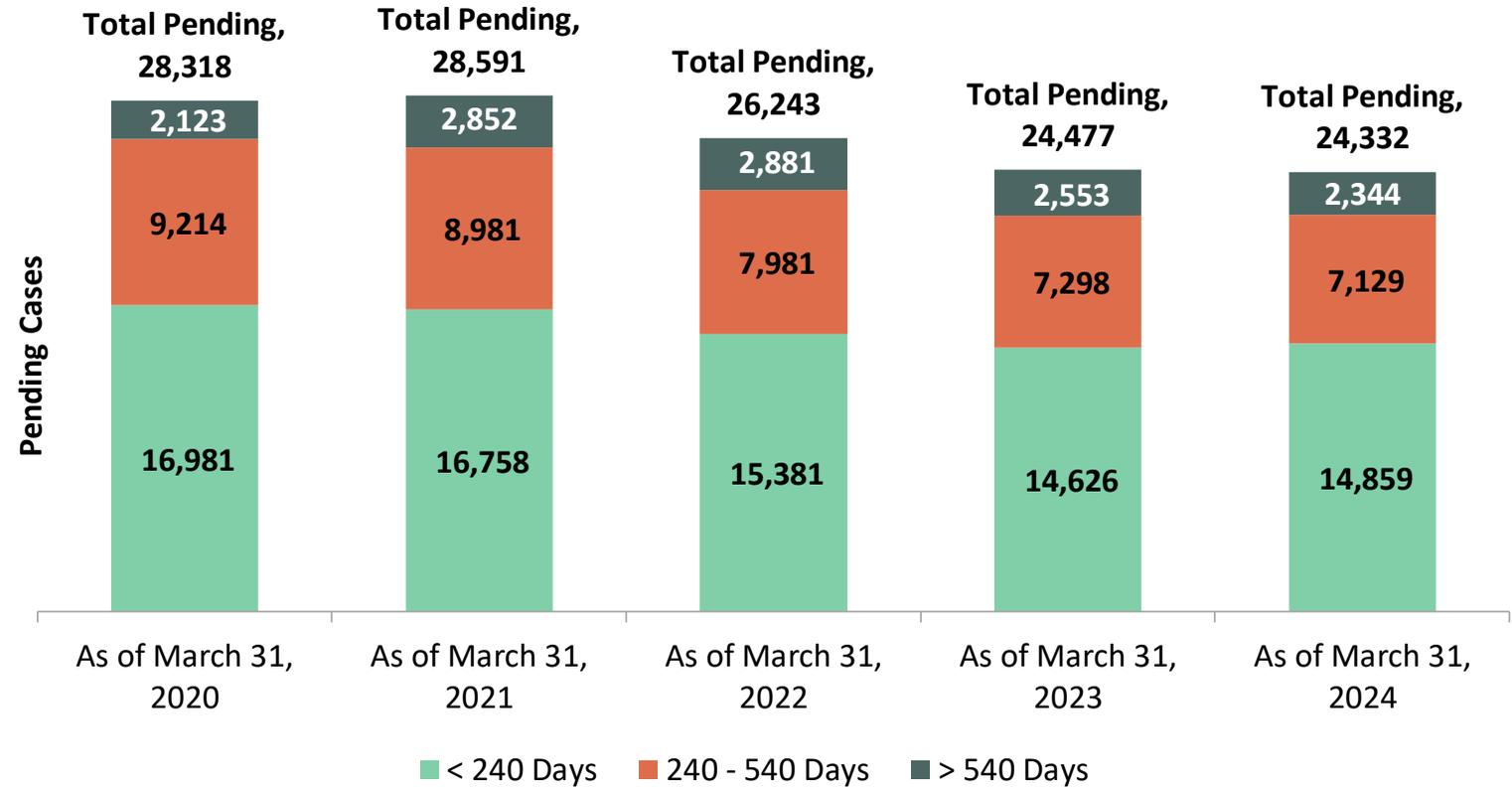
14. Pending case information is currently only available in the criminal division, as there is no agreed upon definition of case conclusion in the family and small claims divisions.

15. The current report is a snapshot as at March 31, 2024. These results are preliminary. Pending cases are likely to adjust upwards due to delays in compiling the data.

16. Data source: Criminal BI Database.

The total number of pending cases has remained consistent since last year (total pending cases decreased by 1% overall). Figure 19 shows the distribution of cases over time.

Figure 19 - Adult Criminal Pending Cases Over Time



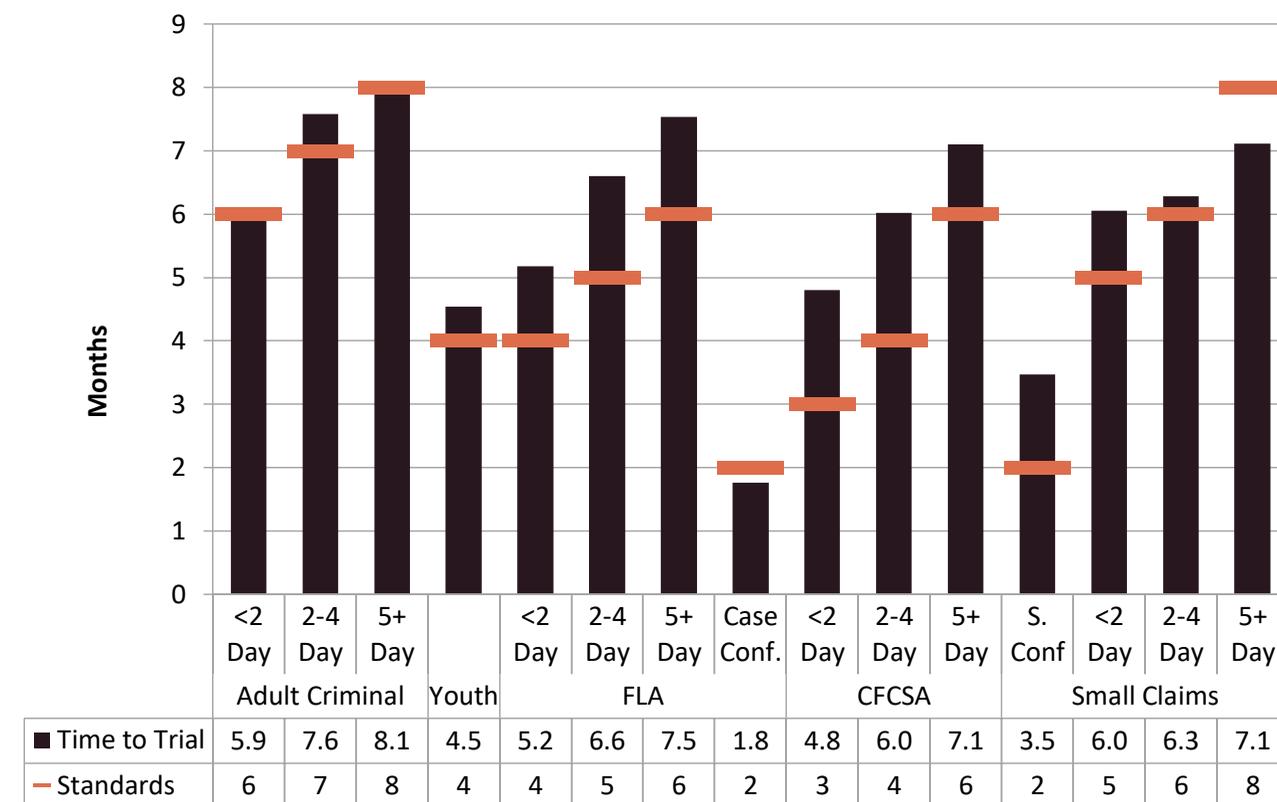
Province-Wide Time to Trial

The Court continues to measure time to trial from the date a request or order is made for a conference or trial to the date when cases of that type can typically be scheduled. Time to trial does not reflect when cases are actually set as this depends on the availability of counsel. Rather, it is an estimate of when court time would be available to schedule a particular activity.¹⁷

In 2005, the Court endorsed a number of standards to measure whether dates were being offered for trial in a timely manner. These standards reflect the Court’s goals as to when it ought to be able to offer time for the specified trial events. In June 2016, those standards and the time estimates they govern were revised¹⁸ to better capture longer trials and Summary Proceedings Court¹⁹ matters.

Figure 20 shows the average time to trial for this fiscal year.

Figure 20 - Average Provincial Time to Trial, 2023/24



17. In order to provide the most accurate data, other cases waiting to be scheduled are factored into the estimates. “Fast track” dates or openings created when other cases collapse are not considered, as these dates are not an accurate reflection of when the case would typically be scheduled.

18. A detailed explanation of time to trial definitions, calculations, and standards appears in [Appendix 2](#).

19. In seven of the Court’s busiest locations, Summary Proceedings Courts conduct trials, hearings, or dispositions set for less than half a day.

In most categories, the time to trial results stayed the same or increased over the previous year.

Across all criminal time to trial estimates, delays slightly increased. Also, time to trial estimates have increased somewhat in family (*FLA* and *CFCSA*) trials but not for case conferences.

As in the other divisions, most small claims time to trial estimates increased over last year, with time to a settlement conference being the only measure to remain stable.

Efforts to Reduce Delays

The Court closely monitors time to trial and pending case data. In almost all areas of the province, the Court is able to offer court time for criminal trials well below the 18-month ceiling established by the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of *R. v. Jordan* 2016 SCC 27 (“*Jordan*”). Those locations with the longest delays are identified and steps are taken to reallocate judicial resources where possible.

Court time is not the only factor leading to delays in criminal cases. Some factors are beyond the Court’s control, such as the length of time it takes for the police to prepare disclosure in complex cases and lawyers’ availability when setting trial dates.

The longer and more complex cases being tried in Provincial Court require management by judges, particularly relating to pre-trial applications and ensuring accurate time estimates. The Court continues working to ensure that court time is used effectively, and judges are able to manage these trials to have them conclude within the time scheduled. Judicial education programs include sessions and materials on trial management.

Trial Events

The Court tracks outcomes for all cases that were still on the Court list on the date set for trial. In 2023/24, there were 11,493 such trial events²⁰, which is consistent with the previous year.

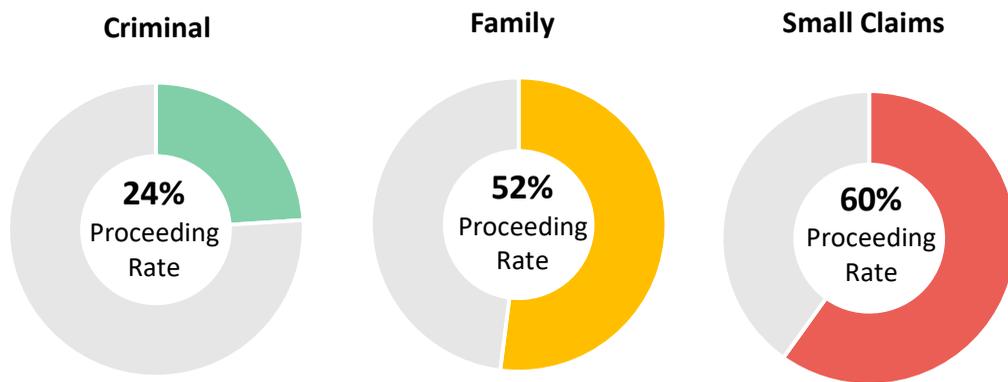
There are several possible outcomes on the day of trial, one of which is that the trial proceeds.²¹ Where a trial does not proceed, this is referred to as a “collapse”. There are several reasons why a trial might collapse. For example, the case might settle on the day of trial before the trial begins or a party might not attend.

-
20. Results for cases that were never set for trial, or which did not proceed as scheduled due to adjournment, resolution, or any other reason before their first scheduled trial date are not captured under this system.
21. Defined as proceeding for trial as scheduled, with evidence or a witness being called - the outcome of the trial appearance is irrelevant from the perspective of whether or not the trial proceeded.

The Court has not established standards for collapse rates. Still, it will continue to collect and monitor this data, with particular attention to the number of cases adjourned for lack of court time.²²

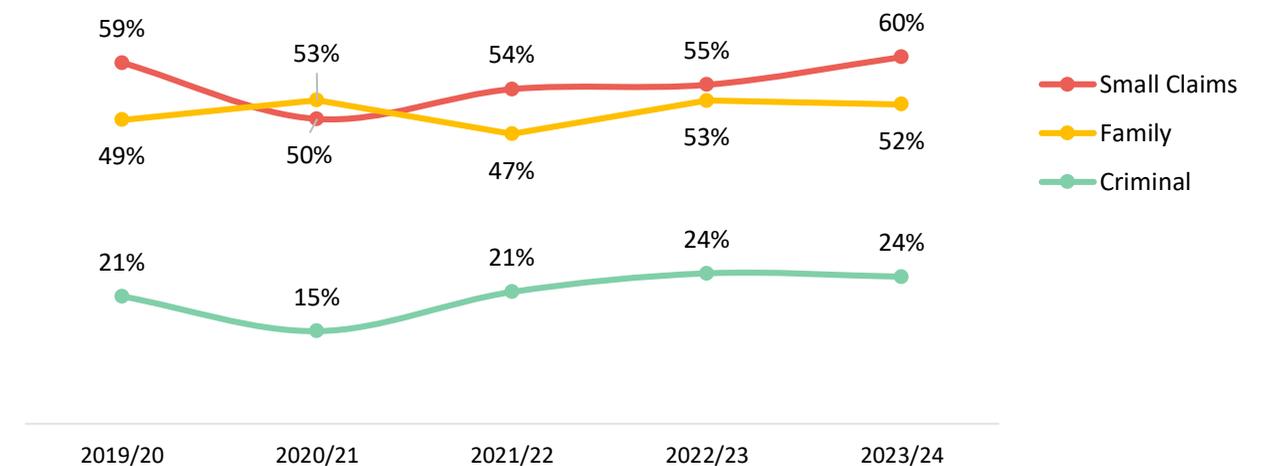
Proceeding rates capture the percentage of trials that proceeded on the first day of trial.²³ There are persistent differences in proceeding rates between divisions. Figure 21 shows the rate for each division in 2023/24.

Figure 21 - Proceeding Rates by Division



As shown in figure 22, the small claims proceeding rate rose in 2023/24 while the family and criminal rates were similar to the previous year.²⁴ However, data from 2020 through 2022 should be interpreted with caution due to the temporary suspension of some court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 22 - Proceeding Rates by Division, 2019/20 - 2023/24



22. Lack of court time refers to a situation in which the Court has insufficient judicial resources to hear a case on the day it was scheduled.

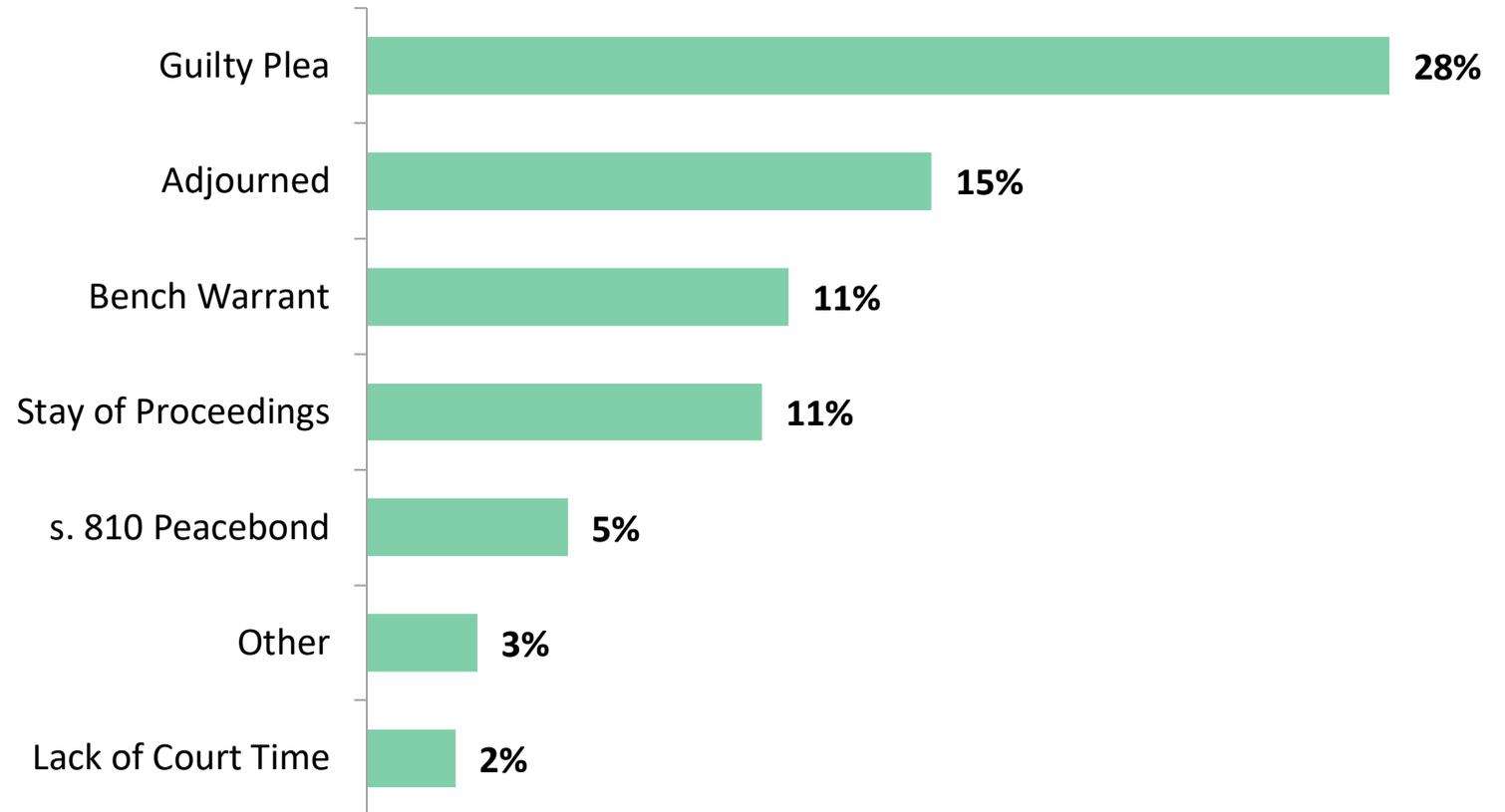
23. Whether the case concluded or not is irrelevant to this determination - all that matters is that the case proceeded (as a trial) on the day it was scheduled for trial.

24. This figure includes blended data from three sources: stand-alone trial tracker application, interim tool for Assignment Court, and the Provincial Court Scheduling System (PCSS). While this data is now being captured solely through PCSS, historical reporting will continue to rely on other sources.

There will always be cases that do not proceed on the first day of trial - a low proceeding rate is not a cause for concern. What is important is to note the reason why cases are not proceeding and whether the case has concluded without ever proceeding to trial. Judicial case managers utilize proceeding rates to determine how many cases to schedule on a given day to maximize the use of available court time.

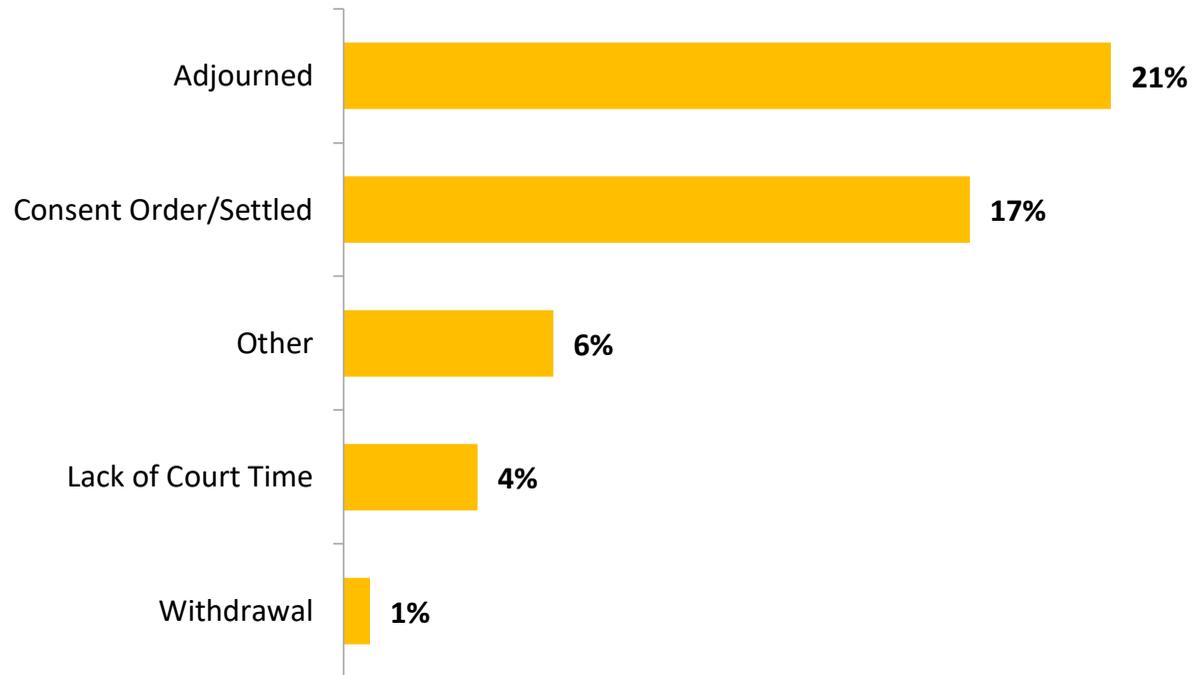
In the criminal division, 44% of the cases remaining on the list concluded on the first day of trial by ending in a guilty plea, stay of proceedings, or s. 810 peace bond. Figure 23 shows the distribution of collapse reasons for the criminal division in 2023/24.

Figure 23 - Collapse Rates of Criminal Trials by Collapse Reason



The proceeding rate in the family division fluctuates around its five-year average (51%) and is fairly consistent this year (52%) with the previous year (53%). Figure 24 shows the distribution of collapse reasons in the family division.

Figure 24 - Collapse Rates of Family Trials by Collapse Reason



Over half the small claims trials (60%) remaining on the list proceeded on the first day of trial. Figure 25 shows the distribution of collapse reasons for small claims trials.

Figure 25 - Collapse Rates of Small Claims Trials by Collapse Reason

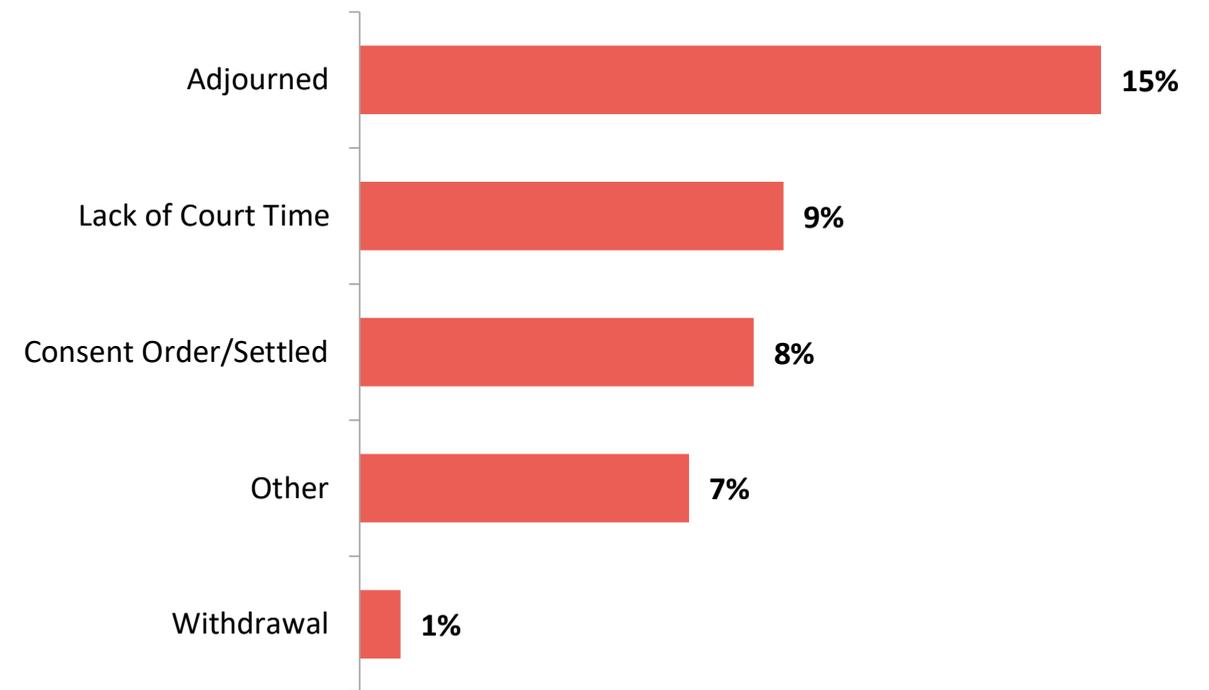
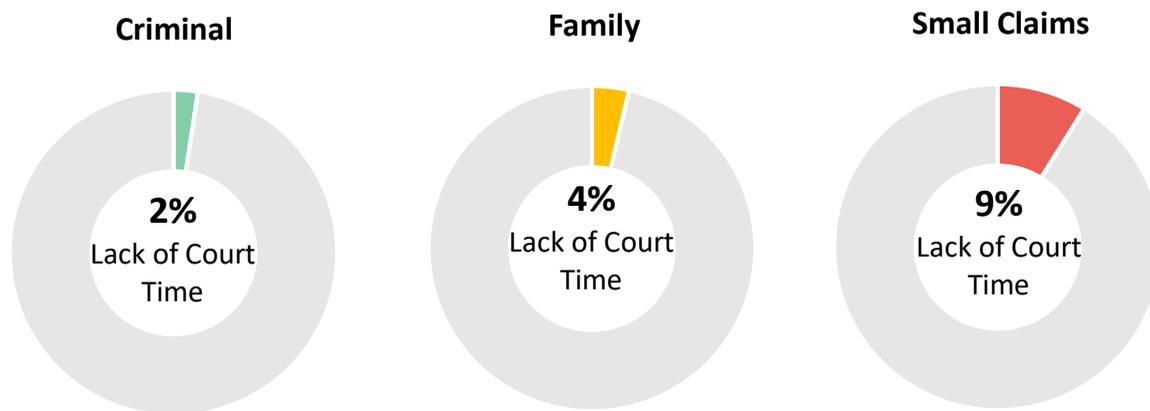


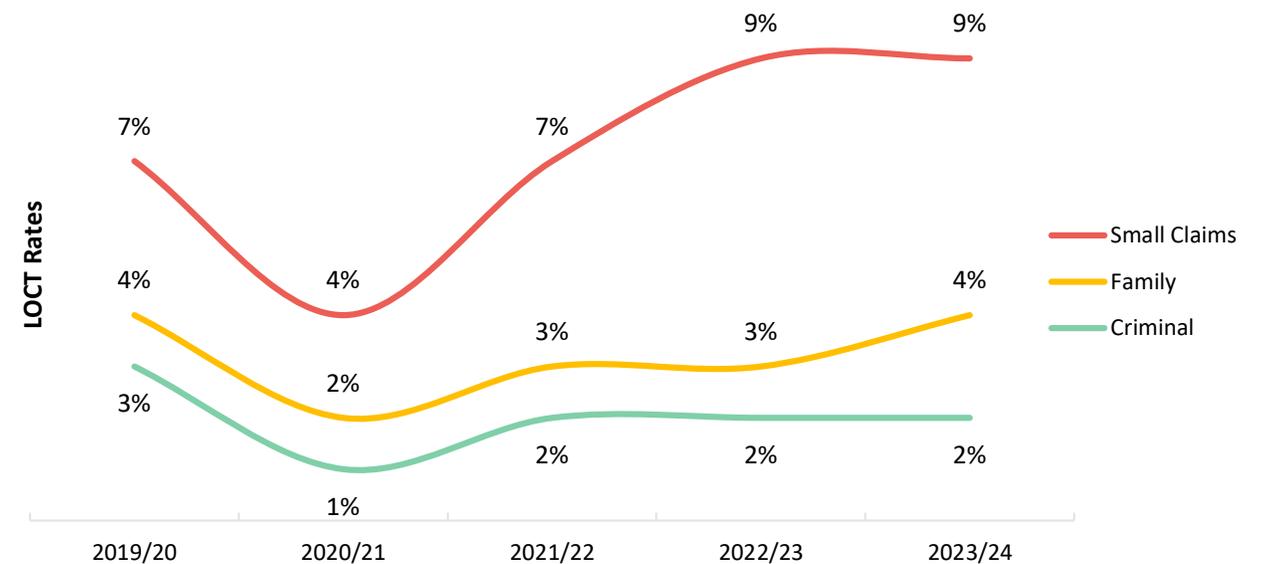
Figure 26 shows the lack of court time rates for each division in 2023/24. Lack of court time (LOCT) rates capture the percentage of trials adjourned because the Court did not have sufficient judicial resources to hear a given trial on the day it was scheduled to begin.

Figure 26 - Lack of Court Time Rates by Division



LOCT rates for all divisions have remained stable compared to the previous years. The five-year trends for each division are shown in figure 27. However, data from 2020 through 2022 should be interpreted with caution due to the temporary suspension of some court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 27 - Lack of Court Time Rates by Division, 2019/20 - 2023/24



Complaints

The Complaint Process

Public confidence that judicial decisions are heard fully and made fairly is a foundation of our justice system. The Court's complaints process maintains that confidence by giving people the means to criticize judicial officers formally if they believe their conduct is inappropriate. Under the *Provincial Court Act*, all complaints about judicial officers are made in writing to the Chief Judge.

The *Act* establishes three stages to the judicial conduct complaints process: examination, investigation, and inquiry. If a complaint asserts judicial misconduct, it is examined by the Chief Judge or their designate. As part of this examination, the judicial officer who is the subject of the complaint is provided with a copy of the complaint and an opportunity to respond. The Chief Judge or their designate, after examining the complaint, any other relevant materials, and any response received from the judicial officer, may determine that:

- the complaint lacks merit;
- the complaint can be resolved through corrective or remedial measures; or
- an investigation is warranted.

The Chief Judge then advises the complainant and the judicial officer of the result of the examination.

Complaints Examined in 2023

In 2023, the Chief Judge conducted examinations of three complaints about judges, two about judicial justices, and one about a judicial case manager. These complaint examinations are summarised in [Appendix 1](#). They may include complaint examinations carried over from 2022.

This year 198 complaint submissions were found not to involve judicial misconduct and therefore not to be complaints within the authority of the Chief Judge. Most of these amounted to appeals from a judicial decision, and the complainants were sent appropriate information about appealing. Some did not relate to the Court, and complainants were referred to other agencies or organizations.

Each year some complaint submissions, particularly those received in the fourth quarter, are carried forward into the next year. Review of four files will continue in 2024.

Figure 28 tracks complaint statistics and outcomes for the last decade. Since 2014, almost all complaints have been resolved at the examination stage.

Figure 28 - Complaints Statistics, 2014-2023²⁵

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Complaints received	273	204	336	352	379	305	230	211	252	235
Non-complaints (those found not to involve judicial misconduct)	254	164	313	335	370	288	215	192	233	198
Referrals ²⁶ (those found not related to the Court and referred to another organization)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	15	30	29
Examinations of complaints performed to December 31, 2023	*28	*19	*26	*16	*9	*13	*10	*2	*10	*6
Investigations of complaints performed	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Files carried forward into 2024	11	23	7	16	5	9	8	5	10	4

25. * Indicates that an examination may have dealt with more than one correspondence from a complainant or more than one complaint about the same matter.

26. Before 2020, these were not distinctly captured and were counted as “Non-complaints”.

Financial Report

During the 2023/24 fiscal year, the Provincial Court continued to invest in, build, and refine the innovative court modernization initiatives introduced in previous years. Among these investments was the expansion of a hybrid-virtual bail model to the Vancouver and Fraser regions in fall 2023 and the continuing support for installation of video units in police detachments across the province.

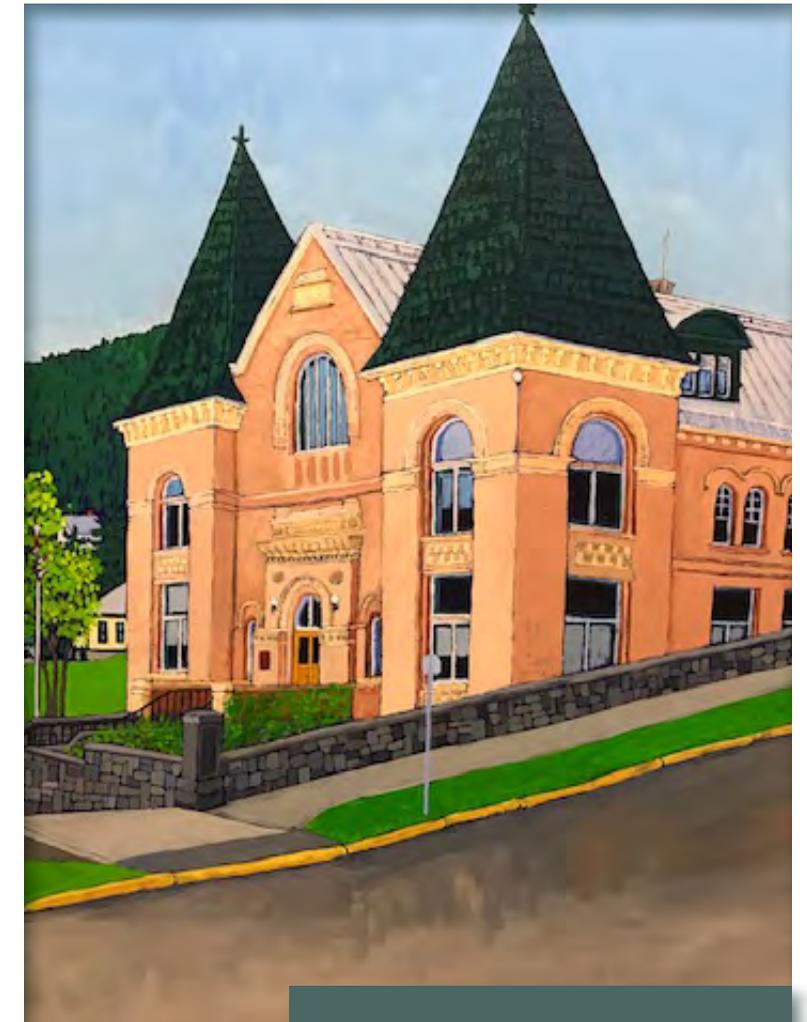
Recognizing the unique courtroom operations in each region has allowed continued expansion of virtual bail technology and processes to combine with established court scheduling models in these two regions.

To maintain its innovative edge and support judicial officers in the increased use of technology demanded by virtual proceedings, the Court completed preparatory work for a computerized judicial desktop tool to assist judges in their work before, during, and after court. The procurement process was initiated for application development. The Court also continued to work on a new user-centered website designed to be more accessible and to better meet the information needs of court users and the public.

Ongoing education for judges and judicial justices is a key priority for the Court. In-person education conferences in 2023, including a joint conference with the other BC courts and the National Judicial Institute, enabled judicial officers to build skills, understand legislative changes, and explore emerging issues.

The 2022 Judicial Compensation Commission (JCC) process concluded in fall 2023. The Commission's recommendations for the remuneration, allowances, and benefits for judges and judicial justices were accepted by government and subsequently implemented. The JCC process is a constitutional obligation, undertaken once every four years. It supports judicial independence and an impartial judiciary to deliver fair and equitable justice to British Columbians.

The Court completed the fiscal year with a moderate surplus, recovering most of the costs to implement the 2022 JCC recommendations from the Ministry of Finance. Savings were realized from delays in staffing and judicial appointments, as well as travel savings from investments in virtual courts. Figure 29 provides an overview of the budget allocated to the Court, the actual expenses incurred, and authorized cost recoveries.



Rosland Law Courts

Original painting by Carol Reynolds

Figure 29 - Statement of Operating Expenses – Fiscal Year 2023/24

Description	Estimates Budget	Other Authorizations (12)	Total Budget	Actual Expenses	Variance	% Variance	Notes
Salaries	\$49,702,000	\$534,223	\$50,236,223	\$57,521,994	-\$7,285,771	-14.50%	(1)
Supplemental Salaries	\$50,000		\$50,000	\$354,510	-\$304,510	-609.02%	(1)
Benefits	\$12,784,000	\$135,693	\$12,919,693	\$14,902,197	-\$1,982,504	-15.34%	(1, 2)
Total Salaries and Benefits	\$62,536,000	\$669,916	\$63,205,916	\$72,778,701	-\$9,572,785	-15.15%	
Judicial Council Fees & Exp	\$36,000		\$36,000	\$23,217	\$12,783	35.51%	(3)
Judicial Justices Fees & Exp	\$3,928,000		\$3,928,000	\$4,700,024	-\$772,024	-19.65%	(3,4)
Travel	\$1,921,000		\$1,921,000	\$1,510,760	\$410,240	21.36%	(5)
Professional Services	\$303,000		\$303,000	\$314,004	-\$11,004	-3.63%	
IT/Systems	\$898,000		\$898,000	\$1,522,607	-\$624,607	-69.56%	(6)
Office Expenses	\$1,308,000		\$1,308,000	\$1,592,741	-\$284,741	-21.77%	(7)
Supplies - Judicial Attire	\$109,000		\$109,000	\$100,910	\$8,090	7.42%	
Vehicle Expenses	\$60,000		\$60,000	\$76,042	-\$16,042	-26.74%	
Amortization	\$605,000		\$605,000	\$354,407	\$250,593	41.42%	(8)
Renovations and Rent	\$275,000		\$275,000	\$240,020	\$34,980	12.72%	(9)
Transfers - CAPCJ, CCCJ	\$12,000		\$12,000	\$17,200	-\$5,200	-43.33%	(10)
Total Operating Costs	\$9,455,000		\$9,455,000	\$10,451,932	-\$996,932	-10.54%	
Recoveries - Internal	-\$1,000		-\$1,000	-\$11,129,000	\$11,128,000		(11)
Recoveries - External	-\$1,000		-\$1,000	-\$1,000			
Total Expenditures	\$71,989,000	\$669,916	\$72,658,916	\$72,101,633	\$557,283	0.77%	

Notes

(1) Increase in salaries resulting from the 2022 Judicial Compensation Commission and employee compensation adjustments. Increases are partly offset by recoveries (see note 11) and savings resulting from staffing and judicial appointment delays.

(2) Pressures due to the 2022 Judicial Compensation Commission, increased taxable benefits, and relocations for judicial appointments to the Northern, Vancouver Island, and Interior regions.

(3) The public accounts present the budget for Judicial Council fees and expenses and judicial justices' fees and expenses together as one line item. Actual expenditures for the Judicial Council are presented separately here for greater clarity.

(4) Increase in fees resulting from the 2022 Judicial Compensation Commission. Increase is partly offset by recoveries (see note 11).

(5) Travel savings resulting from court modernization and virtual assignments. Travel expenses are increasing year over year due to increasing allowances and increasing prices of flights, car rentals, and hotels.

(6) Increasing IM/IT costs due to one-time projects including website refresh, intranet upgrade, and consulting fees for judges' digital tool, in addition to unfunded operating expenses to support virtual courts (e.g. Adobe licenses for digital workflows).

(7) Increasing cost of in-person conferences and regional meetings for judges and judicial justices and one-time expenses for training and development for employees.

(8) Variance due to timing of capital asset additions.

(9) Delays in completion of facilities projects due to supply chain challenges.

(10) Transfers to the Canadian Council of Chief Judges (CCCJ) totalled \$10,000 and to the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges (CAPCJ) \$7,200. CAPCJ fees support education programs for new judges and CCCJ supports collaboration among Canadian chief judges on common issues.

(11) Recovery from Ministry of Finance for the 2022 Judicial Compensation Commission payments.

(12) Funds made available by the government for expenses that are not funded in the Court's estimates budget.

Appendix 1: Complaint Summaries

Complaints against Judges

#	Summary
1	<p>Complaint: The complaint arose from a small claims settlement conference. The complainant asserted that the judge sympathized with the opposing party and made comments that implied this sympathy was influencing the course of the mediation.</p> <p>Review: A response was sought from the judge and available audio recordings were reviewed (settlement conference proceedings are not all recorded). The judge provided a detailed response that fully answered the concerns expressed by the complainant. The judge advised that they had stated that they understood how the opposing party may feel under the circumstances, but that the opposing party should put aside those feelings to fairly assess the complainant's offer to settle.</p> <p>Against the background of the court record and in light of the judge's response, it could not be fairly concluded that the judge engaged in any actions or comments that could be considered judicial misconduct. The complainant was informed of the same and the judge was provided with a copy of the reporting letter to the complainant for their information.</p>

2 **Complaint:** The complainant asserted that the judge had a closed door meeting with Crown counsel prior to proceedings in which the complainant and Crown would both be appearing.

Review: A response was sought and received from the judge. The judge's detailed response addressed the concerns noted in the complaint. The judge confirmed that Crown asked to speak with them and described the topics they discussed, none of which were related to matters before the court. The judge indicated that they would normally have such discussion in the body of the court, but it took place in chambers instead so as to not interrupt the clerk who was on the phone with technical support. The judge did not believe that the door to chambers was closed.

The judge acknowledged how such a meeting may have appeared to outside observers and that it was an oversight on their part to neglect to explain the meeting on the record when court began. This was a helpful reminder to the judge who indicated they would be more aware in future of how individuals may perceive the comments and/or actions of a judicial officer and the need to be sensitive to any possible perceptions of pre-judging a case.

The complainant was provided with a reporting letter which relayed the judge's response. The judge was provided with a copy of the letter and directed to review relevant sections of the Canadian Judicial Council's Ethical Principles for Judges. The matter was closed on that basis.

3 **Complaint:** The complaint arose from family proceedings. The complainant asserted that the judge made an insensitive comment in response to one of their concerns.

Review: A response was sought from the judge and the audio recording was reviewed. The audio recording indicated that the judge made a comment similar to the one asserted by the complainant. The judge provided a detailed response in which they expressed regret for how they were perceived by the complainant. The judge expressed that the comment was made to explain something to the complainant and apologised for this explanation not being well presented in court. The complainant was informed of the same and a copy of the reporting letter to the complainant was provided to the judge for their information.

Complaints Against Judicial Justices

#	Summary
4	<p>Complaint: The complaint arose from hearings in traffic court. The complainant asserted that at a hearing in which the charges were withdrawn, the judicial justice made a comment alluding to the likely outcome of the case, should the matter have proceeded to a full hearing. The complainant also asserted that at the hearing of a different traffic matter, the justice made comments amounting to legal advice to an unrepresented party.</p> <p>Review: The audio recording of the hearings in question were reviewed. A response was sought and received from the justice.</p> <p>Review of the audio recording indicated that after the charges were withdrawn, the justice made a statement to the effect that they would have found a reasonable doubt in the matter based on the materials presented in court so far. Judicial officers are expected to act impartially in all matters before them. Making such a statement without having heard a full trial could have given the appearance of partiality. The justice said they will refrain from making unnecessary comments on the strength or weakness of a case in the future.</p> <p>With respect to the complainant’s assertion that the justice made comments that appeared to assist a disputant with their defence, the audio recording and the judicial justice’s response were both reviewed. Judicial officers have a duty to help unrepresented parties to ensure the proceedings respect their fundamental rights, which may include explaining the trial process, identifying material issues for a party, and/or providing information about the law and evidentiary requirements. It was apparent that the justice was fulfilling their obligations to the unrepresented party. Based on a review of the court record and the justice’s response, it could not be fairly concluded that there was judicial misconduct in this respect.</p> <p>The judicial justice was provided with a copy of the reporting letter to the complainant. On that basis, it was concluded that no further examination of the complaint was warranted.</p>

5 **Complaint:** The complaint arose from traffic proceedings. The complainant asserted that the judicial justice “bullied” them and made comments concerning the complainant’s conduct. The complainant also indicated they perceived the justice was exhibiting biased conduct and providing legal advice to a party to the proceeding.

Review: The audio recording of the proceedings was reviewed and a response was sought from the justice. The justice provided a thorough response, which spoke to the concerns presented in the complaint.

The justice denied the allegation of bias and clarified that they were trying to provide an appropriate level of assistance to a self-represented litigant to prevent that litigant from suffering an unfair disadvantage.

While it is not unusual for judges and justices to provide procedural information to self-represented parties, they must also be mindful of how individuals may perceive the comments of judicial officers and remain sensitive to conduct or comments which may lead to a perception of pre-judging a case.

The audio recording indicated that while the justice did not engage in conduct that could be characterised as “bullying”, they did exhibit their frustration with the complainant in several exchanges. This incident is a helpful reminder to the justice of the importance of maintaining a level of serenity and calm in court proceedings and of how a judicial officer’s comments may be perceived.

The above was relayed to the complainant in a reporting letter. The justice was provided with a copy of the letter and directed to review relevant sections of the Canadian Judicial Council’s Ethical Principles for Judges. The matter was closed on that basis.

Complaints Against Judicial Case Managers

#	Summary
1	<p>Complaint: The complainant asserted that the judicial case manager did not include them in communication concerning the scheduling of trial and application dates.</p> <p>Review: A response was sought and received from the judicial case manager. While their response indicated that the complainant was not included in communication around setting trial dates, the Scheduling Notices for the trial and pretrial conference dates were sent over six months in advance and the complainant could have contacted the judicial case manager to cite any issues or conflicts with the dates. Furthermore, the judicial case manager’s response indicated that a hearing was set to seek direction from the judge because the judicial case manager had not received any response from the complainant with respect to setting an application date. The judicial case manager was reminded that it is their responsibility to correspond with parties when setting dates and the matter was closed on that basis.</p>

Appendix 2: Time to Trial Definitions, Weighting, and Standards

Division Specific Time to Trial Definitions

Time to an adult criminal trial is defined as the number of months between an Arraignment Hearing/Fix Date²⁷ and the first available court date for typical trials of various lengths.

Time to trial for youth criminal trials is not broken down by trial length, but is otherwise the same. These results do not take into account the time between a first appearance in court and the Arraignment Hearing/Fix Date.

Time to a family trial is defined as the number of months between a conference and the first available court date for typical family (*FLA* and *CFCSA*) trials of various lengths. Results for time to a conference count from the fix date. The Court no longer tracks time to a Fix Date, as this event is primarily driven by factors unrelated to Court scheduling.

Time to a small claims trial is defined as the number of months between a settlement conference and the first available court date for typical small claims trials of various lengths. These results do not take into account the time between the filing of a reply and the settlement conference. Results for settlement conferences count from the date of the reply.

Weighted Time to Trial Calculations

Time to trial information is collected at the location level. It is then weighted using each location's caseload. This is done at both the regional and the provincial level. For example, if a location has 50% of its region's caseload and 11% of the provincial caseload in a given division, their results are multiplied by 0.5 during the calculation of the regional weighted time to trial, and by 0.11 when calculating provincial weighted time to trial.

Standards

The current standards came into effect on June 30, 2016 and were developed based on changes to the estimated trial length categories.

The Court now collects information on three different lengths of trial - less than two days, two to four days, and five or more days - in addition to Summary Proceedings Court²⁸ matters and conferences. The precise information collected varies based on division (e.g. no conference information is collected for criminal matters). Time to trial data is collected by surveying judicial case managers, who report when events of various types can typically be scheduled.

27. Sometimes lawyers set a trial date at the conclusion of the arraignment hearing. Alternatively, they will set a "Fix Date" appearance and set a trial date at that time.

28. In seven of the Court's busiest locations, Summary Proceedings courts conduct trials, hearings, or dispositions set for less than half a day.

Figure 30 - Time to Trial Measures and Standards

Jurisdiction	Measures and Standards	
	Measure	OCJ Standard
Small Claims	Settlement Conference	2 months
	Summary Proceedings Court (SPC)	4 months
	<2 Day Trial (non-Assignment Court locations)	5 months
	2-4 Day Trial	6 months
	5 Days or More Trial	8 months
Family (CFCSA)	Family Case Conference (FCC)	2 months
	SPC	2 months
	<2 Day Trial (non-Assignment Court locations)	3 months
	2-4 Day Trial	4 months
	5 Days or More Trial	6 months
Family (FLA)	Family Management Conference (FMC)	1 month
	Family Settlement Conference (FSC)	2 months
	SPC	3 months
	<2 Day Trial (non-Assignment Court locations)	4 months
	2-4 Day Trial	5 months
Criminal	5 Days or More Trial	6 months
	SPC	4 months
	<2 Day Trial (non-Assignment Court locations)	6 months
	2-4 Day Trial	7 months
	Youth Trial	4 months



Cranbrook Law Courts
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