

# Justice



## Annual Report 2006-2007

Alberta

**Alberta Justice Communications**

3rd floor, Bowker Building  
9833 - 109 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2E8

Tel: 780.427.8530

Fax: 780.422.7363

**website:**

[www.justice.gov.ab.ca/home/](http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca/home/)

**Alberta Connects:**

[www.albertaconnects.gov.ab.ca](http://www.albertaconnects.gov.ab.ca)

For toll-free access to Alberta government offices, dial 310.0000 and then enter the ten-digit number or press 0 and hold for operator assistance.

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# Preface

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Government Accountability Act*. The Public Accounts consist of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of each of the 20 ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta, released June 21, 2007, contains the Minister of Finance's accountability statement and the consolidated financial statements of the province. The *Measuring Up* report, released June 28, 2007, provides a comparison of the actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's business plan.

**This annual report of the Ministry of Justice contains the minister's accountability statement, the audited consolidated financial statements of the ministry and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the ministry business plan. The ministry annual report also includes other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Government Accountability Act*, either as separate reports or as part of the financial statements, to the extent that the ministry has anything to report.**



# Minister's Accountability Statement

The ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2007, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Government Accountability Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as at August 24, 2007 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

Ron Stevens, QC  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General



# Vision and Mission

## Vision

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A fair and safe society supported by a trusted justice system.

## Mission

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To protect the rights of all individuals in Alberta and advance the interests of society by fostering:

- Safe communities
- Access to justice
- Respect for the law
- Understanding of and confidence in the justice system
- The legal foundation for social cohesion and economic prosperity



## Message from the Minister

Alberta Justice's central objective of providing safe and secure communities was strengthened this year by the Government of Alberta's decision to make this one of its five strategic priorities.

In keeping with that, our new Premier, the Honourable Ed Stelmach, asked Alberta Justice to lead a task force aimed at reducing crime, providing Albertans with safe communities and establishing increased confidence in the justice system. Additionally, we were asked to support the federal government's planned changes to the *Criminal Code*. These changes – which include establishing mandatory minimum sentences and limiting the use of conditional sentencing for serious crimes, establishing harsher sentencing for impaired driving and raising the age of sexual consent from 14 to 16 – are aimed at keeping Canadians safe.

Efforts by 13 government ministries – led by Alberta Justice – to develop a comprehensive crime reduction strategy, allowed the groundwork to be laid for the task force's work. Research done for the crime reduction strategy assisted the task force in its 14-community consultation in April and May. Albertans shared concerns and brought forward community-driven approaches to reducing the root causes of crime. The response from Albertans has been positive. In June, Albertans from around the province met at a symposium in Calgary to learn what was heard during that consultation. Strategies and techniques that have been successful in helping to build safer communities were shared and discussed. The result will be a final report and recommendations for government in the fall.

Alberta has long been a leader in pressing the federal government for needed changes to the *Criminal Code*. As such, the legislative changes brought forward by the federal government in 2006 fit well with Albertans' desire to see those who commit serious offences receive serious time.

Albertans had an opportunity to make their own communities a little safer in October by turning over guns and other unwanted weapons to police departments during a province-wide gun amnesty. All municipal and First Nations police services and the RCMP were involved in the program, supported by Alberta Justice and Attorney General and Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security. The program gave residents the opportunity to safely turn unwanted firearms over to police without facing charges for possessing unregistered and unlicensed weapons. The response from Albertans was very positive and it was encouraging to see 2,536 guns and 243 other unwanted weapons turned in.

We had several other successes within the province as well in 2006-07. Perimeter security and videoconferencing are in place in Alberta's courthouses, helping to ensure the safety of the staff and the public who access the courts. As well, positions for Provincial Court judges, Crown prosecutors and front-line support staff were added to better allow the courts to function and serve Albertans well. I recognize that despite these increases, there is still considerable pressure on the courts due to Alberta's tremendous growth. As such, Alberta Justice will continue to evaluate and ensure that appropriate staffing levels exist. In response to another area of concern for Albertans, new family violence courts opened in Airdrie and Grande Prairie. This brings the total number of these specialized courts to eight. These courts allow us to ensure families have quicker access to justice, and more targeted services and counselling



exist for both the victims and the accused. Early first appearances give courts a chance to deal with family violence offences quickly and get offenders and victims the services they need sooner. Early intervention is one of the key factors in reducing repeat offences in these cases.

It has been a positive year for Alberta Justice and its partners within the justice system. I look forward to continuing to find new opportunities to make Albertans safer.

Ron Stevens, QC  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General



# Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General includes:

The executives of the individual entities within the ministry have the primary responsibility and accountability for the respective entities. Collectively, the executives ensure the ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and business plans, annual report, quarterly reports and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the consolidated financial statements and performance results for the ministry rests with the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. Under the direction of the minister, I oversee the preparation of the ministry's annual report, including consolidated financial statements and performance results. The consolidated financial statements and the performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with the government's stated accounting policies.

As deputy minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I establish and maintain the ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control which give consideration to costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money,
- provide information to manage and report on performance,
- safeguard the assets and properties of the province under ministry administration,
- provide to Executive Council, Treasury Board, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General any information needed to fulfill their responsibilities, and
- facilitate preparation of ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Government Accountability Act*.

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executive of the individual entities within the ministry.

Terrence J. Matchett, QC  
Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice  
August 24 , 2007



# Overview

## Ministry Entities

### Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Alberta Review Board  
Fatality Review Board  
Judicial Council  
Notaries Public Review Committee  
Provincial Court Nominating Committee  
Rules of Court Committee

### Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General

Aboriginal Justice Initiatives Unit

Communications

Corporate Services

- Planning and Reporting Services
- Financial Services
- Information Services
- Claims and Recoveries

Court Services

- Calgary Operations
- Edmonton Operations
- Regional Operations
- Program Support

Criminal Justice

- Appeals
- General Prosecutions
- Management and Leadership Services
- Special Prosecutions

Human Resource Services

Legal Services

- Civil Law
- Legislative Counsel
- Medical Examiner
- Public Trustee

Maintenance Enforcement

- Client Services
- Collections
- Program Support
- Policy and Legislation

Policy Secretariat



## Ministry Entities, continued

### Boards, Agencies and Committees

#### Alberta Review Board

The Alberta Review Board makes or reviews dispositions concerning any accused person for whom a verdict of “not criminally responsible because of mental disorder” or “unfit to stand trial” is rendered, according to the provisions of the *Criminal Code of Canada*. The board also has the responsibility for determining whether a person should be subject to a detention order, a conditional discharge, or be granted an absolute discharge. The Lieutenant Governor in Council appoints the board’s nine members.

#### **The Honourable Judge Michael Stevens-Guille – Chair**

Telephone: (780) 422 5994

Fax: (780) 427 1762

#### Fatality Review Board

The Fatality Review Board is responsible for reviewing certain deaths investigated by the Medical Examiner’s Office and recommending to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General whether a public fatality inquiry should be held. The board is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and is composed of a lawyer, a physician and a layperson. The Chief Medical Examiner is also a member of the board, but cannot vote on any matter before it. Cases reviewed by the board generally include accidental deaths (where recommendations could be made at a public fatality inquiry for the prevention of similar deaths in the future); cases where the cause and manner of death remain undetermined after a complete investigation; and deaths of individuals who are in police custody, in prison, certified under the *Mental Health Act*, or under the guardianship of Child Welfare or in the director’s custody.

#### **Margaret Mrazek, QC – Chair**

Telephone: (403) 297 8123

Fax: (403) 297 3429

#### The Judicial Council

The Judicial Council screens individuals to determine if they are qualified for appointment to the Provincial Court of Alberta. The council is granted jurisdiction to deal with complaints against masters, Provincial Court judges and justices of the peace. The chair of the council is the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta. The Minister of Justice appoints two members of this council. The remaining four members are designated under the *Judicature Act*.

#### **The Honourable A. Gail Vickery – Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta**

Telephone: (780) 427 6330

Fax: (780) 427 2077



## Notaries Public Review Committee

The Notaries Public Review Committee advises the Minister of Justice on appointments of lay notaries public. The committee consists of a member of the Law Society of Alberta, a member of the business community and a member of the ministry, who is the secretary. All are appointed by ministerial order under the *Government Organization Act*. The committee reviews applications for appointment and then provides recommendations to the Minister of Justice.

### Salvatore (Sam) Amelio – Chair

Telephone: (780) 427 5069

Fax: (780) 427 6821

## Provincial Court Nominating Committee

The Provincial Court Nominating Committee provides recommendations to the Minister of Justice on the appointment of individuals to the Provincial Court of Alberta. The Minister of Justice appoints the committee members.

### Administration Office

Telephone: (780) 422 9625

Fax: (780) 422 6613

## Rules of Court Committee

The Rules of Court Committee makes recommendations to the Minister of Justice on the amendments to the Rules of Court made under the *Court of Appeal Act*, the *Court of Queen's Bench Act* or any other act. The committee consists of six members: the Chief Justice of Alberta or designate, the Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench or designate, the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta or designate, two members appointed by the Minister of Justice on recommendation of the Law Society of Alberta, and one member appointed by the Minister of Justice.

### The Honourable Mr. Justice John D. Rooke – Chair

R. Maybank, QC – Secretary

Telephone: (780) 427 4992

Fax: (780) 422 6613

## Ministry Entities, continued

### Department of Justice

#### Aboriginal Justice Initiatives Unit

The Aboriginal Justice Initiatives Unit (AJIU) provides support and strategic advice on Aboriginal justice issues to the deputy ministers and executive committees of Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security.

AJIU works collaboratively with other ministries, agencies and communities on the development of community-based and provincial strategies that promote safety and security in Aboriginal communities and respect for the law.

#### **Bronwyn Shoush – Director**

Telephone: (780) 422 2779

Fax: (780) 427 4670

e-mail: [bronwyn.shoush@gov.ab.ca](mailto:bronwyn.shoush@gov.ab.ca)

#### Communications

Communications provides strategic communications advice to the minister, deputy minister, department executive management and staff. Communications staff also work to inform Albertans about the justice system as well as department goals, initiatives and achievements. This includes providing Albertans timely, accurate and useful information about publicly available justice system services and resources. The branch also helps provide internal communications services to department staff on Alberta Justice policies, programs, initiatives, issues and other staff matters.

#### **Mark Cooper – Director**

Telephone: (780) 427 8530

Fax: (780) 422 7363

e-mail: [mark.b.cooper@gov.ab.ca](mailto:mark.b.cooper@gov.ab.ca)



## Corporate Services Division

In partnership with the ministry's program delivery divisions, Corporate Services Division provides strategic information, tools and processes to achieve the department's goals and enhance its effectiveness. The division provides leadership in the delivery of professional services and strategic advice on matters related to cross-government initiatives, business planning and performance measurement, financial management, financial planning, accounting and reporting, information technology management, official documents management, Internet services, *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* administration, contract management, enterprise risk management, business continuity planning, and capital planning.

In addition to providing strategic leadership to the ministry, the division also manages the following programs:

- **The Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Program** protects victims of motor vehicle accidents where the at-fault party was uninsured or unknown by ensuring they have recourse to claim for their personal injuries. The program also provides medical benefits to victims of motor vehicle accidents where there is no medical insurance in place or where the medical insurance has been exhausted.
- **The Abandoned and Seized Vehicle Program** reimburses towing and storage companies for their services and collects the subsequent debts from the vehicle owners.
- **The Fines Enforcement Program** collects overdue *Criminal Code of Canada* and *Traffic Safety Act* fines.

### **Bruce Perry – Assistant Deputy Minister**

Telephone: (780) 427 3301

Fax: (780) 422 9639

e-mail: [bruce.m.perry@gov.ab.ca](mailto:bruce.m.perry@gov.ab.ca)

## Ministry Entities, continued

### Court Services Division

Court Services Division provides Albertans access to the province's three courts: the Court of Appeal of Alberta (in two locations), the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta (in 13 locations) and the Provincial Court of Alberta (in 74 locations). In addition to providing access to the courts, Court Services Division facilitates access to other dispute resolution processes and to justices of the peace.

The three courts maintain records and accept a wide variety of documents for filing from the public, lawyers, law enforcement agencies and other government departments. Employees record all court proceedings, swear in or affirm witnesses and interpreters, mark and ensure the safekeeping of exhibits, process fines and other payments into court, perform searches, and provide general assistance to lawyers and the public.

Court Services Division develops strategies to provide Albertans with access to a broad range of justice services including specialized courts, mediation and other appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms. In addition, the division develops and implements policies, programs, legislative, and regulatory initiatives focusing on family law, Rules of Court, Aboriginal initiatives and new court programs.

Court Services Division also manages the civil enforcement program and operates law libraries to provide legal information to judges, Crown prosecutors, other lawyers and the public.

#### **Barb Hookenson – Assistant Deputy Minister**

Telephone: (780) 427 9620

Fax: (780) 422 9639

e-mail: [barb.hookenson@gov.ab.ca](mailto:barb.hookenson@gov.ab.ca)



## Criminal Justice Division

Criminal Justice Division prosecutes all offences under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and the provincial statutes in all the courts of the province and the Supreme Court of Canada. This work includes, but is not limited to, prosecuting homicide, assault (sexual, aggravated), impaired driving, break and enter, theft and fraud, speeding and other driving offences, but excludes adult drug offences. Criminal Justice Division works with justice system stakeholders and the community to promote safe communities and implement alternative approaches to the administration of justice.

The division is divided into four branches.

- **General Prosecutions** is responsible for the prosecution of all *Criminal Code*, *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and provincial statute offences in Alberta, with the exception of appeals to the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, and special prosecutions. This includes working with justice system stakeholders and the community to promote safe communities and implement alternative approaches to the administration of justice.
- **Appeals** conducts criminal appeals in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada; addresses complaints of wrongful convictions or miscarriages of justice; provides criminal law and policy advice to the minister, the deputy minister and the assistant deputy minister; and provides criminal law advice, education and training to prosecution staff.
- **Special Prosecutions** provides specialized prosecution services throughout Alberta in areas such as commercial crime, mutual international legal assistance, organized crime, technology, Internet crime and managing the prosecution of mega-cases.
- **Management and Leadership Services** provides a wide range of services to the minister, deputy minister, assistant deputy minister and division managers, related to the development of policy and legislation, strategic and business planning, performance measurements, project management, staff development and business operations. This branch supports and participates in criminal law consultations within the province and in federal/provincial/territorial forums.

### Greg Lepp, QC – Assistant Deputy Minister

Telephone: (780) 427 5046

Fax: (780) 422 9639

e-mail: [greg.lepp@gov.ab.ca](mailto:greg.lepp@gov.ab.ca)

## Ministry Entities, continued

### Human Resource Services

Human Resource Services provides strategic direction and consultation to assist the department in the achievement of cross-government and corporate human resource plan goals and strategies.

Guided by the three-year Alberta public service workforce plan (with a focus on attracting, developing and engaging employees), the division provides advisory services and support in the areas of staffing, employee/labour relations, workforce planning, organizational design and change, as well as job evaluation.

Working in partnership with divisions, Human Resource Services develops and enhances programs including employee orientation, performance management, succession management, rewards and recognition, learning and development, Ambassador Program, Mentoring Program, health and wellness and occupational health and safety.

#### **Virginia Van Horn – Executive Director**

Telephone: (780) 427 9617

Fax: (780) 422 9639

e-mail: [virginia.vanhorn@gov.ab.ca](mailto:virginia.vanhorn@gov.ab.ca)

## Legal Services Division

Legal Services Division is responsible for civil legal services to government, estate administration services to vulnerable Albertans and investigations under the *Fatality Inquiries Act*.

The division is divided into a number of smaller entities.

- **Civil Law** provides legal and related strategic services to all government ministries and represents them in matters before the courts and tribunals. Its Constitutional and Aboriginal Law Branch provides specialized advice to the government concerning constitutional and Aboriginal matters. The Legislative Reform Branch provides advice on legislative policy.
- **Legislative Counsel Office** is responsible for drafting government bills, regulations and Orders in Council. This office also works with the Queen's Printer to make the laws of Alberta available to the public.
- **The Medical Examiner's Office** investigates all unexplained natural deaths and all unnatural deaths in Alberta under the authority of the *Fatality Inquiries Act*. The Medical Examiner's findings are used to assist in resolving civil and criminal law matters that often arise after a death. The Fatality Review Board reviews cases investigated by the Medical Examiner's Office and recommends to the Minister of Justice in which cases a public fatality inquiry should be held. These inquiries are held before a Provincial Court judge.
- **The Public Trustee**, acting under the *Public Trustee Act*, protects the financial interests of vulnerable Albertans by administering the estates of dependent adults, decedents and minors.

### **Peggy Hartman, QC – Assistant Deputy Minister**

Telephone: (780) 427 0912

Fax: (780) 422 9639

e-mail: [peggy.hartman@gov.ab.ca](mailto:peggy.hartman@gov.ab.ca)

### **Peter Pagano, QC – Chief Legislative Counsel**

Telephone: (780) 427 0303

Fax: (780) 422 7366

e-mail: [peter.pagano@gov.ab.ca](mailto:peter.pagano@gov.ab.ca)

### **Graeme Dowling, MD – Chief Medical Examiner**

Telephone: (780) 427 4987

Fax: (780) 422 1265

e-mail: [graeme.dowling@gov.ab.ca](mailto:graeme.dowling@gov.ab.ca)

### **Cindy Bentz – Public Trustee**

Telephone: (780) 422 3141

Fax: (780) 422 9136

e-mail: [cindy.bentz@gov.ab.ca](mailto:cindy.bentz@gov.ab.ca)

## Ministry Entities, continued

### Maintenance Enforcement Program

The Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) ensures that individuals meet their obligations to pay spousal and child support under the terms of their court orders and certain agreements. Once an order or agreement has been registered with MEP, maintenance payments that the debtor (payor) would normally remit directly to the creditor (recipient) are sent to MEP. MEP then forwards the payment to the creditor once the funds have cleared through a trust account.

In cases of default, or non-payment by the debtor, MEP has the legislative authority to take steps to enforce the support owed. These enforcement tools include registrations at Land Titles and Personal Property Registries; wage, non-wage and federal support deduction notices; federal licence (passport) denials; motor vehicle registry restrictions and driver's licence cancellations; restriction of hunting and fishing licences; registration at the credit bureau and compelling attendance at financial examinations and default court hearings. MEP also has access to a variety of databases to assist in locating a debtor or a debtor's assets or income. The program also uses deterrent penalties to promote the timely payment of maintenance and efficient use of MEP services by all clients.

There are approximately 100,000 creditors and debtors and over 64,000 children registered with MEP.

#### **Manuel da Costa – Executive Director**

Telephone: (780) 401 7500

Fax: (780) 401 7515

e-mail: [manuel.dacosta@gov.ab.ca](mailto:manuel.dacosta@gov.ab.ca)

### Policy Secretariat

The Policy Secretariat provides support to the ministry by providing strategic planning; research; and policy coordination, development, and advice. Additionally, the unit assists the ministry in enhancing public understanding and confidence in the justice system. To do this, it works with groups that provide public legal information and with the education system to develop resource materials about the justice system for schools. It collaborates with the executive, program managers and outside stakeholders to identify fundamental justice principles. Programs supporting the administration of justice, and consistent courses of action that will best serve the public interest, are based on these principles.

The unit is jointly managed by the ministry's Executive Management Committee.

#### **Kurt Sandstrom – Executive Director**

Telephone: (780) 427 0842

Fax: (780) 422 9639

e-mail: [kurt.sandstrom@gov.ab.ca](mailto:kurt.sandstrom@gov.ab.ca)



## Operational Overview

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### Core Business Functions

Alberta Justice had four core business functions in 2006-07.

#### Prosecutions

The Criminal Justice Division prosecutes persons charged with *Criminal Code*, *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and provincial statute offences. The division promotes safe communities by vigorously prosecuting cases involving serious and violent crime and working with individuals and organizations in the community to identify and implement improved and alternative approaches to the administration of criminal justice. In addition, the division develops criminal law policy for the province and supports criminal law consultation with other levels of government.

#### Courts

Alberta courts are presided over by an independent judiciary. There are three courts in the province: the Court of Appeal, the Court of Queen's Bench and the Provincial Court. Court Services Division provides administrative support to the courts. Court Services Division also provides policy advice and assistance to the minister and the ministry in relation to court issues. Stakeholders of Court Services Division include the public, the legal profession, law enforcement services, correctional authorities, and various service providers.

#### Justice Services to Albertans

The ministry promotes fair and equitable access to the civil and criminal justice system by providing a broad range of justice services through the courts, prosecution, and appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms. Access to justice also means addressing barriers to access the justice system by providing legal representation for Albertans who are in need of assistance and by providing Albertans with accurate and up-to-date information to help them increase their awareness and knowledge about the justice system. In addition, services such as maintenance enforcement, estate and trust administration services, and legal aid contribute to the preservation of a safe society for Albertans.

#### Legal and Strategic Services to Government

Civil Law provides legal services to all government ministries and represents them in matters before the courts and tribunals. Constitutional and Aboriginal Law Branch provides specialized services to the government in constitutional and Aboriginal law matters. The Legislative Counsel Office is responsible for drafting government and public bills, regulations and Orders in Council.

## Operational Overview, continued

### Key Factors Influencing Performance

Recognizing trends, identifying new challenges, and being aware of changes in diverse socio-economic sectors are an important part of setting Alberta Justice's strategic priorities and addressing justice concerns for Albertans. A number of these opportunities and challenges are complex and involve other stakeholders and jurisdictions. The following factors influence the ministry in developing goals and strategies.

- Gang violence, including related property and drug offences, is a serious concern across Canada. Gang activity may not always meet the legal definition of organized crime, but emerging groups often operate across provinces, and coordinate multiple criminal enterprises. Alberta Justice's specialized prosecution teams are addressing the need for distinctive treatment of serious and/or violent crime, including organized crime.
- Sexual exploitation of children continues to pose a threat to families and communities in Canada. While child pornography itself is not new, the Internet offers a new global medium for trafficking in this material, increasing its devastating effects on children and youth. Alberta Justice is involved in a prosecution initiative focused on eradicating child sexual exploitation.
- Identity theft is an insidious, growing crime in the province. It is easier than ever to create a completely false identity, assume the identity of a deceased person, or use someone else's personal information to commit criminal offences. While not overtly violent, identity theft profoundly damages victims' lives and chills Alberta's economic climate.
- Aboriginal Albertans are over-represented at all stages of the criminal justice system, both as victims and offenders. This disproportionate presence continues to be an important issue for the ministry.
- Alberta faces significant rates of family violence and its related social effects. The physical, mental, emotional, and financial impact of family violence is felt by those directly involved, witnesses, the community, and society as a whole. Alberta Justice is involved in initiatives to address family violence and high-conflict families, and to provide a wide range of family justice services around the province.
- Traffic injuries and deaths in Alberta often devastate individual lives and families. They also place a serious burden on healthcare services, policing services, economic productivity, the courts, and transportation infrastructure. Alberta Justice is working with traffic safety partners to improve road safety (through prevention, education, and enforcement) and effectively prosecute impaired driving cases.
- More than ever, citizens are becoming involved in government decision-making processes and in developing public information and services. Public education about the legal system is an important part of making this involvement effective. Alberta Justice maintains ongoing consultations about justice issues with the Justice Policy Advisory Committee, and about public legal education with Alberta Education and non-governmental law organizations.
- Access to justice services is a high priority for Albertans: they want to resolve conflicts quickly, simply, close to home, and at a reasonable cost. As well, there is a demand for services for self-represented litigants, alternative dispute resolution methods, and access to services in remote locations. Alberta Justice is implementing numerous initiatives to address these needs.



## Highlights – Performance at a Glance

Goal	Measure	Target	Result
<b>Core Business One - Prosecutions</b>			
Promote safe communities in Alberta	Public perception of safety in the home (p. 27)	91 %	93 %
	Public perception of safety in the neighbourhood (p. 28)	82 %	75 %
<b>Core Business Two - Courts</b>			
Promote a fair and accessible civil and criminal justice system	Median elapsed time from first to last appearance (p. 33)	109 days (Below the Canadian median)	73 days (The latest data available is for 2003-04)
	Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate (p. 34)	63 %	63 %
<b>Core Business Three - Justice Services to Albertans</b>			
Provide access to justice services for Albertans in need	Client satisfaction with the services of the Public Trustee's Office (p. 36)	87 %	92 %
	Maintenance Enforcement Program: Dollars due compared to dollars received (per cent collected) (p. 38)	86 %	94 %
	Client satisfaction with legal aid service (p. 39)	80 %	77 %
Improve knowledge of and confidence in the justice system	Public knowledge of the justice system (p. 43)	65 %	66 %
	Public confidence in the justice system (p. 44)	80 %	73 %
<b>Core Business Four - Legal and Strategic Services to Government</b>			
Assist government ministries to achieve their objectives through provision of effective legal and related strategic services	Client satisfaction with legal services (p. 47)	87 %	90 %
	Client satisfaction with assistance in meeting corporate goals (p. 48)	83 %	87 %

# Overview

## Summary of Key Activities

In 2006-07, Alberta Justice continued to focus on ensuring the justice system is efficient, effective, and responsive to the needs of Albertans. The ministry worked to address seven strategic priorities. The following summary highlights some of the ministry's key activities.

### Strategic Priority One – Stakeholder/Partner Engagement

- Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security continued to co-chair the Justice Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC), composed of 29 government and non-government stakeholder representatives. Priorities identified for JPAC in 2006-07 were public confidence, access to justice, and collaborative planning. To further these priorities, working teams within the committee collaborated to identify and address gaps in the following areas:
  - research about access to justice and public confidence,
  - public legal education for adults and children,
  - justice-related volunteer opportunities,
  - media influence on public confidence in the justice system, and
  - leaders' awareness and understanding of justice issues.
- The ministry continued its partnership with Alberta Education to develop resources for Alberta schools, including curriculum components.
- Alberta Justice and the Legal Studies Program at the University of Alberta began expanding "A-Link," Alberta's online directory of public legal education and information organizations in Alberta.

### Strategic Priority Two – Traffic Safety

- The Alberta Traffic Safety Plan was released November 3, 2006, providing new strategies, including legislation and increased enforcement, to reduce the number of injuries and deaths on Alberta's roads.
- Alberta Justice supported federal legislation to get tough on impaired drivers, and is pursuing a dangerous offender designation in one Alberta case. As well, a subcommittee of police and Crown prosecutors is developing an impaired driving training curriculum to help them more effectively handle impaired driving cases.
- Alberta Justice commenced a pilot project to increase the effectiveness of traffic fines enforcement by taking proactive enforcement actions against offenders who fail to pay their fines. The pilot, which took place in Edmonton, was such a success that it will be rolled out to all jurisdictions in the province.

### Strategic Priority Three – Family Violence and Protection of Children

- Alberta Justice, partnering ministries, and police services successfully implemented the Alberta Relationship Threat Assessment and Management Initiative (ARTAMI), headquartered in Edmonton, and with representatives in Calgary, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat. To ensure coordination between ARTAMI and Family Justice Services (FJS), a presentation about ARTAMI was made to FJS management, and a draft copy of the ARTAMI business case was provided to them for comment.



## Strategic Priority Four – Dispute Resolution

- This year, the Provincial Court Civil Claims Mediation program was successfully expanded and the Court of Queen's Bench civil mediation pilot program was implemented. As well, development has begun on an instructional video about alternative dispute resolution to help participants and counsel understand the process.
- Services for high-conflict families in Alberta were favourably evaluated as having reduced conflict, saved court time and costs, and facilitated settlements.

## Strategic Priority Five – Family Justice

- Alberta Justice has worked to streamline and standardize Family Justice Services across the province. Family Justice Services and Family Law Information Centres have begun to merge into a single organization to provide a single point of contact for clients. As well, court counselor and mediation services have been expanded to cover more locations throughout the province.

## Strategic Priority Six – Legal Aid Service Delivery

- Funding for Legal Aid Alberta was increased this year, in an effort to meet increasing demands for legal aid services.
- Alberta Justice had some very preliminary discussions with Legal Aid Alberta concerning the feasibility of an adult criminal staff counsel pilot project. Further discussions in this regard will depend in part on the outcome of a needs assessment that Legal Aid Alberta is conducting in 2007.

## Strategic Priority Seven – Aboriginal Self-Sufficiency

- Alberta Justice advised the federal government on developing a regulatory framework for economic activities on reserves, and the federal cabinet approved a framework guiding self-government negotiations with Aboriginal groups.
- Alberta Justice negotiated with the Blood Tribe about its self-governance agreement, and prepared to enter into exploratory discussions with Treaty 8 First Nations regarding self-governance.

# Results Analysis

## Message from the Deputy Minister

This annual report describes our achievements in fulfilling the goals and strategic priorities set out in the 2006-09 ministry business plan. Alberta Justice supported the Government of Alberta's goal to make Alberta a fair and safe place to work, live, and raise families. We contribute to this goal by supporting a justice system that promotes law and order, protects individuals, secures justice for victims, and holds offenders accountable.

The 2006-07 annual report shows our overall achievements and specific results related to each of our performance measures. We set challenging targets for our performance in client satisfaction, public knowledge of the justice system, and program effectiveness.

More than ever before, we have worked in partnership with our stakeholders to achieve our goals. This report describes the results of that cooperation with other government ministries, the judiciary, Aboriginal communities, the legal community, non-governmental organizations, and local government. The dedication of our partners was essential to our successes in 2006-07.

Alberta Justice made significant strides this year in developing a more responsive justice system for Albertans through improved public information services; enhanced responses to family violence, to victims, and to families facing disputes; and improved technological support for justice administration. Law Information Centres (LInC) were instituted in Edmonton and Red Deer; an integrated threat assessment team for high risk family violence and stalking cases was implemented across the province; a victims of crime protocol was developed, outlining how the justice system can appropriately respond to and support victims of crime; and Family Justice Services began to consolidate into a one-window service for Albertans. As well, electronic systems were put in place to improve traffic ticket and fine payment processing.

In 2006-07, the ministry strongly encouraged the federal government to take a tougher stance against violent criminals, impaired drivers, and the sexual exploitation of children. The House of Commons passed bills to limit some conditional sentencing, create new firearm and impaired driving offences, to improve the sharing of DNA information, and to raise the age of consent for sexual activity.

The ministry worked to support Albertans' self-reliance and to provide support for Albertans in need. Public information about the Maintenance Enforcement Program was enhanced to improve public awareness that children need love, attention, and financial support from both their parents. As well, the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) Benefits Administration Program was expanded to ensure that recipients have support to manage their resources.

In this past year, Alberta Justice's management team and staff have shown their dedication to the ministry's goals and to the service of Albertans. I sincerely thank them for their excellent work across this province in 2006-07.

Terrence J. Matchett, QC  
Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice





# Report of the Auditor General on the Results of Applying Specified Auditing Procedures to Key Performance Measures

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

Management is responsible for the integrity and objectivity of the performance results included in the *Ministry of Justice's 2006-07 Annual Report*. My responsibility is to carry out the following specified auditing procedures on key performance measures in the annual report. I verified:

### Completeness

Key performance measures and targets matched those included in Budget 2006. Actual results are presented for all key performance measures.

### Reliability

Information in reports from external organizations, such as Statistics Canada, matched information that the Ministry used to calculate the actual results.

Information in reports that originated in the Ministry matched information that the Ministry used to calculate the actual results. In addition, I tested the processes the Ministry used to compile the results.

### Comparability and Understandability

Actual results are presented clearly and consistently with the stated methodology and are presented on the same basis as targets and prior years' information.

I found no exceptions when I performed these procedures.

As my examination was limited to these procedures, I do not express an opinion on whether the set of measures is relevant and sufficient to assess the performance of the Ministry in achieving its goals.

Edmonton, Alberta  
July 4, 2007

FCA  
Auditor General



## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures

### Core Business One: Prosecutions

#### Goal One – Promote safe communities in Alberta

Through public consultations, Albertans have indicated that it is a high priority for them to have safe communities in which they can live, work, and raise their families. Crimes that threaten our communities are becoming more sophisticated, and the criminal justice system must be ready to investigate and prosecute these emerging crimes.

The following section highlights the ministry's accomplishments related to the strategies identified under goal one in the 2006-09 business plan.

#### Strategy 1.1 – Reform criminal law

Advance Alberta's positions to the federal government and garner support from other provincial/territorial governments to reform criminal law, including matters relating to long term and dangerous offenders, peace bonds, bail provisions, and mandatory minimum sentences for serious drug offenders and offences involving firearms.

- Alberta Justice met with federal, provincial, and territorial ministers and deputy ministers of justice to advance Alberta's positions on criminal law. The following amendments to federal criminal legislation have been passed by the House of Commons or are in progress through the House as of March 31, 2007:
  - Bill C-9 prohibits conditional sentencing for a person convicted of a serious personal injury offence, a terrorism offence, or a criminal organization offence.
  - Bill C-10 introduces two new firearm offences to the *Criminal Code*, one for breaking and entering to steal a firearm and the other for robbery to steal a firearm.
  - Bill C-18 makes DNA orders easier to order and enforce, and provides greater flexibility in when the collection of bodily substances may take place.
  - Bill C-22 raises the age of consent for sexual activity from 14 to 16.

#### Strategy 1.2 – Improve road safety

Work with traffic safety partners to improve road safety in Alberta and enhance the effectiveness of investigating and prosecuting impaired driving cases.

- Alberta's Traffic Safety Plan was released November 3, 2006, outlining initiatives to help prevent collisions, build safer roads, enforce traffic laws, and inform Albertans about traffic safety.
- A subcommittee is developing an impaired driving training curriculum to help Alberta's police and Crown prosecutors handle impaired driving cases more effectively.
- Alberta Justice supported an amendment to the *Criminal Code of Canada* (Bill C-32) creating a new offence, "driving while in possession of a drug," and clarifying definitions in the legislation.



- Alberta Justice made an application to the court for a designation of “dangerous offender” in a serious impaired driving case.
- The Fines Enforcement Program of Alberta Justice commenced a pilot project to actively enforce payment of overdue traffic fines. The pilot, which was conducted in Edmonton, saw close to 60,000 overdue tickets registered with the program, resulting in the collection of \$1.3 million in the first six months. The initiative will be rolled out to all judicial districts in Alberta as a means of improving driver behaviour.

### **Strategy 1.3 – Enhance prosecutions**

Enhance the capacity of the prosecution service to align with increasing police resources to prosecute serious and violent crime to the fullest extent, including, but not limited to, the sexual exploitation of children, organized and economic crime, local gang violence, identity theft, and crimes related to and arising from crystal methamphetamine and other drug abuse.

- Prosecutor and support staff positions approved in the 2006 budget have been filled, adding specialized prosecutors to the Integrated Child Exploitation (ICE) initiative, the Integrated Market Enforcement Team (IMET), and the Integrated Response to Organized Crime (IROC) initiative.

### **Strategy 1.4 – Reduce family violence-related injuries and deaths**

Work with partnering ministries, police services, and community partners to advance the Alberta Relationship Threat Assessment and Management Initiative (ARTAMI) to reduce family violence-related injuries and deaths.

- Alberta Justice worked with Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security, Alberta Children’s Services, the RCMP, Edmonton Police Service, Medicine Hat Police Service, Lethbridge Regional Police Service, and Calgary Police Service to successfully implement ARTAMI in 2006-07. ARTAMI employees report to the Edmonton office except for three police officers who work from their municipal offices in Calgary, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat. A steering committee has been established, composed of representatives from five police services and Alberta Justice. ARTAMI reports to the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) Board of Directors.

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

### **Strategy 1.5 – Improve the criminal justice system response to sexual assault**

Work with ministry and community partners to identify gaps in services and explore best practices to develop strategies that will improve the criminal justice system's response to sexual assault.

- A Chief Crown subcommittee was established, including representatives from the Provincial Sexual Assault Association, Management and Leadership Services Branch (Criminal Justice Division, Alberta Justice), and Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security. The subcommittee provided a final report and recommendations to the deputy minister for review. Recommendations relate to the following areas:
  - promoting sexual assault education, awareness, and prevention,
  - identifying and helping vulnerable populations,
  - engaging the medical community,
  - enhancing police investigations, and
  - enhancing prosecution services.

### **Strategy 1.6 – Implement victims of crime protocol**

Participate with Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security and other stakeholders in implementing the government-accepted recommendations of the MLA Report of the Alberta Victims of Crime Consultation.

- Victims of Crime Protocol: What Victims of Crime Can Expect from the Criminal Justice System will be available through victim assistance programs, police services, courthouses, Crown prosecutors' offices, correctional centres, and online at [www.victims.gov.ab.ca](http://www.victims.gov.ab.ca).
- Protocol orientation workshops were held in 12 locations around Alberta in February and March 2007 for representatives of all sectors delivering victim support programs: police, Crown prosecutors' offices, Court Services Division, Correctional Services Division, and victim services units.

### **Strategy 1.7 – Control offenders' ability to profit from recounting crimes**

Review and prepare proposals for controlling the ability of persons convicted of serious crimes to profit from the recounting of their crimes and to allow victims of crime to benefit from those profits.

- Stakeholder consultations were completed, and the *Criminal Notoriety Act* and the Criminal Notoriety Act Designation Regulation came into force on October 1, 2006.



## KEY MEASURE 1: Public perception of safety in the home

### Performance Summary

The vast majority of Albertans (93 per cent)<sup>1</sup> said they feel “very safe” (53 per cent) or “reasonably safe” (41 per cent) when in their own home. A small percentage said they feel “somewhat unsafe” (four per cent) or “very unsafe” (three per cent). Since 2005, there has been a three per cent increase in the percentage of Albertans who feel “very” or “reasonably” safe from crime when in their own home after dark (from 90 per cent in 2005, to 93 per cent in 2007).

### Key Measure

Public perception of safety  
in the home

The results of the 2006-07 *Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security Survey of Albertans* indicated that 93 per cent of Albertans said that they feel safe in their own home. This result is up one per cent from 2005-06. It exceeds this year’s target of 91 per cent.

### Discussion and Analysis

Perception of safety is influenced by a number of factors including previous victimization experience, the experiences of friends and family with crime and the justice system, and media reports of crime.

In general, Alberta’s results are similar to those found in other regions of Canada. Across the country, 94 per cent of Canadians report feeling satisfied with their personal safety.<sup>2</sup>

This year, perception of safety in the home is being reported in a different way from last year. In the Alberta Justice 2005-08 business plan, public perception of safety in the home was described as the percentage of Albertans who felt “worried” about crime when alone in their home. This new approach allows for direct comparability of safety in the home results with safety in the neighbourhood results since both questions will use the same scale to measure feelings of “safety” rather than feelings of “worry.” To understand how safe Albertans are feeling in their communities, it is important that results for safety in the home and in the neighbourhood be comparable.

- 1 This is the actual percentage who mentioned both categories. When adding together the percentages for two related categories, the total may differ by one per cent from the actual percentage who mentioned both categories.
- 2 General Social Survey on Victimization, Cycle 18: An Overview of Findings, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 85-565 X1E, 2004, p. 21.

# Results Analysis

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

Public perception of safety in the home: The percentage of Albertans who feel safe in their home after dark.

2003-04	94%
2004-05	90%
2005-06	92%
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Actual 93%</b>
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Target 91%</b>

Source: Annual Public Opinion Survey, Research Innovations

For methodology related to this measure, see page 50.

### KEY MEASURE 2: Public perception of safety in the neighbourhood

#### Performance Summary

When asked how safe they feel when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, most Albertans (75 per cent) said they feel “very” (35 per cent) or “reasonably” (40 per cent) safe. A smaller percentage indicated they feel “somewhat unsafe” (16 per cent) or “very unsafe” (eight per cent). This year’s result is a three per cent increase from last year.

Most Albertans (56 per cent) feel that there is less crime in their neighbourhood than in other areas of the province. (Thirty per cent said crime in their neighbourhood is “somewhat lower” and 26 per cent said it is “much lower.”) One quarter (25 per cent) said the amount of crime in their neighbourhood is about the same. Nationally the results are similar: in a 2004 survey conducted by Statistics Canada, 59 per cent of Canadians thought that crime in their neighbourhood was lower than elsewhere.<sup>3</sup>

3 General Social Survey on Victimization, Cycle 18: An Overview of Findings, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 85-565 X1E, 2004, p. 6.



## Key Measure

Public perception of safety in the neighbourhood

The results of the 2006-07 *Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security Survey of Albertans* indicated that 75 per cent of Albertans felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. This is up three per cent from last year's result of 72 per cent. The result does not meet this year's target of 82 per cent.

## Discussion and Analysis

Fear of crime tends to be more pronounced for those who believe they live in a neighbourhood where crime is higher than elsewhere and who think the neighbourhood crime is increasing.<sup>4</sup>

Public perception of safety in the neighbourhood: The percentage of Albertans who feel "reasonably safe" to "very safe" walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.

2003-04	76%
2004-05	77%
2005-06	72%
2006-07	<b>Actual 75%</b>
2006-07	<b>Target 82%</b>

Source: Annual Public Opinion Survey, Research Innovations

For methodology related to this measure, see page 50.

4 General Social Survey on Victimization, Cycle 18: An Overview of Findings, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 85-565 X1E, 2004, p. 5.

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

### Core Business Two: Courts

#### **Goal Two – Promote a fair and accessible civil and criminal justice system**

Alberta Justice is responsible for helping resolve criminal cases and civil disputes, including providing access to court resources and dispute resolution opportunities. Where appropriate, this includes alternatives to traditional court processes such as mediation, judicial dispute resolution, and mini-trials. By speeding up the process and lowering costs, these alternatives improve access to justice.

The following section highlights the ministry's accomplishments related to the strategies identified under goal two in the 2006-09 business plan.

#### **Strategy 2.1 – Develop a long-term information management system**

Develop a long-term approach to move forward with a Justice Information Management System (JIMS) initiative that will address current and future business requirements of the ministry and the courts, focusing on technology as a means to strengthen the justice system.

- Extensive consultations were held with internal and external stakeholders. The final business case was prepared, business requirements finalized, funding requests submitted, and a strategy for the next steps developed. The strategy makes recommendations about a software acquisition strategy, business process review, governance, decision-making, stakeholder management, and change management.

#### **Strategy 2.2 – Integrate and streamline family justice delivery**

Develop and coordinate a strategy to integrate and streamline delivery of all aspects of family justice.

- The Canadian Research Institute for the Law and Family (CRILF) was hired through a request for proposal process to review high-conflict services in Alberta, complete a national and international review of best practices, and make recommendations about future program direction. A report was received in March 2007, outlining 11 recommendations to be considered for implementation in the upcoming year.
- In 2006-07, a total of 18 positions (10 positions outside Edmonton and Calgary) were filled in order to deliver a more consistent level of service to Albertans across the province.
- Family Justice Services have been expanded so that court counselors are available at 11 of 21 base court locations in Alberta to support people involved in family disputes. As well, mediation services are available throughout the province: mediators are on staff in Calgary and Edmonton courthouses, and available by contract in the other regions.



### **Strategy 2.3 – Develop alternative dispute resolution methods**

Develop, evaluate, improve and coordinate mediation and other dispute resolution initiatives.

- The external evaluation of the Civil Mediation Program – Court of Queen’s Bench of Alberta is now complete and a final report will be submitted by June 1, 2007.
- The Provincial Court Civil Claims Mediation Program has been successfully expanded to Red Deer and Grande Prairie. Further expansion is now being considered.

### **Strategy 2.4 – Improve court infrastructure**

Work with Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation and the judiciary to ease court crowding, modernize buildings, and improve access to the justice system.

- Videoconferencing technology has been installed in 61 sites in Alberta. This technology allows incarcerated persons to appear via videoconference rather than in person, thereby enhancing security to the public, the Court, and the accused, while also reducing transportation costs. It also allows witnesses, counsel, and judges to appear by videoconference, reducing court delays and travel costs.

### **Strategy 2.5 – Enhance provincial security program**

Work with Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security to enhance the integration and effectiveness of the Provincial Security Program, including perimeter security and enhanced security for all courts.

- Perimeter security is now operational in 13 of 21 base court locations, providing a more secure environment for the public and the judiciary.

### **Strategy 2.6 – Enhance effective ticket processing**

Develop a strategy to address increasing traffic ticket and bylaw volumes and ensure effective processing of these matters in the courts. This strategy includes electronic ticket processing.

- Conviction-in-absence procedures were automated province-wide on June 30, 2006, improving the speed of ticket processing.
- On September 11, 2006, the Edmonton Police Service began issuing electronic tickets for photo radar and red light camera violations, improving the speed and accuracy of ticket processing. Preparation is underway for the Calgary Police Service and other municipal and regional police services to follow suit.

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

### Strategy 2.7 – Simplify and update the Rules of Court

Working in partnership with the Alberta Law Reform Institute (ALRI), the Rules of Court Committee, and other stakeholders as appropriate, rewrite the Rules of Court to simplify and update them.

- The Alberta Law Reform Institute used input from stakeholders and working committees to prepare a preliminary draft of the new rules (except for appeals and criminal matters). It is being reviewed by stakeholders, including the Rules of Court Committee and Alberta Justice. As well, the Family Law Rules Project Committee has been appointed to review the draft's potential impact on family law litigants.

### Strategy 2.8 – Improve court information services

Improve access to justice for self-represented litigants by improving court information services for the public.

- Law Information Centre (LInC) kiosks were set up in Edmonton and Red Deer courthouses on March 31, 2007, ready to begin service in April. LInC offers Albertans a one-stop information and referral counter with connections to many non-government organizations. Many non-government organizations expressed an interest in forming collaborative relationships with LInC, but Alberta Law Line (a component of Legal Aid Alberta), in particular, has emerged as the main collaborator with LInC.

### Strategy 2.9 – Amend provisions regarding structured settlements

Review and prepare amendments to the existing provisions that provide for structured settlements (periodic payments) to be applied where courts award damages for personal injury or death.

- Alberta Justice consulted with stakeholders and incorporated their feedback into amendments to the *Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2006*. This act went into force on June 30, 2006, helping protect victims' long-term financial interests by avoiding devastating tax penalties or risky investment choices.



## KEY MEASURE 1: Median elapsed time from first to last appearance

### Performance Summary

The most current data available for this measure is for 2003-04. In 2003-04, Alberta's median elapsed time from first to last appearance in Provincial Court was 73 days.

### Key Measure

Median elapsed time from first to last appearance

In 2003-04, the median elapsed time from first to last appearance was 73 days for Provincial Court. The ministry met its target, which was to be below the Canadian median of 109 days. In 2002-03, the median elapsed time in Alberta was 71 days.

### Discussion and Analysis

The results reported in this year's annual report are carried over from the previous year's annual report. Data for 2005-06, which would have been used to report this year's result, is unavailable due to changes in the collection of jurisdictional data by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS). Data for 2005-06 is expected to be available in late fall of 2007.

Median elapsed time from first and last appearance represents the middle point of the range in days it takes for all cases to be processed in Provincial Court.

In 2003-04, there were 60,105 disposed cases, which is an increase of 1.4 per cent over the 59,248 disposed cases in 2002-03. The 2.8 per cent increase in median elapsed time may be largely attributed to the 1.4 per cent increase in the number of disposed cases and the availability of resources to address the increase.

Median elapsed time from first to last appearance: The median elapsed time in days that it takes to process a case in provincial criminal court from first to last appearance.

2001-02	72 days
2002-03	71 days
2003-04	<b>Actual 73 days</b>
Target	<b>Target Below Canadian Median 109 days</b>

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

For methodology related to this measure, see page 50.

# Results Analysis

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

### KEY MEASURE 2: Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate

#### Performance Summary

In 2006-07 the civil mediation settlement rate was 63 per cent.

#### Key Measure

Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate

In 2006-07, Alberta's Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate was 63 per cent. The target for this measure was 63 per cent.

#### Discussion and Analysis

The Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate reflects the success of the mediation program. The program aims to increase the number of civil cases resolved through mediation and reduce the number of civil cases that proceed to trial.

In 2006-07, Calgary's Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate was 62 per cent, Edmonton's rate was 65 per cent, Lethbridge's rate was 63 per cent and Medicine Hat's was 61 per cent.

In some cases, lawyers are opposed to mediation or parties are not willing to negotiate in good faith. Both of these factors can hinder successful mediated settlements.

Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate: The mediation settlement rate is the number of civil actions settled through mediation in the civil claims program divided by the total number of civil claims settled or not settled through such mediation. This is a blended settlement rate of Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. (Note: Lethbridge and Medicine Hat programs were instituted in 2006, and so these numbers are not included in previous years' data. Comparability is not affected, since Lethbridge and Medicine Hat numbers are very small.)

2003-04	61%
2004-05	63%
2005-06	65%
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Actual 63%</b>
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Target 63%</b>

Source: Administrative Data, Court Services Division

For methodology related to this measure, see page 51.



## Core Business Three: Justice Services to Albertans

### Goal Three – Provide access to justice services for Albertans in need

Through its programs and services, Alberta Justice provides support and protection to vulnerable citizens, including families who depend on court-ordered maintenance payments, individuals unable to protect their financial interests, and individuals who cannot afford legal counsel. Helping those in need is essential to Alberta Justice's success.

The following section highlights the ministry's accomplishments related to the strategies identified under goal three in the 2006-09 business plan.

#### Strategy 3.1 – Study project to encourage parenting-time compliance

Conduct a feasibility study for a project to encourage compliance with court-ordered parenting time in Edmonton.

- A report was completed for the minister addressing denial of court-ordered parenting time and reviewing best practices of other jurisdictions.

#### Strategy 3.2 – Publicize Maintenance Enforcement Program services

Continue public awareness activities to inform the general public about Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) services.

- To obtain more information about its client base, identify gaps in its services and better inform its decision-making, MEP conducted the largest and most comprehensive client survey in its history. Data from the survey will be used to develop future initiatives.
- Promotional materials about MEP services were distributed across Alberta in conjunction with MEP's 20th anniversary.

#### Strategy 3.3 – Consider recalculation service

Determine a model for administrative recalculation of maintenance by conducting a review of needs in Alberta and examining best practices in other jurisdictions.

- The Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) studied the need for a recalculation service in Alberta: under such a service, the terms of a child support order could be adjusted according to income without having to return to court.

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

### Strategy 3.4 – Expand AISH Benefits Administration Program

Complete the expansion of the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) Benefits Administration Program. This program assists AISH recipients manage their AISH benefits where the individual has limited other resources and no one else to assist in this regard.

- A provincial Memorandum of Understanding was signed by partners (Alberta Persons with Developmental Disabilities provincial and community boards, Office of the Public Trustee, Community Support Services Branch (Disability Supports Division, Seniors and Community Supports), AISH, and health regions around the province). Final partner training was completed in July 2006, and partner and Public Trustee websites now reflect the expanded program.

### Strategy 3.5 – Revise the *Dependent Adults Act*

In coordination with Alberta Seniors and Community Supports, review all submissions from the public and feedback from the stakeholder focus groups and draft a revised *Dependent Adults Act*.

- A stakeholder consultation was completed and a final report with recommendations was presented to and approved by Cabinet. Work began to prepare drafting instructions for a new act. Some provisions will go forward by regulation to provide flexibility in implementation.

### Strategy 3.6 – Implement staff counsel pilot project

Work with the Legal Aid Alberta to implement a staff counsel pilot project in the adult criminal court in Edmonton, which will provide services to eligible clients.

- The feasibility of this strategy will continue to be discussed with Legal Aid Alberta.

## KEY MEASURE 1: Client satisfaction with the services of the Public Trustee's Office

### Performance Summary

The majority of clients were satisfied with the services provided by the Office of the Public Trustee.

### Key Measure

Satisfaction with services of the Office of the Public Trustee

In 2006-07, the satisfaction rate of those clients responding to the survey was 92 per cent. This represents an increase of three per cent from the result achieved last year. It exceeds this year's target of 87 per cent.

## Discussion and Analysis

The Office of the Public Trustee provides estate and trust administration services to vulnerable Albertans. This measure is used to monitor how well the Public Trustee provides its services and is one measure indicating access to justice services for persons in need.

The measure is a composite of responses to various questions relating to satisfaction with responsiveness and quality of services provided. It is used to improve services to clients and to establish policies and procedures where deficiencies are noted.

More information on the activities of the Office of the Public Trustee is available in its annual report. Contact information for the Office of the Public Trustee can be found on the Alberta Justice website at [http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca/public\\_trustee/contact.aspx](http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca/public_trustee/contact.aspx).

Client satisfaction with the services of the Public Trustee's Office: The percentage of clients "satisfied" to "very satisfied" with the services of the Public Trustee's Office.

2003-04	90%
2004-05	90%
2005-06	89%
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Actual 92%</b>
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Target 87%</b>

Source: Client Satisfaction Survey, Public Trustee's Office

For methodology related to this measure, see page 51.

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

### KEY MEASURE 2: Maintenance Enforcement Program: Dollars due compared to dollars received (percentage collected)

#### Performance Summary

The Maintenance Enforcement Program achieved a 94 per cent collection rate on scheduled support and scheduled arrears payments.

#### Key Measure

Maintenance Enforcement Program: Dollars due compared to dollars received (percentage collected)

In 2006-07, the Maintenance Enforcement Program achieved a 94 per cent collection rate. This represents an increase from the 91 per cent collection rate achieved in 2005-06 and exceeds this year's target of 86 per cent.

#### Discussion and Analysis

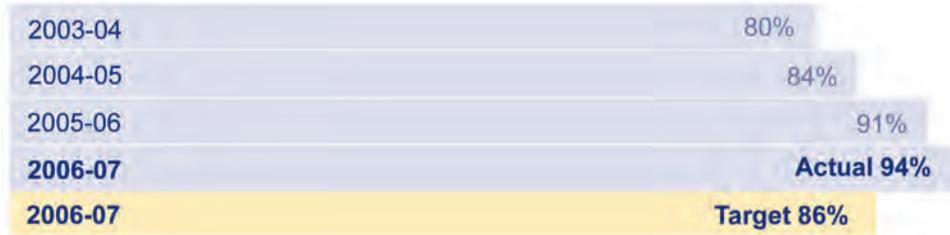
The Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) collects support payments pursuant to court orders and agreements. The program places emphasis on client service, administrative fairness, and staff training to assist with voluntary compliance. When needed, MEP negotiates settlements of delinquent accounts. The program also has a number of legislative tools and clear guidelines regarding their use, which are employed effectively to enforce maintenance orders and to help achieve compliance.

In December 2005, penalties for late payment and returned cheques were implemented. Many debtors ensured their full payment arrived on time each month in order to avoid late fees. The funds collected from penalties were used to hire and train additional staff. The program continued to use the MIMS automated case management system to its advantage and placed a greater emphasis on establishing direct contact with debtors to make payment arrangements. These improvements to the program's priority issues of client services and administrative fairness helped in achieving this increased collection target.

Factors outside MEP's control influence the program's success at collections. These include inaccessibility of the debtor and/or the debtor's resources, court ordered stays of enforcement, and termination of the debtor's income due to unemployment, disability, or incarceration. The program is limited in its collection efforts by the terms of court orders and agreements.



Maintenance Enforcement Program: Dollars received compared to dollars due (percentage collected): The program's collection rate on scheduled support and scheduled arrears payments.



Source: Maintenance Enforcement Program

For methodology related to this measure, see page 51.

### KEY MEASURE 3: Client satisfaction with legal aid service

#### Performance Summary

The majority of respondents indicated that they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the service they received from Legal Aid Alberta.

#### Key Measure

Client satisfaction with legal aid service

In 2006-07, 77 per cent of respondents were either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the service they received from Legal Aid Alberta. This represents a decrease from the 79 per cent satisfaction rate achieved last year. The target for this measure was 80 per cent.

# Results Analysis

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

### Discussion and Analysis

All respondents, whether they were approved for legal aid or not, were asked to rate various aspects of service such as courtesy, timeliness, and knowledgeability. Of those respondents who reported being satisfied with service in their experience with Legal Aid Alberta, 36 per cent were “very satisfied.” Recipients of legal aid expressed a higher level of satisfaction regarding service than non-recipients. Eighty-four per cent of recipients were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the service received compared to 46 per cent of non-recipients.

In addition to being asked about their satisfaction with service, respondents who did receive legal aid were also asked specific questions relating to their satisfaction with services rendered by the legal aid lawyer.

Seventy-four per cent of recipients were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the service they received from their legal aid lawyer, while 14 per cent were either “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied.”

Last year, this measure drew upon responses to a survey question pinpointing service during the application process only; however, a broader question also existed in the survey, reflecting respondents’ impression of service received throughout their entire contact with Legal Aid Alberta. The data shown here draws upon responses to this larger question, including historical data for the previous two years.

Client satisfaction with legal aid service: The percentage of survey respondents who report being “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the services they received from Legal Aid Alberta.

2004-05	78%
2005-06	79%
2006-07	<b>Actual 77%</b>
2006-07	<b>Target 80%</b>

Source: Client Satisfaction Survey, Legal Aid Alberta

For methodology related to this measure, see page 51.



## Goal Four – Improve knowledge of and confidence in the justice system

Albertans indicated that information and education about the justice system is important. Additionally, perceptions of crime in their communities and the province, along with the information they receive from the media, affect their understanding of and confidence in the justice system. The ministry will continue to work with partners to find better ways of informing Albertans about the justice system, including developing new strategies and working with Alberta Education and other stakeholders to develop justice education resources for Alberta classrooms. Recognizing the importance of the rule of law in the operation of government, this core business is central to the department's role of ensuring that public affairs are administered according to law.

The following section highlights the ministry's accomplishments related to the strategies identified under goal four in the 2006-09 business plan.

### Strategy 4.1 – Consult with stakeholders

Consult with stakeholders whenever appropriate on programs, policies, and services in areas of provincial responsibility when contemplating significant changes that will impact the public.

- The Justice Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC) is composed of 29 government and non-government stakeholder representatives. The committee's activities constitute an ongoing consultation in key areas: priorities identified in 2005-06 were public confidence, access to justice, and collaborative planning. Within JPAC, six teams are working on these priorities, each with a particular focus:
  - research about access to justice and public confidence,
  - public legal education for adults,
  - public legal education for children,
  - justice-related volunteer opportunities,
  - media influence on public confidence in the justice system, and
  - leaders' awareness and understanding of justice issues.
- Revisions are being made to *Achieving Justice – A Policy Framework*, which will be used as a guide to ministry staff in developing programs and services, strengthening partnerships with stakeholders, and encouraging public dialogue on emerging issues.

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

### **Strategy 4.2 – Identify effective justice education strategies**

Initiate and maintain partnerships with stakeholders to identify information gaps and to determine potential research opportunities and effective justice education strategies.

- The JPAC research team identified its priorities: justice system structure and operation; integrated-approach crime reduction; access to justice; family law; program and service evaluation; public confidence; First Nations, Métis, and Inuit justice; public legal education; administrative law; and immigration-related law.
- The JPAC law-related education team began drafting an inventory of law-related education programs and services in Alberta, and planned a meeting of agencies involved in law-related education in Alberta.

### **Strategy 4.3 – Develop initiatives to improve confidence in the justice system**

Develop and implement initiatives in consultation with partners to increase Albertans' awareness, understanding, and confidence in the rule of law and the justice system.

- JPAC's six teams have all identified priorities that support public awareness, understanding, and confidence in the justice system. Particularly, the media, leaders, and law-related education teams have identified initiatives that affect public perception. Developing and implementing these initiatives will begin in the next year.

### **Strategy 4.4 – Develop justice classroom resources**

Work with Alberta Education and other stakeholders to develop justice education resources for Alberta classrooms.

- Alberta Justice and the Legal Studies Program at the University of Alberta have begun work to expand Alberta's Law-related Information Network (A-Link), an online directory of public legal education and information organizations in Alberta.
- Work has begun with the Legal Studies Faculty of Extension to develop new legal education resources for Alberta's grade six Social Studies curriculum. Alberta Justice has consulted with Alberta Education to ensure Justice's contributions are ready when the curriculum is launched.



## KEY MEASURE 1: Public knowledge of the justice system

### Performance Summary

The majority of Albertans feel knowledgeable about the justice system in Alberta. Sixty-six per cent of Albertans feel “very” or “somewhat knowledgeable” about the justice system. Thirty-three per cent indicated they feel “not very” or “not at all knowledgeable.”

### Key Measure

Public knowledge of the justice system

The results of the 2006-07 *Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security Survey of Albertans* indicated that 66 per cent of Albertans said that they feel knowledgeable about the justice system in Alberta. Eight per cent feel “very knowledgeable” and 58 per cent feel “somewhat knowledgeable.” This is a four per cent increase from 2005-06. The target for this measure was 65 per cent.

### Discussion and Analysis

Most people do not learn about the justice system through direct experience. Public knowledge of the justice system is gained mostly from television, radio and newspapers. The information provided by these sources tends to be either incomplete or dramatic and this contributes to public misconceptions about the justice system.

Fortunately, Albertans are very interested in learning the facts about the justice system. Alberta Justice has a receptive audience for its various public education initiatives. In the Alberta Justice public opinion survey, 75 per cent of Albertans said they are “very” (23 per cent) or “somewhat” (52 per cent) interested in learning more about the justice system. Eighty-one per cent of respondents indicated interest in learning more about how crimes are prosecuted; 81 per cent were interested in learning more about how fair courts are provided; and 77 per cent were interested in learning more about how justice services, such as legal aid, maintenance enforcement, and the services of the Public Trustee are provided to Albertans in need.

# Results Analysis

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

Public knowledge of the justice system: The percentage of Albertans who feel “somewhat knowledgeable” to “very knowledgeable” about the justice system in Alberta.

2003-04	65%
2004-05	65%
2005-06	62%
2006-07	<b>Actual 66%</b>
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Target 65%</b>

Source: Annual Public Opinion Survey, Research Innovations

For methodology related to this measure, see page 52.

### KEY MEASURE 2: Public confidence in the justice system

#### Performance Summary

The majority of Albertans have confidence in the justice system: 73 per cent have confidence and 25 per cent do not. When asked how much confidence they have that a good job has been done over the past 12 months by Alberta Justice, 68 per cent of Albertans thought the ministry had done a good job.

#### Key Measure

Public confidence in the justice system

The results of the 2006-07 *Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security Survey of Albertans* indicated that 73 per cent of Albertans said that they have confidence in the justice system in Alberta. (Fourteen per cent have “a lot of confidence” and 59 per cent have “some confidence” in the justice system.) This is down slightly from 74 per cent in 2005. The result is seven per cent lower than the target set for 2006-07. Media focus on sensational and violent crimes tend to skew public perceptions of the criminal justice system, and reduce public confidence in our justice institutions.



## Discussion and Analysis

Confidence in the justice system has decreased in Alberta in the last several years from 79 per cent in 2003-04 to 78 per cent in 2004-05 to 74 per cent in 2005-06. Confidence is lowest among senior citizens, those with incomes over \$100,000 and victims of crime.

Confidence in the justice system is closely related to knowledge of the justice system although the relationship is a complex one. Public opinion survey results show that respondents who feel more knowledgeable are also more confident with the significant exception of victims, who report high levels of knowledge but low confidence in the system.

When asked to assess the criminal justice sectors, the majority of Canadians were satisfied with police. Opinions on the criminal courts, and prison system were less favourable. There are inter-provincial differences in satisfaction with the criminal justice system. People in the western provinces were less likely to give positive assessment than other regions of Canada.

Public confidence in the justice system: The percentage of Albertans who feel “some confidence” to “a lot of confidence” in the justice system in Alberta.

2003-04	79%
2004-05	78%
2005-06	74%
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Actual 73%</b>
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Target 80%</b>

Source: Annual Public Opinion Survey, Research Innovations

For methodology related to this measure, see page 52.

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

### Core Business Four: Legal and Strategic Services to Government

#### **Goal Five – Assist government ministries to achieve their objectives through provision of effective legal and related strategic services**

The government performs a number of roles, including service provider, community partner, and lawmaker. These roles involve relationships with individuals, families, communities, and other governments. Effective legal services reduce the potential for conflict involving the government, as well as protecting and advancing the interests of the government. By providing effective legal and related strategic services, Alberta Justice can assist other ministries in achieving their corporate goals and strategic priorities.

The following section highlights the ministry's accomplishments related to the strategies identified under goal five in the 2006-09 business plan.

#### **Strategy 5.1 – Align legal service resources with government ministries**

Enhance alignment of legal service resources with government ministries by continuing to:

- Modify legal service protocol agreements to meet the ongoing needs of client ministries and Alberta Justice.
- Improve our corporate counsel services to meet the needs of client ministries.
- Legal service protocol agreements with client ministries are being updated to reflect service requirements for 2006-07 and the government's December 2006 reorganization.

#### **Strategy 5.2 – Provide legal advice regarding Aboriginal issues**

Provide legal and related strategic advice to the deputy minister and assistant deputy minister committees in relation to Aboriginal self-government and the regulatory framework for economic activities on reserves.

- Alberta Justice advised the federal government as it developed its regulatory framework for economic activities on reserves. As well, Alberta Justice stipulated the Alberta government's guidelines for its participation in enforcing that framework.
- Cabinet approval has been obtained for a framework to guide self-governance negotiations. Negotiations continue with the Blood Tribe about its self-governance agreement, and preparations are being made to enter into exploratory discussions with Treaty 8 First Nations regarding self-governance.



### Strategy 5.3 – Network Alberta government legislative planners

Establish and maintain a network of Alberta government legislative planners to facilitate the sharing of information on principles, processes and best practices in relation to the development of legislative proposals.

- This network has been established and met three times in 2006-07 to discuss various topics. As well, a workshop on legislative planning was held in November 2006.

## KEY MEASURE 1: Client satisfaction with legal services

### Performance Summary

The vast majority of client ministries were satisfied with the legal services provided by Alberta Justice.

### Key Measure

Client satisfaction with legal services

In 2006-07, 90 per cent of clients surveyed responded that they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the legal services provided by Legal Services Division, Civil Law. This exceeds this year’s target of 87 per cent. On a more detailed level, client satisfaction ranged between 78 and 98 per cent on various areas ranging from responsiveness, practicality of advice, thoroughness and legal services provided in a courteous way.

### Discussion and Analysis

In 2006-07, 90 per cent of all clients were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the civil legal services provided. This result exceeds the department’s target for the year of 87 per cent. This year’s outcome is slightly lower than the 93 per cent achieved last year.

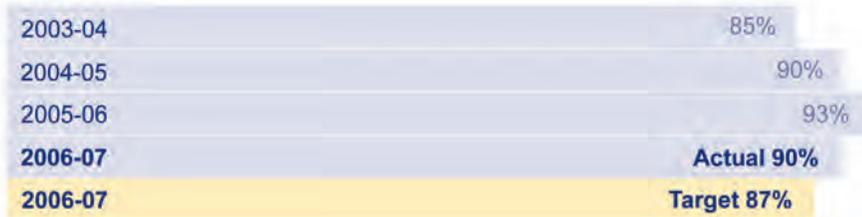
This slight decline may be a result of the increased demand for legal services from client departments as the survey results were lower than last year on the questions relating to Civil Law providing timely legal services, and keeping clients informed about their files.

The results of the survey assist Alberta Justice in assessing success at delivering effective legal services to government.

# Results Analysis

## Goals, Strategic Activities, and Measures, continued

Client satisfaction with legal services: The percentage of client ministries “satisfied” to “very satisfied” with the legal services provided by Civil Law Branch (Legal Services Division, Alberta Justice).



Source: Client Satisfaction Survey, Legal Services Division

For methodology related to this measure, see page 52.

### KEY MEASURE 2: Client satisfaction with assistance in meeting corporate goals

#### Performance Summary

The vast majority of client ministries were satisfied that the legal services provided by Alberta Justice helped them to achieve their department’s corporate goals.

#### Key Measure

Client satisfaction with assistance in meeting corporate goals.

In 2006-07, 87 per cent of clients surveyed responded that they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the assistance provided by Civil Law (Legal Services Division, Alberta Justice) in meeting corporate goals. This is a slight decrease from the previous year’s result of 89 per cent but it exceeds this year’s target of 83 per cent.

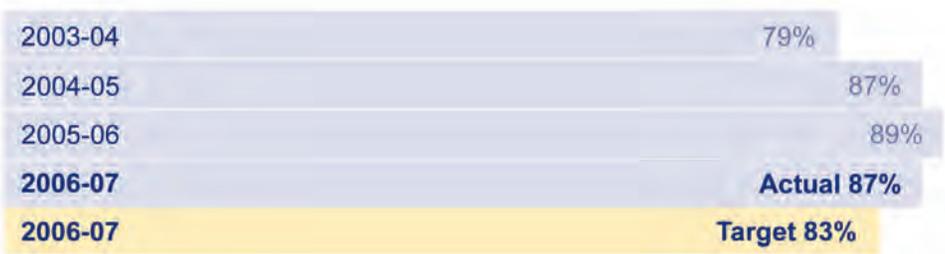


## Discussion and Analysis

By providing effective legal and related strategic services, Alberta Justice assists other ministries in achieving their objectives. As part of the ongoing process to ensure that Legal Services Division continues to provide effective and strategic legal services, the ministry conducts an annual client satisfaction survey. The questionnaire provides clients with the opportunity to rate their level of satisfaction with the legal services they have received.

In 2006-07, 87 per cent of all clients were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the assistance provided by Legal Services Division in meeting corporate goals. This year’s outcome is slightly lower than the 89 per cent achieved last year. The slight decline may be a result of the increased demand for legal services from client departments as the survey results were lower than last year on the questions relating to Civil Law providing timely legal services, and keeping clients informed about their files.

Client satisfaction with assistance in meeting corporate goals: The percentage of client ministries “satisfied” to “very satisfied” that the legal services provided by Civil Law (Legal Services Division, Alberta Justice) helped them achieve their ministry’s corporate goals.



Source: Client Satisfaction Survey, Legal Services Division

For methodology related to this measure, see page 52.

## Methodology

### Goal 1: Promote safe communities in Alberta

#### Key Measure 1: Public perception of safety in the home

**Methodology:** A public opinion telephone survey is conducted on an annual basis. The survey averages 25 minutes in length and was last conducted in January 2007. Professionally trained interviewers conducted all interviews from a central telephone facility. The survey is completed on a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system that allows for ongoing tabulation of results. Ten per cent of all interviews were monitored online.

In 2007, as in previous years, a total of 750 surveys were completed. To survey a random and representative sample of adult Albertans, quotas were established based on 2001 census data from Statistics Canada. In each of six geographic regions of the province, the number of interviews in each age-gender segment was proportionate to their 2001 population estimates. Results are reliable to within +/- 3.6 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence level.

#### Key Measure 2: Public perception of safety in the neighbourhood

**Methodology:** As described in key measure one: Public perception of safety in the home.

### Goal 2: Promote a fair and accessible civil and criminal justice system

#### Key Measure 1: Median elapsed time from first to last appearance

**Methodology:** Median elapsed time from first to last appearance represents the mid-point in elapsed time between first and last appearance for all cases processed in Provincial Court.

Performance data for median elapsed time from first to last appearance was obtained from the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS). The ministry provides annual data from the Justice Online Information Network to the Adult Criminal Court Survey through an automated interface. At CCJS, the data are edited, verified and signed off with the ministry. In 2003-04, adult criminal courts in nine provinces and one territory reported to the ACCS. Reporting jurisdictions include Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon. Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut do not supply data to the survey. In addition, in 2003-04 Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon reported superior court data to the ACCS (less than one percent of total caseload). These jurisdictions represent approximately 90 per cent of the national adult criminal court caseload.

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics is in the process of replacing the ACCS with the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS), which will report on both adult and youth criminal court data. This new survey will result in case definition changes, which will in turn result in a break in the time series, thus making previous years' results incomparable.



## **Key Measure 2: Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate**

**Methodology:** The settlement rate is a percentage of all scheduled cases resolved. The settlement rate is the number of civil actions settled through mediation in the civil claims program divided by the total number of civil claims settled or not settled through such mediation. This is a blended rate for Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. Every month, mediation coordinators count the successful and unsuccessful mediations and enter them in a spreadsheet to arrive at a total number of claims and a settlement rate. The spreadsheets are sent to staff in Strategic Initiatives Branch (Court Services Division, Alberta Justice), who then enter the successful and unsuccessful mediations into a Microsoft Access database.

## **Goal 3: Provide access to justice services for Albertans in need**

### **Key Measure 1: Client satisfaction with the services of the Public Trustee's Office**

**Methodology:** Client satisfaction with the services of the Office of the Public Trustee is assessed using internally conducted client satisfaction surveys. Survey forms are sent to beneficiaries and minors after completion of administration and following payments of the beneficial interest distribution. Surveys are also sent to business partners, primary contact persons, parents and guardians of minors, and private and public guardians of dependent adults. During 2006-07, 3,211 surveys were sent out, of which 924 surveys were returned, indicating a response rate of 29 per cent. The overall satisfaction rating is generated by using the results of the entire survey rather than using one question as the satisfaction rating.

### **Key Measure 2: Maintenance Enforcement Program: Dollars due compared to dollars received (percentage collected)**

**Methodology:** Terms of court orders are entered into the automated Maintenance Information Management System (MIMS). Support payments that are due each month are then calculated by MIMS. Payments received are also entered into the system and calculated by MIMS monthly. Regular dollars due are compared by MIMS to net revenues to determine the percentage of dollars due that are collected. This collection rate is presented monthly to program management as an administrative tool. The data is aggregated into an annual figure to provide the collection rate for the year.

### **Key Measure 3: Client satisfaction with legal aid service**

**Methodology:** To gather opinions on legal aid services, Legal Aid Alberta conducted a telephone survey with legal aid applicants. Legal Aid officers informed applicants about the survey during the interview process and recorded their consent to being contacted for the survey. Only those applicants who gave their consent were contacted by Prairie Research Associates Inc. (PRA).

In consultation with staff at Legal Aid Alberta, PRA drafted a survey questionnaire. To enable a comparison of selected survey results over time, the questionnaire contains many questions that are either identical or similar to the questions from the 2005/06 survey.

# Results Analysis

## Methodology, continued

By March 31, 2007, PRA had completed the telephone survey with 401 legal aid applicants, of whom 322 had received legal aid, 66 had been denied coverage, and 13 could not report on the status of their legal aid application. The call record for the survey indicates that about one-fifth of the sample included numbers that either were not in service or at which respondents could no longer be reached. The response rate for the survey was 43 per cent.

## Goal 4: Improve knowledge of and confidence in the justice system

### Key Measure 1: Public knowledge of the justice system

Methodology: As described in key measure one, goal one: Public perception of safety in the home.

### Key Measure 2: Public confidence in the justice system

Methodology: As described in key measure one, goal one: Public perception of safety in the home.

## Goal 5: Assist government ministries to achieve their objectives through provision of effective legal and related strategic services

### Key Measure 1: Client satisfaction with legal services

Methodology: Client satisfaction with legal services is determined by an internally conducted survey. Alberta Finance's statistics unit provided advice on the survey in 2006-07. A random sample of 1,100 clients was chosen from the total population of 2,969. Out of the 1,100 surveys sent out, 543 responses were received, for a response rate of 49.3 per cent. Based on this response, overall survey results are precise within +/- 3.8 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence level and +/- 5.0 per cent at the 99 per cent confidence level. Eighteen questions in the survey asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with services received. The satisfaction scale provided for these questions was comprised of five levels of satisfaction with 1 representing "very dissatisfied" and 5 representing "very satisfied." The survey scale was not altered from the previous year's survey; however, in 2004, the scale was changed from a six-point to a five-point scale to make the survey more consistent with the annual Government of Alberta corporate survey and other surveys conducted within the Legal Services Division (i.e. Public Trustee's Office), which are also based on a five-point scale.

### Key Measure 2: Client satisfaction with assistance in meeting corporate goals

Methodology: As described in key measure one: Client satisfaction with legal services.



## Anti-Terrorism Act

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The *Anti-Terrorism Act* requires the Attorney General of Alberta to publish an annual report on the operation of those parts of the act dealing with investigative hearings and recognizance with conditions.

This constitutes the annual report of the Attorney General of Alberta covering the fifth year of operation of the act from December 24, 2005 to December 23, 2006.

Annual Report of the Attorney General of Alberta

December 24, 2005 to December 23, 2006

### I. Report on the Operation of Sections 83.28 and 83.29 (Investigative Hearing)

For the period from December 24, 2005 to December 23, 2006, the Attorney General of Alberta reports that there were no applications initiated under these sections of the *Criminal Code of Canada*. As such, there is no data to report in relation to the reporting requirements under paragraphs 83.31(1) (a) to (c) of the *Criminal Code*.

### II. Report on the Operation of Section 83.3 (Recognizance with Conditions)

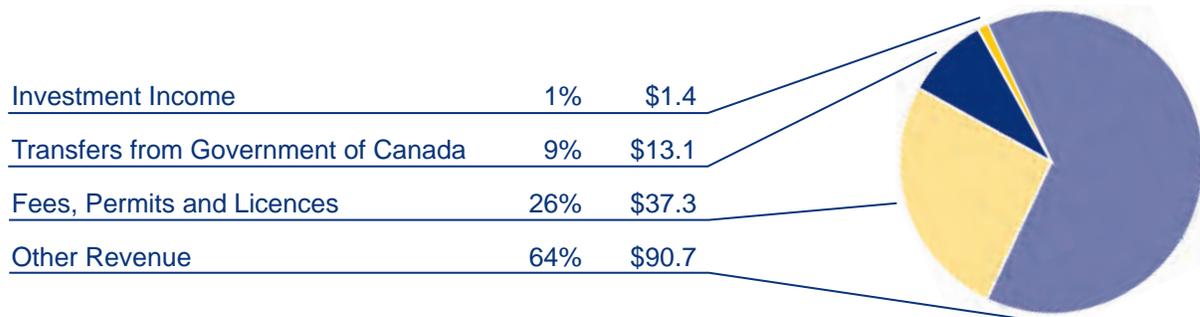
For the period from December 24, 2005 to December 23, 2006, the Attorney General of Alberta reports that there were no cases initiated under this section of the *Criminal Code*. As such, there is no data to report in relation to the reporting requirements in paragraphs 83.31(2)(a) to (f) of the *Criminal Code*.

# Results Analysis

## Financial Analysis and Discussion

### Operating Results

#### 2006-07 Actual Revenue by Source (\$142.5 million)



#### 2006-07 Actual Expenses by Program (\$331.5 million)



Ministry revenues of \$142.5 million were \$13.3 million higher in 2006/07 than the previous year. Annual expenses increased by \$36.1 million, which is consistent with the approved increases to the ministry's base budget. Revenues and expenses are from the Statement of Operations on page 66.

## Revenue

Total revenue increased by \$13.3 million from the previous year. Other revenues accounted for \$12.4 million of this increase and included higher revenue for fines and fine late payment penalties, the Maintenance Enforcement Program collections and the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Recovery Program. The remaining increase is primarily due to higher revenues for the Government of Canada transfer for legal aid, collection of fees for motor vehicle registration, and interest generated for investments. Partially offsetting this increase is reduced revenue from court fees caused by a decrease in civil claim commencements.

## Expenses

Ministry expenses were \$16.6 million lower than the approved spending level of \$348 million. Voted operating expenses were \$7.8 million less than the approved budget of \$320.6 million. Statutory expenses, which include the MVAC Program, were \$8.8 million lower than the approved budget of \$27.4 million.

## Comparison of 2006-07 Budget to 2006-07 Actual

The majority of the \$16.6 under expenditure budgeted expenses is due to a reduction in the number of outstanding claims involving personal injury claims, which resulted in \$8.8 million lower expenses than budget for the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims (MVAC) Program. The remaining \$7.8 million is due the lower expenditures for the Justice of the Peace compensation settlement, delays in the replacement of the Office of the Public Trustee computer system, reduced information technology purchases and decreased manpower costs due high vacancy rates and hiring delay for specialized resources. The reduced expenditures were partially offset by additional spending for ticket processing and civil claims.

## Comparison of 2006-07 Actual to 2005-06 Actual

Alberta Justice has one of the highest human resources budgets in the province, with over 60% of the ministry's budget allocated for manpower. As a result, the ministry is highly sensitive to pressures related to salaries, wages and benefits. In 2006-07, \$10.3 million of the \$36 million year-over-year increase in expenses was due to adjustments for negotiated salary, wage and employee benefit increases.

A significant portion of the increase in Court Services was required for judicial positions and support staff to respond to pressures in the courts, and additional resources to support enhanced prosecutions and additional policing in the province. Additionally, this increase provided for information technology funding used to move forward with a management information system, improve access to justice for self-represented litigants and expand on Family Justice Services throughout Alberta.

## Financial Analysis and Discussion, continued

The increase in Legal Services is primarily in the Criminal Justice Division for additional prosecution resources used to support the Alberta Relationship and Threat Assessment Management Initiative, the Integrated Child Exploitation team and the Cybercrime unit, efforts against organized crime and the additional police resources in the province. The majority of the increase in Ministry Support Services is due to additional resources required for the elimination of the shared service agreement with Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security.

And finally, offsetting these increases was a \$3.2 million decrease in statutory expenses primarily for the MVAC Program, which is mainly due to a reduction from prior years in the number of outstanding claims involving uninsured and unknown vehicles.

## Core Business Results

	2006-07 Budget	2006-07 Actual	2005-06 Actual (Restated)
<b>Expense</b>			
Core Business			
Prosecutions	\$ 52,943	\$ 53,126	\$ 45,677
Courts	145,823	143,697	135,323
Legal and Strategic Services to Government	29,357	28,610	27,474
Justice Services to Albertans	119,915	106,028	90,132
<b>Ministry Expense</b>	<b>\$ 348,038</b>	<b>\$ 331,461</b>	<b>\$ 298,606</b>

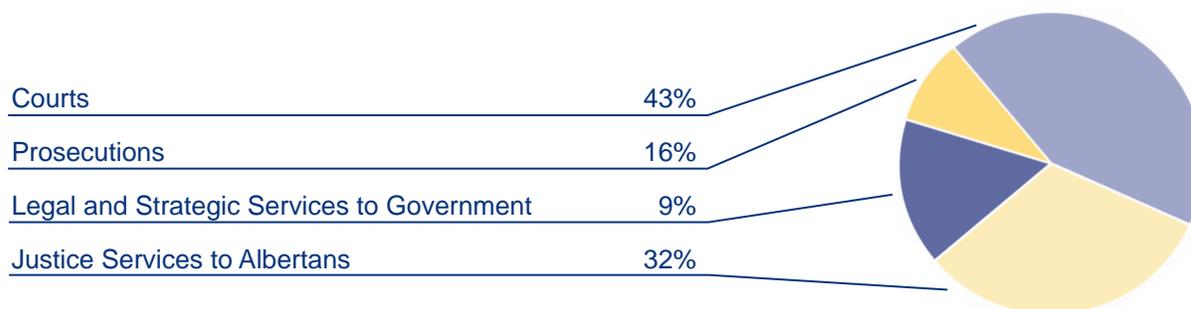
**Prosecutions:** Includes Criminal Justice Division.

**Courts:** Includes Calgary Court Operations, Edmonton Court Operations, Regional Court Operations, the Court of Appeal, Justice Online Information Network (JOIN) Operations and the Fines Enforcement Program.

**Legal and Strategic Services to Government:** Includes Civil Law, Legislative Counsel Office and Legislative Reform Branch.

**Justice Services to Albertans:** Includes Maintenance Enforcement Program, Legal Aid Alberta, the Office of the Public Trustee, the Medical Examiner's Office, Child-Centred Family Justice, Aboriginal Court Worker Program, Official Documents, and Motor Vehicle Accident Claims.

### 2006-07 Actual Expenses by Function (\$331.5 million)



## Financial Analysis and Discussion, continued

The presentation of expenses by core business is provided to enable a link of expenses to the ministry's goals. Ministry Support Services expenses have been proportionally allocated to each of the Ministry's core businesses.

### Comparison of 2006-07 Budget to 2006-07 Actual

Prosecutions expenses of \$53.1 million were approximately \$0.2 million higher than the budget of \$52.9 million.

Courts expenses of \$143.7 million were approximately \$2.1 million less than the budget of \$145.8 million. The variance was primarily due to \$1.9 million lower than expected costs for the Justice of the Peace compensation settlement (lower than anticipated legal and commission costs, retroactive shift differential not required, etc.). The remaining variance is related to underspending in manpower due to high vacancy rates and hiring delays for specialized resources.

Legal and Strategic Services to Government expenses of \$28.6 million were \$0.8 million less than the budget of \$29.4 million. The majority of the variance is due to under spending in salaries and benefit costs.

Justice Services to Albertans expenses of \$106 million were \$13.9 million less than the budget of \$119.9 million. The \$13.9 million is primarily comprised of:

- A decrease in statutory expenses of \$8.8 million mainly due to a decrease in the number of outstanding claims involving personal injury claims, which resulted in lower than expected costs for the MVAC program.
- The remaining \$3.9 million is primarily related to under spending in manpower due to high vacancy rates and hiring delays.
- \$1.2 million under spent due to a delay in the replacement of the Office of the Public Trustee computer system.



## Comparison of 2006-07 Actual to 2005-06 Actual

Prosecutions expense increased by \$7.4 million from \$45.7 million to \$53.1 million. The \$7.4 million is primarily comprised of \$3.4 million for additional prosecution staff to enhance prosecutions and to support the addition of new police officers through the Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security. The remaining \$4 million is primarily due to an increase for negotiated salary and benefits.

Courts expenses increased by \$8.4 million from \$135.3 million to \$143.7 million. The \$8.4 million is primarily comprised of:

- \$2.8 million for additional court resources to support enhanced prosecutions and additional policing in the province.
- \$2.1 million for resources to maintain service in the courts and to the public.
- \$1.8 million to improve access to justice for self-represented litigants, and support the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act.
- The remaining \$1.7 million is primarily due to increases for information technology management in the courts, and an increase in manpower used to cover a negotiated increase for salary and benefit coverage, partially offset by a decrease due to high vacancies and delays in hiring resources for new initiatives.

Legal and Strategic Services to Government expenses increased by \$1.1 million from \$27.5 million to \$28.6 million. The variance is primarily due to negotiated increase for salary and benefits.

Justice Services to Albertans expenses increased by \$15.9 million from \$90.1 million to \$106 million. This increase is primarily due to:

- An increase in the grant to the Legal Aid Alberta of \$12.2 million.
- An increase in spending of \$2.6 million to expand on Family Justice Services throughout Alberta.
- The remaining \$1.1 million is primarily related to an increase in spending for program costs relating to the Office of the Public Trustee and the Maintenance Enforcement Program. These increases are partially offset by a decrease in the number of outstanding claims involving personal injury claims, which resulted lower costs for the MVAC Program.

# Results Analysis

## Financial Analysis and Discussion, continued

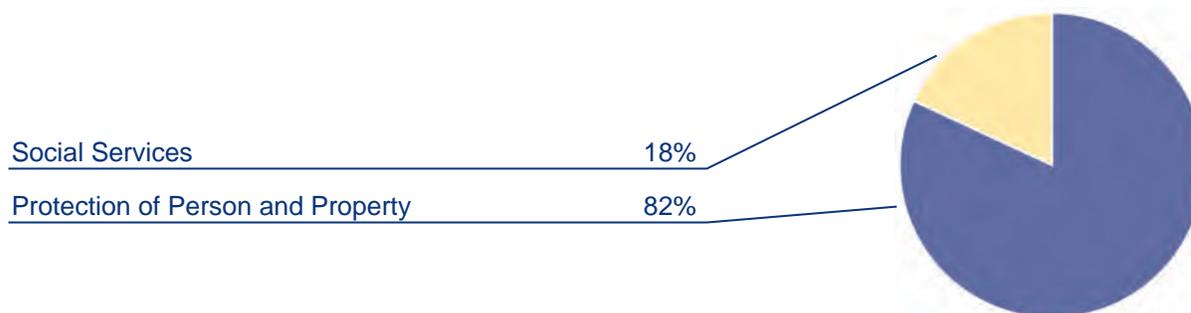
### Functional Results

	2006-07 Budget	2006-07 Actual	2005-06 Actual (Restated)
<b>Expense</b>			
Function			
Protection of Persons and Property	\$ 278,284	\$ 271,128	\$ 247,894
Social Services	69,754	60,333	50,712
Ministry Expense	\$ 348,038	\$ 331,461	\$ 298,606

**Protection of Persons and Property:** Includes expenses for services provided to ensure the security of persons and property through the court of law, regulatory measures and other protection of persons and property.

**Social Services:** Covers actions taken by the government either alone or in cooperation with Albertans, to offset or to forestall situations when the well-being of individuals or families is threatened by circumstances beyond their control. This includes the provision of legal aid and motor vehicle accident claims.

#### 2006-07 Actual Expenses by Function (\$331.5 million)



The Protection of Persons and Property function includes Court Services, Legal Services, Public Trustee, Medical Examiner and Ministry Support Services Programs; the Social Services function includes Support for Legal Aid and the statutory appropriation for the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims (MVAC) Program.

### Comparison of 2006-07 Budget to 2006-07 Actual

Protection of Persons and Property expenses were \$7.2 million less than the budget of \$278.3 million. The \$7.2 million is primarily comprised of:

- \$1.9 million lower than expected costs for the Justice of the Peace compensation settlement.
- \$1.2 million under spent due to a delay in the replacement of the Office of the Public Trustee computer system.
- The remaining \$4.1 million is primarily related to under spending in manpower due to high vacancy rates and hiring delays for specialized resources and lower than expected spending in information technology purchases.

Social Services expenses were \$9.4 million less than the budget of \$69.8 million. The difference is mainly due to the recorded valuation adjustment for liability of outstanding claims in the MVAC program.

### Comparison of 2006-07 Actual to 2005-06 Actual

Protection of Persons and Property expenses increased by \$23.2 million from \$247.9 million in 2005/06 to \$271.1 million in 2006/07. The \$23.2 million increase is primarily comprised of:

- \$9 million increase in manpower comprised of \$10.3 million used to cover a negotiated increase for salary and benefit coverage, partially offset by a \$1.3 million decrease due to high vacancies and delays in hiring specialized resources for new initiatives.
- \$3.4 million for additional prosecution staff to enhance prosecutions and to support additional policing.
- \$2.8 million for additional court resources to support enhanced prosecutions and additional policing in the province.
- \$2.1 million for resources to maintain service in the courts and to the public.
- \$1.8 million to improve access to justice for self-represented litigants, and support the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*.
- The remaining \$4.1 million is primarily due to increases for information technology management in the courts, and additional resources to support the elimination of the shared service agreement with Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security.

*Social Services* expenses increased by \$9.6 million from \$50.7 million in 2005-06 to \$60.3 million in 2006/07. This increase is due to an additional grant to legal aid of \$12.2 million, offset by a \$2.6 million decrease in program spending for MVAC.

Ministry of Justice

**Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2007**

**AUDITED**  
**MAY 18, 2007**



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

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### Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Ministry of Justice as at March 31, 2007, and the statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Ministry. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Ministry as at March 31, 2007, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

FCA

Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta

May 18, 2007



# Ministry of Justice Statement of Operations Year Ended March 31, 2007

	(in thousands)		
	2007		2006
	Budget (Schedule 4)	Actual	Actual Restated (Note 3)
<b>Revenues (Schedule 1)</b>			
Transfer from the Government of Canada	\$ 12,747	\$ 13,122	\$ 12,837
Investment Income	425	1,444	792
Fees, Permits and Licences	35,873	37,335	37,431
Other Revenue	76,124	90,642	78,208
	<u>125,169</u>	<u>142,543</u>	<u>129,268</u>
<b>Expenses – Directly Incurred (Note 2b and Schedule 8)</b>			
<b>Voted (Schedules 3 and 5)</b>			
Ministry Support Services	22,350	19,264	15,964
Court Services	143,901	142,207	131,295
Legal Services	93,289	91,209	82,350
Support for Legal Aid	43,196	43,196	30,998
Public Trustee	11,863	10,749	9,991
Medical Examiner	6,032	6,220	6,131
	<u>320,631</u>	<u>312,845</u>	<u>276,729</u>
<b>Statutory (Schedules 3 and 5)</b>			
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	26,558	25,711	28,683
Valuation Adjustments			
Provision for Doubtful Accounts	200	246	464
Provision for Vacation Pay	649	1,233	2,151
Decrease in Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Liabilities	-	(8,574)	(9,421)
	<u>27,407</u>	<u>18,616</u>	<u>21,877</u>
	<u>348,038</u>	<u>331,461</u>	<u>298,606</u>
<b>Net Operating Results</b>	<u>\$ (222,869)</u>	<u>\$ (188,918)</u>	<u>\$ (169,338)</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

## Financial Information

### Ministry of Justice Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2007

	(in thousands)	
	2007	2006 Restated (Note 3)
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash (Note 4)	\$ 17,440	\$ 20,921
Accounts Receivable (Note 5)	80,478	74,944
Advances	42	47
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 6)	30,793	14,981
	<u>\$ 128,753</u>	<u>\$ 110,893</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 109,942	\$ 105,782
Unearned Revenue	1,160	1,199
	<u>111,102</u>	<u>106,981</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Net Assets/(Liabilities) at Beginning of Year	3,912	(10,354)
Net Operating Results	(188,918)	(169,338)
Net Transfer from General Revenues	202,657	183,604
	<u>17,651</u>	<u>3,912</u>
	<u>\$ 128,753</u>	<u>\$ 110,893</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.



# Ministry of Justice

## Statement of Cash Flows

### Year Ended March 31, 2007

	(in thousands)	
	2007	2006 Restated (Note 3)
Operating Transactions		
Net Operating Results	\$ (188,918)	\$ (169,338)
Non-cash items included in Net Operating Results		
Amortization	2,838	2,413
Valuation Adjustments	(7,095)	(6,806)
	<u>(193,175)</u>	<u>(173,731)</u>
Increase in Accounts Receivable	(5,780)	(6,810)
Decrease in Advances	5	2
Increase in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	11,501	3,083
Increase/(Decrease) in Unearned Revenue	(39)	95
	<u>(187,488)</u>	<u>(177,361)</u>
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	(18,657)	(6,168)
Transfer of assets to (from) Solicitor General	7	(65)
Cash Applied to Capital Transactions	<u>(18,650)</u>	<u>(6,233)</u>
Financing Transactions		
Net Transfer from General Revenues	<u>202,657</u>	<u>183,604</u>
(Decrease)/Increase in Cash	(3,481)	10
Cash, Beginning of Year	<u>20,921</u>	<u>20,911</u>
Cash, End of Year	<u>\$ 17,440</u>	<u>\$ 20,921</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

## Note 1 Authority and Purpose

The Ministry of Justice operates under the authority of the *Government Organization Act*, Chapter G-10, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000. The Department of Justice is the sole entity for which the Minister of Justice has been designated as responsible for various acts by the *Government Organization Act* and its regulations.

The Ministry's purpose is to serve Albertans by promoting safe communities, by ensuring access to the courts and other methods of dispute resolution, by providing legal and related strategic services to the Government of Alberta, and by communicating with Albertans about the administration of justice.

## Note 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

The recommendations of the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants are the primary source for the disclosed basis of accounting. These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the following accounting policies that have been established by government for all departments.

### (a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Ministry of Justice, which consists of the Department of Justice for which the Minister of Justice is accountable. These financial statements include the activities of the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims program (a statutory appropriation).

All departments of the Government of Alberta operate within the General Revenue Fund (the Fund). The Fund is administered by the Minister of Finance. All cash receipts of departments are deposited into the Fund and all cash disbursements made by departments are paid from the Fund. Net transfer from General Revenues is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

### (b) Basis of Financial Reporting

#### Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual method of accounting except for payments on Motor Vehicle Accident Claims judgment debts, which are recorded when received. Cash received for which goods or services have not been provided by year-end is recorded as unearned revenue.



## Note 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices (continued)

### Dedicated Revenue

Dedicated revenue initiatives provide a basis for authorizing spending. Dedicated revenues are shown as credits or recoveries in the details of the Government Estimates for a supply vote. If actual dedicated revenues are less than budget and total voted expenses are not reduced by an amount sufficient to cover the deficiency in dedicated revenues, the following year's voted expenses are encumbered. If actual dedicated revenues exceed budget, the Department may, with the approval of the Treasury Board, use the excess revenue to fund additional expenses on the program. Schedule 2 discloses information on the Department's dedicated revenue initiatives.

### Expenses

#### Directly Incurred

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the Ministry has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the Government's budget documents.

In addition to program operating expenses like salaries, supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include:

- amortization of tangible capital assets.
- pension costs, which comprise the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year.
- valuation adjustments, which include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect financial assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay, guarantees and indemnities.

#### Incurred by Others

Services contributed by other entities in support of the Ministry's operations are disclosed in Schedule 8.

### Assets

Financial assets of the Ministry are limited to financial claims, such as advances to and receivables from other organizations, employees and other individuals.

Assets acquired by right are not included. Tangible capital assets of the Ministry are recorded at historical cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing new systems development is \$100,000 and the threshold for all other tangible capital assets is \$5,000.

## Note 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices (continued)

### Liabilities

Liabilities are recorded to the extent that they present obligations as a result of events and transactions occurring prior to the end of the fiscal year. The settlement of liabilities will result in sacrifice of economic benefits in the future.

### Net Assets (Liabilities)

Net assets (liabilities) represent the difference between the carrying value of assets held by the Ministry and its liabilities.

### Measurement Uncertainty

(in thousands)

Measurement uncertainty exists when there is a significant variance between the amount recognized in the financial statements and another reasonably possible amount.

Included in accounts receivable, recorded as \$80,478 in these financial statements, are fines of \$50,244 (2006 - \$45,370) that are subject to measurement uncertainty. Accounts receivable excludes certain outstanding federal statute and provincial statute fines that are expected to be satisfied by means other than cash payment. The other means include participation in the fine option program or time served in a correctional institution at the option of the person owing the fine. Outstanding fines expected to be satisfied by other means of \$5,212 (2006 - \$5,668) have been deducted from total outstanding fines. The estimate of \$50,244 is based on the actual percentage satisfied in this manner from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. Changes in the proportion of fines satisfied by other means may have a material effect on future operating results.

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities, recorded as \$109,942 in these financial statements, is subject to measurement uncertainty. Accrued liabilities includes an estimate of \$53,998 (2006 - \$61,352) for unsettled claims under the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims program based on a calculated settlement value per claim. Changes to the settlement value may have a material effect on future operating results (Note 9).

### Valuation of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

The fair values of cash, accounts receivable, advances, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are estimated to approximate their carrying values because of the short term nature of these instruments.



### Note 3 Program Transfer

Administrative costs for 2006 have been restated as if the Ministry had always been assigned with its current responsibilities. The costs of certain administrative functions are now the responsibility of the Department of Service Alberta. The Department of Service Alberta continues to provide the Ministry with the services related to these administrative functions, but no consideration is exchanged.

### Note 4 Cash

Cash consists of demand deposits in the Consolidated Cash Investment Trust Fund (CCITF). The CCITF is administered by the Ministry of Finance with the objective of providing competitive interest income to depositors while maintaining maximum security and liquidity of depositors' capital. The portfolio comprises high quality short-term and mid-term fixed-income securities with a maximum term-to-maturity of three years. As at March 31, 2007, securities held by the CCITF have an average effective market yield of 4.36% per annum (2006 – 3.96% per annum).

### Note 5 Accounts Receivable

(in thousands)

	<b>Gross Amount</b>	<b>2007 Allowance for Doubtful Accounts</b>	<b>Net Realizable Value</b>	<b>2006 Net Realizable Value</b>
Government of Canada	\$ 5,576	\$ -	\$ 5,576	\$ 5,593
Fines – Provincial	18,930	1,177	17,753	14,966
Fines – Federal	16,263	2,985	13,278	13,427
Ticket Processing	15,051	495	14,556	12,661
Fine Late Payment Penalty	16,852	1,251	15,601	15,233
Other	15,333	1,619	13,714	13,064
	<u>\$ 88,005</u>	<u>\$ 7,527</u>	<u>\$ 80,478</u>	<u>\$ 74,944</u>

Accounts receivable are unsecured and non-interest bearing.

## Financial Information

### Note 6 Tangible Capital Assets

(in thousands)

	Equipment	Computer Hardware and software	2007 Total	2006 Total
<b>Estimated Useful Life</b>	10 years	5 – 10 years		
<b>Historical Cost*</b>				
Beginning of year	\$ 7,704	\$ 20,431	\$ 28,135	\$ 21,494
Additions	906	17,751	18,657	7,188
Disposal, including write-downs	(212)	(155)	(367)	(547)
	<u>\$ 8,398</u>	<u>\$ 38,027</u>	<u>\$ 46,425</u>	<u>\$ 28,135</u>
<b>Accumulated Amortization</b>				
Beginning of year	\$ 3,746	\$ 9,408	\$ 13,154	\$ 10,333
Amortization expense	598	2,240	2,838	2,414
Effect of disposals	(210)	(150)	(360)	407
	<u>\$ 4,134</u>	<u>\$ 11,498</u>	<u>\$ 15,632</u>	<u>\$ 13,154</u>
<b>Net Book Value at March 31, 2007</b>	<u>\$ 4,264</u>	<u>\$ 26,529</u>	<u>\$ 30,793</u>	
<b>Net Book Value at March 31, 2006</b>	<u>\$ 3,951</u>	<u>\$ 11,030</u>		<u>\$ 14,981</u>

\*Historical cost additions for the year ended March 31, 2007 include work-in-progress of \$16,060, which is comprised of computer hardware and software (2006 - \$0).



## Note 7 Contractual Obligations

(in thousands)

	2007	2006
Service contracts	\$ 5,425	\$ 7,730
Operating leases	301	245
	<u>\$ 5,726</u>	<u>\$ 7,975</u>

The aggregate amounts payable for the unexpired terms of these contractual obligations are as follows:

	Service Contracts	Operating Leases	Total
2008	\$ 3,025	\$ 128	\$ 3,153
2009	2,238	94	2,332
2010	44	51	95
2011, or thereafter	118	28	146
	<u>\$ 5,425</u>	<u>\$ 301</u>	<u>\$ 5,726</u>

### Note 8 Contingent Liabilities

(in thousands)

At March 31, 2007, the Ministry is a defendant in forty-one legal claims (2006 – forty six legal claims). Thirty-five of these claims have specified amounts totaling \$1,132,394 and the remaining six have no specified amount (2006 – thirty eight claims with a specified amount of \$1,183,782 and eight with no specified amount). Included in the total legal claims are six claims amounting to \$920,900 (2006 - seven claims amounting to \$924,320) in which the Ministry has been jointly named with other entities. Thirty-one claims amounting to \$1,113,295 (2006 – forty one claims totaling \$1,170,671) are covered by the Alberta Risk Management Fund.

The resulting loss, if any, from these claims cannot be determined.

Within the provision of the *Public Trustee Act* the Office of the Public Trustee remits unclaimed estate monies, which is reported as general revenue of the Department. If entitled beneficiaries are subsequently located, previously unclaimed estate monies are distributed to the beneficiaries.

### Note 9 Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Program

(in thousands)

#### Personal Injury Settlements

The Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Program is a publicly administered program that pays for judgments arising from motor vehicle accidents involving uninsured or unidentified vehicles in Alberta. The program operates under the authority of the *Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act*. At March 31, 2007, there were one thousand six hundred and forty five (2006 – one thousand eight hundred and twelve) unsettled motor vehicle accident claims under this program amounting to \$190,185 (2006 - \$209,918). Of the unsettled claims, it was estimated that approximately \$53,998 (2006 - \$61,352) may arise from court ordered judgments and has been recorded as a liability.

The *Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act* states that in order for claimants involved in motor vehicle accidents with uninsured or unidentified vehicles to be entitled to compensation, the Minister of Justice must receive a court judgment. In accordance with the Act, liabilities for personal injury claims are accrued when a court ordered judgment is received. Liabilities for motor vehicle accident claims amounting to \$652 at March 31, 2007 (2006 - \$1,073) are included in the total claim expenditures of \$25,711 (2006 restated - \$28,683).



## Note 9 Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Program (continued)

### Supplementary Medical and Rehabilitation Expenses

The estimated liability for supplementary medical and rehabilitation expenses on approved applications filed up to March 31, 2007, is \$5,093 (2006 - \$6,313) and has been recorded as a liability. As at March 31, 2007, the maximum amount that may be payable to or on behalf of entitled applicants pursuant to the limits set in Section 17 of the *Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act* was approximately \$11,997 (2006 - \$16,892).

## Note 10 Trust Funds Under Administration

(in thousands)

The Ministry administers trust funds that are regulated funds consisting of public money over which the Legislature has no power of appropriation. Because the Province has no equity in the funds and administers them for the purpose of various trusts, they are not included in the Ministry's financial statements.

As at March 31, 2007, the amount of trust assets under administration net of trust liabilities was as follows:

	2007	2006 Restated
Public Trustee – Trust Funds (a)	\$ 473,406	\$ 479,184
Various Court Offices (b)	66,634	58,129
Maintenance Enforcement (c)	7,622	7,426
Solicitors Trust	186	239
	<u>\$ 547,848</u>	<u>\$ 544,978</u>

- (a) The Office of the Public Trustee administers the estates of decedents, dependent adults and minors. Trust fund disbursements exceeded trust fund receipts and income adjustments in 2006-2007 by \$5,778 (2006 restated – \$1,752). The major sources of receipts and income include pensions and similar receipts; investment income; and acquisition and sale of client estates. Significant disbursements include beneficiary distributions; client care and maintenance payments; release of client assets; and fees and taxes paid on behalf of clients. The Office of the Public Trustee administers other estate assets consisting of client owned securities and investments, real estate holdings, accounts receivable, and personal property and other assets totaling \$62,311 as at March 31, 2007 (2006 - \$68,780). These assets are valued at fair value at the date the office obtains custody or nominal value when fair value is not readily determinable. Client liabilities as at March 31, 2007 of \$16,269 (2006 restated

## Note 10 Trust Funds Under Administration (continued)

- \$16,018), are comprised of accounts, mortgages and notes payable, and are recorded at nominal value where actual value is not readily determinable.

The comparative figures for 2006 have been restated to reflect the actual amount of the Trust Funds administered by the Office of the Public Trustee. Trust Funds under administration by the Public Trustee at March 31, 2006 were estimated to be \$ 480,491 at the time of the completion of the financial statements of the Ministry of Justice. Actual Trust Funds under administration were determined to be \$ 479,184 after completion of the financial statements of the Office of the Public Trustee. There was no impact on the Statement of Operations, Statement of Financial Position or Statement of Cash Flow of the Ministry of Justice for March 31, 2006 as a result of the restatement.

- (b) The Court Offices receive and disburse payments for fines, bail and other payments involving civil litigants. Total Court trust receipts exceeded total trust fund disbursements in 2006-2007 by \$8,505 (2006 – disbursements exceeded receipts by \$3,589).
- (c) The Maintenance Enforcement Program receives and disburses court ordered maintenance and child support. Total trust receipts exceeded total trust fund disbursements in 2006-2007 by \$196 (2006 - \$1,474).

## Note 11 Payments Under Agreement

(in thousands)

The Ministry has entered into agreements to deliver programs and services that are fully funded by the Government of Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Costs incurred under these agreements are made by the Ministry under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act*, Section 25. Accounts receivable includes \$0 (2006 - \$24) from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and \$0 (2006 - \$10) from the Government of Canada.

The agreement with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is for cost recovery on toxicology casework done by the Medical Examiners Office. The agreement with Justice Canada is for victims' awareness training.

Amounts paid under agreements with program sponsors are as follows:

	2007	2006
Government of Canada – Victims Awareness Training	\$ -	\$ 10
Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Toxicology Casework	45	230
	<u>\$ 45</u>	<u>\$ 240</u>



## Note 12 Defined Benefit Plans

(in thousands)

The Ministry participates in the multi-employer pension plans, Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Ministry also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of \$14,606 for the year ended March 31, 2007 (2006 - \$14,099).

At December 31, 2006, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a deficiency of \$6,765 (2005 - \$165,895) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$153,024 (2005 - deficiency of \$187,704). At December 31, 2006, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had an actuarial surplus of \$3,698 (2005 - \$10,018).

The Ministry participates in the Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers Pension Plan. The expenses for this pension plan are \$7,424 for the year ended March 31, 2007 (2006 - \$7,815).

The Ministry also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2007, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported an actuarial surplus of \$153 (2006 – deficiency of \$8,699) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan an actuarial surplus of \$10,148 (2006 - \$8,309). The expense for these two plans is limited to employer's annual contributions for the year.

## Note 13 Comparative Figures

Certain 2006 figures have been reclassified to conform to the 2007 presentation.

## Note 14 Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Senior Financial Officer and the Deputy Minister of Justice.

## Ministry of Justice Schedule to Financial Statements Revenues Year Ended March 31, 2007

## Schedule 1

	(in thousands)		
	Budget	2007 Actual	2006 Actual
<b>Transfer from the Government of Canada</b>			
Legal Aid	\$ 10,376	\$ 10,751	\$ 10,468
Other	2,371	2,371	2,369
	<u>12,747</u>	<u>13,122</u>	<u>12,837</u>
<b>Investment Income – Bank Interest</b>	<u>425</u>	<u>1,444</u>	<u>792</u>
<b>Fees, Permits and Licences</b>			
Court Fees	14,850	13,762	14,833
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims (MVAC)	15,000	17,548	16,313
Public Trustee Fees	5,532	5,473	5,717
Other	491	552	568
	<u>35,873</u>	<u>37,335</u>	<u>37,431</u>
<b>Other Revenue</b>			
Fines	45,400	50,933	45,781
Maintenance Enforcement Program	11,152	11,257	10,352
Fines – Late Payment Penalty	13,500	13,896	13,471
MVAC Recoveries	4,400	7,759	6,800
Miscellaneous	1,672	6,797	1,804
	<u>76,124</u>	<u>90,642</u>	<u>78,208</u>
	<u>\$ 125,169</u>	<u>\$ 142,543</u>	<u>\$ 129,268</u>

**Ministry of Justice  
Schedule to Financial Statements  
Dedicated Revenue Initiatives  
Year Ended March 31, 2007**

**Schedule 2**

(in thousands)

**2007**

	<b>Authorized Dedicated Revenues</b>	<b>Actual Dedicated Revenues</b>	<b>(Shortfall) / Excess</b>
Ticket Processing	\$ 21,000	\$ 23,031	\$ 2,031
Provincial Civil Claims	1,000	745	(255)
Maintenance Enforcement	2,000	3,300	1,300
	<u>\$ 24,000</u>	<u>\$ 27,076</u>	<u>\$ 3,076</u>

Ticket processing revenues represent the province's share of ticket revenue designated towards all expenditures in Court Services, Criminal Justice and Corporate Services incurred in the processing and handling of violation tickets.

Provincial Civil Claims revenues represent amounts received from the public for filing civil claims in excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars in Provincial Court. These revenues are dedicated towards the costs of processing these claims.

Maintenance Enforcement revenues represent deterrent penalties and service fees to promote timely payment of maintenance to improve and expand services available for clients.

## Ministry of Justice Schedule to Financial Statements Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object Year Ended March 31, 2007

## Schedule 3

	(in thousands)		
	2007		2006
	Budget	Actual	Actual Restated (Note 3)
<b>Voted</b>			
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	\$ 218,235	\$ 207,695	\$ 191,107
Supplies and Services	55,710	57,546	50,879
Grants	43,896	44,513	32,041
Financial Transactions and Other	259	255	290
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	2,531	2,836	2,412
<b>Total Voted Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 320,631</b>	<b>\$ 312,845</b>	<b>\$ 276,729</b>
<b>Statutory</b>			
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	\$ 26,558	\$ 25,711	\$ 28,683

# Ministry of Justice Schedule to Financial Statements Budget Year Ended March 31, 2007

## Schedule 4

(in thousands)

	2006-2007 Estimates	Adjustment	2006-2007 Budget	Voted Supplementary (a)	2006-2007 Authorized Budget
<b>Revenues:</b>					
Transfer from the Government of Canada	\$ 12,747	\$ -	\$ 12,747	\$ -	\$ 12,747
Investment Income	425	-	425	-	425
Fees, Permits and Licences	35,873	-	35,873	-	35,873
Other Revenue	76,124	-	76,124	-	76,124
	125,169	-	125,169	-	125,169
<b>Expenses – Directly Incurred:</b>					
<b>Voted:</b>					
Ministry Support Services	22,350	-	22,350	-	22,350
Court Services	143,901	-	143,901	3,600	147,501
Legal Services	93,289	-	93,289	-	93,289
Support for Legal Aid	43,196	-	43,196	-	43,196
Public Trustee	11,863	-	11,863	-	11,863
Medical Examiner	6,032	-	6,032	-	6,032
Dedicated Revenue Shortfall	-	-	-	-	-
	320,631	-	320,631	3,600	324,231
<b>Statutory:</b>					
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	26,558	-	26,558	-	26,558
Valuation Adjustments					
Provision for Doubtful Accounts	200	-	200	-	200
Provision for Vacation Pay	649	-	649	-	649
	27,407	-	27,407	-	27,407
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>348,038</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>348,038</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>351,638</b>
<b>Net Operating Results</b>	<b>\$ (222,869)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (222,869)</b>	<b>\$ (3,600)</b>	<b>\$ (226,469)</b>
<b>Equipment/Inventory Purchases</b>	<b>\$ 22,170</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 22,170</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 22,170</b>

(a) Supplementary Estimates were approved on September 8, 2006.



## Ministry of Justice Schedule 5 Ministry of Justice Schedule to Financial Statements Comparison of Expenses – Directly Incurred, Equipment/Inventory Purchases and Capital Investments and Statutory Expenses by Element to Authorized Budget Year Ended March 31, 2007

(in thousands)

	2006-2007 Estimates	Adjustments (a)	2006-2007 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (b)	2006-2007 Authorized Budget	2006-2007 Actual (c)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
Ministry Support Services	\$ 22,350	\$ -	\$ 22,350	\$ -	\$ 22,350	\$ 19,363	\$ 2,987
Court Services	163,961	(255)	163,706	3,600	167,306	159,319	7,987
Legal Services	94,089	-	94,089	-	94,089	92,141	1,948
Support for Legal Aid	43,196	-	43,196	-	43,196	43,196	-
Public Trustee	12,563	(1,895)	10,668	-	10,668	10,749	(81)
Medical Examiner	6,242	-	6,242	-	6,242	6,727	(485)
<b>STATUTORY EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 342,401</b>	<b>\$ (2,150)</b>	<b>\$ 340,251</b>	<b>\$ 3,600</b>	<b>\$ 343,851</b>	<b>\$ 331,495</b>	<b>\$ 12,356</b>
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	\$ 26,958	\$ -	\$ 26,958	\$ -	\$ 26,958	\$ 25,711	\$ 1,247
Valuation Adjustments	849	-	849	-	849	(7,095)	7,944
	\$ 27,807	\$ -	\$ 27,807	\$ -	\$ 27,807	\$ 18,616	\$ 9,191

(a) Adjustments made to report the dedicated revenue shortfall for provincial civil claims of \$255 and the alternate funding model surplus of \$1,895.

(b) Supplementary Estimates were approved on September 8, 2006.

(c) Includes achievement bonus amounting to \$4,792.

**Schedule 5 (continued)**

**Ministry of Justice  
Schedule to Financial Statements**

**Comparison of Expenses – Directly Incurred, Equipment/Inventory Purchases and Capital Investments and  
Statutory Expenses by Element to Authorized Budget  
Year Ended March 31, 2007**

(in thousands)

Program	2006-2007 Estimates	Adjustments (a)	2006-2007 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (b)	2006-2007 Authorized Budget	2006-2007 Actual (c)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
1.0.1 Minister's Office	\$ 545	\$ -	\$ 545	\$ -	\$ 545	\$ 478	\$ 67
1.0.2 Deputy Minister's Office	577	-	577	-	577	597	(20)
1.0.3 Communications							
-Operating Expense	476	-	476	-	476	391	85
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	6	(6)
1.0.4 Corporate Services							
-Operating Expense	11,646	-	11,646	-	11,646	10,952	694
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	88	(88)
1.0.5 Human Resources	2,932	-	2,932	-	2,932	2,803	129
1.0.6 Management Information Services	4,996	-	4,996	-	4,996	2,916	2,080
1.0.7 Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	516	-	516	-	516	522	(6)
1.0.8 Standing Policy Committee on Justice and Government Services	65	-	65	-	65	67	(2)
1.0.9 Policy Secretariat							
-Operating Expense	597	-	597	-	597	538	59
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	5	(5)
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$ 22,350</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 22,350</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 22,350</b>	<b>\$ 19,363</b>	<b>\$ 2,987</b>

Schedule 5 (continued)

Ministry of Justice  
Schedule to Financial Statements

Comparison of Expenses – Directly Incurred, Equipment/Inventory Purchases and Capital Investments and  
Statutory Expenses by Element to Authorized Budget  
Year Ended March 31, 2007

(in thousands)

Program	2006-2007 Estimates	Adjustments (a)	2006-2007 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (b)	2006-2007 Authorized Budget	2006-2007 Actual (c)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
<b>2.1 Program Support</b>							
2.1.1 Program Support Services							
-Operating Expense	\$ 13,356	\$ -	\$ 13,356	\$ 350	\$ 13,706	\$ 12,729	\$ 977
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	20,060	-	20,060	-	20,060	17,090	2,970
2.1.2 Chief Provincial Judge's Office	2,115	-	2,115	-	2,115	2,419	(304)
2.1.3 Law Libraries	3,951	-	3,951	-	3,951	4,186	(235)
2.1.4 Ticket Processing	20,412	-	20,412	-	20,412	21,855	(1,443)
2.1.5 Provincial Civil Claims	1,000	(255)	745	-	745	1,572	(827)
2.1.6 Aboriginal Court Worker Program	3,434	-	3,434	-	3,434	3,396	38
2.1.7 Amortization of Capital/Assets	480	-	480	-	480	1,133	(653)
<b>Total Sub-program</b>	<b>64,808</b>	<b>(255)</b>	<b>64,553</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>64,903</b>	<b>64,380</b>	<b>523</b>
<b>2.2 Calgary Court Operations</b>							
2.2.1 Calgary Court of Queen's Bench	8,223	-	8,223	-	8,223	7,896	327
2.2.2 Calgary Provincial Courts	20,906	-	20,906	1,330	22,236	20,193	2,043
2.2.3 Calgary Family Justice Services							
-Operating Expense	2,451	-	2,451	-	2,451	2,069	382
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	6	(6)
2.2.4 Calgary Civil Mediation	341	-	341	-	341	285	56
2.2.5 Calgary Operations Support	1,548	-	1,548	-	1,548	1,727	(179)
<b>Total Sub-program</b>	<b>33,469</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,469</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>34,799</b>	<b>32,176</b>	<b>2,623</b>
<b>2.3 Edmonton Court Operations</b>							
2.3.1 Edmonton Court of Queen's Bench	8,850	-	8,850	-	8,850	8,696	154
2.3.2 Edmonton Provincial Courts							
-Operating Expense	18,814	-	18,814	1,675	20,489	17,934	2,555
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	6	(6)
2.3.3 Edmonton Family Justice Services	2,855	-	2,855	-	2,855	2,147	708
2.3.4 Edmonton Civil Mediation	664	-	664	-	664	599	65
2.3.5 Edmonton Operations Support	1,927	-	1,927	-	1,927	2,053	(126)
2.3.6 Board of Review	242	-	242	-	242	252	(10)
<b>Total Sub-program</b>	<b>33,352</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,352</b>	<b>1,675</b>	<b>35,027</b>	<b>31,687</b>	<b>3,340</b>



# Schedule 5 (continued)

## Ministry of Justice Schedule to Financial Statements

### Comparison of Expenses – Directly Incurred, Equipment/Inventory Purchases and Capital Investments and Statutory Expenses by Element to Authorized Budget Year Ended March 31, 2007

(in thousands)

Program	2006-2007 Estimates	Adjustments (a)	2006-2007 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (b)	2006-2007 Authorized Budget	2006-2007 Actual (c)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
<b>2.4 Regional Court Operations</b>							
2.4.1 Lethbridge Courts	\$ 3,818	\$ -	\$ 3,818	40	\$ 3,858	\$ 3,834	\$ 24
2.4.2 Red Deer Courts	3,681	-	3,681	96	3,777	3,724	53
2.4.3 Grande Prairie Courts	1,511	-	1,511	89	1,600	1,377	223
2.4.4 Peace River Courts	1,595	-	1,595	-	1,595	1,843	(248)
2.4.5 Wetaskiwin Courts	1,207	-	1,207	-	1,207	1,330	(123)
2.4.6 Fort McMurray Courts	1,476	-	1,476	-	1,476	1,212	264
2.4.7 St. Paul Courts	1,887	-	1,887	-	1,887	1,898	(11)
2.4.8 Drumheller Courts	427	-	427	-	427	474	(47)
2.4.9 Medicine Hat Courts							
-Operating Expense	1,619	-	1,619	20	1,639	1,611	28
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	10	(10)
2.4.10 Regional Provincial Courts	6,584	-	6,584	-	6,584	7,022	(438)
2.4.11 Regional Family Justice Services	2,661	-	2,661	-	2,661	1,358	1,303
Regional Civil Mediation	748	-	748	-	748	292	456
2.4.12 Regional Operations Support	1,092	-	1,092	-	1,092	1,165	(73)
<b>Total Sub-program</b>	<b>28,306</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,306</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>28,551</b>	<b>27,150</b>	<b>1,401</b>
<b>2.5 Court of Appeal</b>							
2.5.1 Court of Appeal	4,026	-	4,026	-	4,026	3,926	100
<b>Total Sub-program</b>	<b>4,026</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,026</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,026</b>	<b>3,926</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$ 163,961</b>	<b>\$ (255)</b>	<b>\$ 163,706</b>	<b>\$ 3,600</b>	<b>\$ 167,306</b>	<b>\$ 159,319</b>	<b>\$ 7,987</b>

**Ministry of Justice**  
**Schedule to Financial Statements**  
**Schedule 5 (continued)**  
**Comparison of Expenses – Directly Incurred, Equipment/Inventory Purchases and Capital Investments and**  
**Statutory Expenses by Element to Authorized Budget**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2007**

(in thousands)

Program	2006-2007 Estimates	Adjustments (a)	2006-2007 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (b)	2006-2007 Authorized Budget	2006-2007 Actual (c)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
3.0.1 Law Reform	\$ 400	\$ -	400	\$ -	400	400	\$ -
3.0.2 Legislative Counsel	2,010	-	2,010	-	2,010	1,960	50
3.0.3 Civil Law							
-Operating Expenses	25,375	-	25,375	-	25,375	24,771	604
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	72	(72)
3.0.4 Criminal Justice	50,108	-	50,108	-	50,108	49,919	189
3.0.5 Maintenance Enforcement							
-Operating Expenses	13,939	-	13,939	-	13,939	13,227	712
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	800	-	800	-	800	860	(60)
3.0.6 Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	1,457	-	1,457	-	1,457	932	525
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$ 94,089</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>94,089</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>94,089</b>	<b>\$ 92,141</b>	<b>\$ 1,948</b>
<b>Program</b>	<b>2006-2007 Estimates</b>	<b>Adjustments (a)</b>	<b>2006-2007 Budget</b>	<b>Authorized Supplementary (b)</b>	<b>2006-2007 Authorized Budget</b>	<b>2006-2007 Actual (c)</b>	<b>Unexpended (Over Expended)</b>
4.0.1 Legal Aid Plan	\$ 43,196	\$ -	43,196	\$ -	43,196	\$ 43,196	\$ -

**Schedule 5 (continued)**

**Ministry of Justice  
Schedule to Financial Statements**

**Comparison of Expenses – Directly Incurred, Equipment/Inventory Purchases and Capital Investments and Statutory Expenses by Element to Authorized Budget  
Year Ended March 31, 2007**

(in thousands)

Program	2006-2007 Estimates	Adjustments (a)	2006- 2007 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (b)	2006-2007 Authorized Budget	2006- 2007 Actual (c)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
5.0.1 Public Trustee							
-Operating Expenses	\$ 11,863	\$ (1,895)	\$ 9,968	\$ -	\$ 9,968	\$ 10,749	\$ (781)
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	700	-	700	-	700	-	700
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$ 12,563</b>	<b>\$ (1,895)</b>	<b>\$ 10,668</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 10,668</b>	<b>\$ 10,749</b>	<b>\$ (81)</b>
6.0.1 Medical Examiner							
-Operating Expenses	\$ 5,979	\$ -	\$ 5,979	\$ -	\$ 5,979	\$ 5,971	\$ 8
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	210	-	210	-	210	507	(297)
6.0.2 Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	53	-	53	-	53	249	(196)
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$ 6,242</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,242</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,242</b>	<b>\$ 6,727</b>	<b>\$ (485)</b>

## Schedule 5 (continued)

### Ministry of Justice Schedule to Financial Statements

#### Comparison of Expenses – Directly Incurred, Equipment/Inventory Purchases and Capital Investments and Statutory Expenses by Element to Authorized Budget Year Ended March 31, 2007

(in thousands)

	2006-2007 Estimates	Adjustments (a)	2006-2007 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (b)	2006-2007 Authorized Budget	2006-2007 Actual (c)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims							
-Operating Expenses	\$ 26,558	\$ -	\$ 26,558	\$ -	\$ 26,558	\$ 25,711	\$ 847
-Equipment/Inventory Purchases	400	-	400	-	400	-	400
Valuation Adjustments	849	-	849	-	849	(7,095)	7,944
	\$ 27,807	\$ -	\$ 27,807	\$ -	\$ 27,807	\$ 18,616	\$ 9,191



**Ministry of Justice**  
**Schedule to Financial Statements**  
**Salary and Benefits Disclosure**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2007**

**Schedule 6**

	2007			Total	2006
	Base Salary <sup>(1)</sup>	Other Cash Benefits <sup>(2)</sup>	Other Non Cash Benefits <sup>(3)</sup>		Total
Deputy Minister <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 216,300	\$ 50,000	\$ 48,483	\$ 314,783	\$ 301,813
Assistant Deputy Minister, Legal Services	165,712	29,100	38,189	233,001	216,520
Assistant Deputy Minister, Court Services	157,044	28,200	42,752	227,996	207,593
Assistant Deputy Minister, Criminal Justice <sup>(5)</sup>	161,264	39,334	38,248	238,846	215,843
Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services <sup>(5)</sup>	157,044	21,980	35,199	214,223	185,586
Executive Director, Human Resources	122,327	16,500	28,956	167,783	199,243

*Prepared in accordance with Treasury Board Directive 03/2004.*

Total salary and benefits relating to a position are disclosed.

- (1) Base salary includes regular base pay.
- (2) Other cash benefits includes bonuses, vacation payouts, overtime and lump sum payments.
- (3) Other non-cash benefits include the government's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, professional memberships and tuition fees.
- (4) Automobile provided, no dollar amount included in benefits and allowances.
- (5) The position was occupied by two individuals through the year.

## Ministry of Justice Schedule to Financial Statements Related Party Transactions Year Ended March 31, 2007

## Schedule 7

(in thousands)

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on a modified equity basis in the Province of Alberta's financial statements. Related parties also include management in the Ministry.

The Ministry and its employees paid or collected certain taxes and fees set by regulation for permits, licences and other charges. These amounts were incurred in the normal course of business, reflect charges applicable to all users, and have been excluded from this Schedule.

The Ministry had the following transactions with related parties recorded on the Statement of Operations and the Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties:

	2007	Other Entities 2006 Restated (Note 3)
Expenses – Directly Incurred		
Service Alberta	\$ 9,361	\$ 7,527
Information Technology	-	642
Corporate Internal Audit Service	52	17
Parking	3	2
	<u>\$ 9,416</u>	<u>\$ 8,188</u>

At March 31, 2007 the Ministry recorded accounts receivable from Service Alberta for Motor Vehicle Accident Claims (MVAC) fees on the Statement of Operations and Statement of Financial Position of \$1,618 (2006 – 1,590). The Ministry also included an outstanding deposit from Service Alberta of \$5,853 (2006 - \$5,137) in the Various Court Offices Trust Fund as at March 31, 2007.



**Ministry of Justice**  
**Schedule to Financial Statements**  
**Related Party Transactions**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2007**

**Schedule 7 (continued)**

(in thousands)

The Ministry also had the following transactions with related parties for which no consideration was exchanged. The amounts for these related party transactions are estimated based on the costs incurred by the service provider to provide the service. These amounts are not recorded in the financial statements.

	Other Entities		Entities in the Ministry	
	2007	2006 Restated	2007	2006
Revenues – Legal Services	\$ 21,121	\$ 20,481	\$ 4,316	\$ 4,902
Expenses – Indirectly Incurred				
Accommodation	\$ 38,348	\$ 35,273	\$ -	\$ -
Legal Services	-	-	4,316	4,902
Service Alberta	4,293	3,901		
Other Services	46	100		
	\$ 42,687	\$ 39,274	\$ 4,316	\$ 4,902

## Schedule 8

### Ministry of Justice Schedule to Financial Statements Allocated Costs Year Ended March 31, 2007

(in thousands)

Program	2007					2006	
	Expenses (1)	Accommodation Costs (2)	Legal Services (3)	Vacation Pay	Doubtful Accounts	Expenses	Restated (Note 3)
	Expenses – Incurred by Others						
	Valuation Adjustments (4)						
Voted:							
Ministry Support Services	\$ 19,264	\$ 856	\$ 2,055	\$ 357	\$ -	\$ 22,532	\$ 19,551
Court Services	142,207	30,771	332	8	169	173,487	161,821
Legal Services	91,209	4,206	(3,731)	820	-	92,504	81,949
Support for Legal Aid	43,196	32	-	-	-	43,228	31,025
Public Trustee	10,749	1,200	402	(29)	-	12,322	11,489
Medical Examiner	6,220	1,384	420	61	-	8,085	7,614
	<u>312,845</u>	<u>38,449</u>	<u>(522)</u>	<u>1,217</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>352,158</u>	<u>313,449</u>
Statutory:							
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	25,711	191	522	16	77	26,517	29,851
	<u>\$ 338,556</u>	<u>\$ 38,640</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,233</u>	<u>\$ 246</u>	<u>\$ 378,675</u>	<u>\$ 343,300</u>

- (1) Expenses – Directly Incurred as per Statement of Operations, excluding valuation adjustments. (\$331,461 plus [8,574-1,233-246] = \$338,556)
- (2) Costs for Accommodation (includes grants in lieu of taxes) on Schedule 7, allocated by square footage.
- (3) Cost shown for Legal Services on Schedule 7, estimated costs incurred by each program.
- (4) Valuation Adjustments as per Statement of Operations. Employee Benefits and Doubtful Accounts were allocated as follows:
  - Vacation Pay – allocated to the program by employee,
  - Doubtful Accounts Provision – estimated allocation to program.



## The Following Information is Unaudited

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## Other Financial Information

### Statement of Remissions, Compromises and Write-offs for the Year Ended March 31, 2007

The following statement of compromises and write-offs has been prepared pursuant to Section 23 of the *Financial Administration Act*. The statement includes all compromises and write-offs of the Ministry of Justice made or approved during the fiscal year.

	\$ (000)
Remissions:	\$ -
Compromises:	
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	\$ 96
Maintenance Enforcement Program	-
	<u>\$ 96</u>
Write-offs:	
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	\$ 1,476
Fines	3,278
Late Payment Penalties	1,133
Abandoned and Seized Vehicles	95
Maintenance Enforcement Program	792
	<u>\$ 6,774</u>
Total Remissions, Compromises and Write-offs	<u>\$ 6,870</u>

## Civil Law Legal Services Delivery - Current and Prior Year Comparison

### Staff Providing Services

Civil Law provides legal and related strategic services to all government ministries. Civil Law maintains a time keeping system to enable its lawyers, paralegals and articling students to record and report the hours of legal services provided in total to each Ministry and their respective programs. In 2006/07 175 lawyers, paralegals and articling students recorded in excess of 207,000 hours of provided legal services and in 2005/06 175 such staff recorded more than 210,000 hours. The total hours of service to each Ministry is used as the basis to allocate legal services costs.

### Cost of Legal Services

The costing methodology to estimate the costs for providing legal services for allocation to all client ministries includes the total cost of Civil Law less expenditures on contracted services and grants to third parties. A proportionate amount for support services provided by Corporate Services and Human Resource Services is included in the estimate. The estimate includes accommodation costs for office space in government owned or leased buildings as paid by and reported by the Ministry of Infrastructure, and also includes all or part of salary and benefit costs for lawyers paid directly by client ministries. The estimated costs are allocated to each department based on the hours of service received. Justice, as a service provider, sends the legal services cost information to each Ministry for disclosure in the Related Party Transactions Schedule and the Allocated Costs Schedule to the financial statements of each ministry's annual report.

### Client Satisfaction Rate

The percentage of clients who were more than *satisfied* to *very satisfied* with the legal services provided was 90 percent in 2006/07 and 93 percent in 2005/06. This performance measure is fully described under Goal 6 in this annual report.

## Other Information

### Current and Prior Year Comparison

The table below summarizes the estimated cost of allocated legal services, the number of hours allocated, the average hourly cost and the client satisfaction rate.

Cost Estimates	2006/07	2005/06
Total Civil Law Costs	\$ 24,771,566	\$ 23,934,371
Deduct Contract Services & Grants	1,316,898	443,252
	<u>\$ 23,454,668</u>	<u>\$ 23,491,119</u>
Add Support Services	1,204,664	1,059,703
Accommodation	777,874	832,330
Client Cost for Lawyers	3,445,213	3,188,282
	<u>\$ 28,882,419</u>	<u>\$ 28,571,434</u>
Number of Hours of Service Provided	207,027.1	210,115.7
Average Hourly Cost	\$ 139.51	\$ 135.98
Client Satisfaction Rate	90%	93%



## Fine Activity and Violation Ticket Activity Information

### Fine Activity Information

#### Federal and Provincial Statute Offences and Municipal Bylaw Offences

A management information report summarizes fine activity by the recipients entitled to the fine or penalty. The municipalities receive specific provincial statute offence fines and all municipal bylaw fines for offences occurring within municipal boundaries. The majority of municipal fine activity occurs in cities, towns, counties and municipal districts. The Alberta government receives fines for provincial statute offences occurring on primary highways and other specific provincial statute offences. The Alberta government receives any late payment penalties on overdue fines and some fines under the *Criminal Code of Canada* and retains 16 2/3 percent of *Traffic Safety Act* fines. The Victims of Crime Fund, administered by the Alberta Solicitor General, receives a 15 per cent surcharge on all provincial statute fines and a surcharge on selective federal statute offences. These surcharge revenues are used to fund victims programs in Alberta. The federal government receives fines for federal statute offences and selective fines under the *Criminal Code*.

The tables below summarize fines imposed, fine payments and uncollectible fines for the twelve months from April 2006 to March 2007 and for the twelve months from April 2005 to March 2006, by the recipient level of government. The final two tables summarize outstanding fines at March 31, 2007 and March 31, 2006, by the recipient level of government.

#### Fines Imposed – April 2006 to March 2007

Recipient	Number of Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	1,080,117	28.8%	\$ \$106,910,060	52.0%
Alberta Government	157,354	4.2%	34,299,032	16.7%
Victims of Crime Fund	1,036,116	27.7%	22,939,518	11.2%
Federal Government	1,531	0.0%	1,651,346	0.8%
Late Payment Penalty	487,257	13.0%	13,338,170	6.5%
Fine Retention	985,628	26.3%	26,383,537	12.8%
Total	3,748,003	100.0%	\$ \$205,521,663	100.0%

### Fines Imposed – April 2005 to March 2006

Recipient	Number of Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	1,096,248	29.5%	\$106,095,415	53.0%
Alberta Government	140,980	3.8%	30,306,540	15.1%
Victims of Crime Fund	1,028,390	27.6%	22,099,836	11.0%
Federal Government	1,592	0.0%	3,327,684	1.7%
Late Payment Penalty	473,250	12.7%	12,709,211	6.4%
Fine Retention	981,623	26.4%	25,563,826	12.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,722,083</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$200,102,512</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Fine Payments – April 2006 to March 2007

Recipient	Number of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	1,053,830	28.8%	\$ 96,332,774	53.6%
Alberta Government	144,227	3.9%	25,545,928	14.2%
Victims of Crime Fund	1,000,686	27.3%	19,780,718	11.0%
Federal Government	2,138	0.1%	1,759,079	1.0%
Late Payment Penalty	504,432	13.8%	13,315,937	7.4%
Fine Retention	956,418	26.1%	22,940,782	12.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,661,731</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$179,675,218</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Fine Payments – April 2005 to March 2006

Recipient	Number of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	1,056,478	29.3%	\$ 94,009,793	53.9%
Alberta Government	132,451	3.7%	23,486,404	13.5%
Victims of Crime Fund	986,233	27.4%	19,015,433	10.9%
Federal Government	1,983	0.1%	3,506,665	2.0%
Late Payment Penalty	486,180	13.5%	12,513,405	7.2%
Fine Retention	936,299	26.0%	21,830,204	12.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,599,624</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$174,361,904</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### Uncollectible Fines – April 2006 to March 2007

Recipient	Number of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	48,587	39.5%	\$ 4,873,638	49.8%
Alberta Government	15,349	12.5%	3,279,744	33.5%
Victims of Crime Fund	5,267	4.3%	257,729	2.6%
Federal Government	507	0.4%	246,199	2.5%
Late Payment Penalty	53,225	43.3%	1,132,651	11.6%
Fine Retention	Not available		Not available	
<b>Total</b>	<b>122,935</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 9,789,961</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Uncollectible Fines – April 2005 to March 2006

Recipient	Number of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	41,094	38.9%	\$ 4,479,014	48.8%
Alberta Government	13,350	12.6%	3,143,461	34.2%
Victims of Crime Fund	7,100	6.7%	366,688	4.0%
Federal Government	336	0.3%	252,418	2.7%
Late Payment Penalty	43,789	41.5%	944,427	10.3%
Fine Retention	not available		not available	
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,669</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 9,186,008</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Outstanding Fines – at March 31, 2007

Recipient	Number of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	521,413	31.6%	\$ 79,412,467	50.1%
Alberta Government	121,484	7.3%	40,378,205	25.5%
Victims of Crime Fund	30,872	1.9%	1,977,704	1.2%
Federal Government	3,693	0.2%	5,269,652	3.3%
Late Payment Penalty	546,319	33.1%	15,611,201	9.9%
Fine Retention	427,595	25.9%	15,832,786	10.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,651,376</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$158,482,015</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Outstanding Fines – at March 31, 2006

Recipient	Number of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	537,582	32.9%	\$ 76,951,111	51.0%
Alberta Government	118,443	7.2%	37,725,446	25.0%
Victims of Crime Fund	32,095	2.0%	2,048,337	1.4%
Federal Government	3,767	0.2%	5,388,970	3.6%
Late Payment Penalty	556,156	34.0%	15,101,643,	10.0%
Fine Retention	388,414	23.7%	13,630,667	9.0%
Total	1,636,457	100.0%	\$150,846,174	100.0%

### Fine Collection Cost Estimates

#### Overview

Costing methodologies have been developed to estimate the cost of collecting a provincial statute fine and the cost of collecting a federal statute (*Criminal Code* and other) fine. The estimated cost of collecting a provincial statute fine is related to the number of violation tickets received by all Provincial Court offices in Alberta. The estimated cost of collecting a federal statute fine is related to the approximate number of Fine Orders in all Provincial Court offices. The estimated costs are those incurred by Alberta Justice in Court Services, Criminal Justice and Corporate Services programs.

#### Estimated Cost of Collecting a Provincial Statute Fine – 2006/07 and 2005/06

There were 1.324 million violation tickets received by all Provincial Court offices in 2006/07 and 1.302 million in 2005/06. The major cost components for Court Services are the Calgary and Edmonton Provincial Traffic Courts, ticket processing costs in the Regional Provincial Courts and the cost of violation ticket printing and direct general and regional overhead expenditures. Criminal Justice costs include paralegal prosecutors and support staff and first appearance centres in Calgary and Edmonton. Corporate Services costs are for the operation and maintenance of the Justice Online Information Network (JOIN) system applicable to violation tickets and for postage and handling of the Notice of Conviction mail-outs.

The table below summarizes the provincial statute and municipal bylaw fine payments received and the cost for violation tickets received by all provincial courts.

### Total Provincial Statute and Municipal Bylaw Payments Received

	2006/07	2005/06
Provincial Acts - Fine and Surcharge	\$ 145,848,196	\$ 140,756,881
Municipal Bylaw	8,458,569	7,923,639
Late Payment Penalty	12,236,876	11,456,451
Total Violation Ticket Payments A	\$ 166,543,641	\$ 160,136,971
Cost for Violation Tickets Received by All Courts		
Total Estimated Cost B	\$ 21,849,168	\$ 21,931,004
Cost per Dollar Collected (B/A)	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.14

### Estimated Cost of Collecting a Federal Statute Fine –2006/07 and 2005/06

There were 28,414 Fine Orders in all Provincial Court offices in 2006/07 and 27,890 in 2005/06. The major cost components for Court Services are the salary and benefit costs of court staff and Provincial Court judges with associated supplies and services costs. Criminal Justice costs are primarily the salary and benefit costs of the Crown prosecutors. Corporate Services costs are for the operation and maintenance of the JOIN system applicable to criminal case tracking. Corporate Services also pays for the salary and other operating costs for the Fines Enforcement Unit who collect *Criminal Code* fines on behalf of all courts in the province.

The table below summarizes the federal statute fine payments received and the cost for all Fine Orders prepared by all Provincial Court offices.

### Total Federal Statute Payments Received

	2006/07	2005/06
Federal Acts - Fine and Surcharge A	\$ 11,326,086	\$ 12,438,056
<b>Cost for Fine Orders by All Courts</b>		
Court Services and Criminal Justice	\$ 18,343,444	\$ 16,379,910
Corporate Services	647,833	583,043
Total Estimated Cost B	\$ 18,991,277	\$ 16,962,953
Cost per Dollar Collected (B/A)	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.36

Office of the Public Trustee, Estates and Trusts

**Financial Statement**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2007**

**AUDITED**



OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

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## Auditor's Report

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General

I have audited the balance sheet of the Office of the Public Trustee, Estates and Trusts as at March 31, 2007, and the statement of changes in net assets and the common fund statement of operations for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Office of the Public Trustee. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Office of the Public Trustee, Estates and Trusts as at March 31, 2007, and the changes in net assets and the results of operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

 FCA  
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta  
May 18, 2007



**Office of the Public Trustee  
Estates and Trusts  
Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2007**

	(\$000)	
	2007	2006
<b>COMMON FUND ASSETS</b>		
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 23,755	\$ 9,022
Accrued Investment Income	8,748	7,933
Investments (Note 4)	394,901	409,690
	<u>427,404</u>	<u>426,645</u>
Client Guaranteed Accounts	(373,757)	(374,739)
	<u>53,647</u>	<u>51,906</u>
<b>CLIENT ASSETS</b>		
Client Guaranteed Accounts	373,757	374,739
Accounts Receivable	3,541	4,341
Securities and Investments (Note 5)	40,319	43,262
Real Estate Holdings	16,474	15,584
Personal Property and Other Assets	1,673	5,594
	<u>435,764</u>	<u>443,520</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$489,411</u></u>	<u><u>\$495,426</u></u>
<b>COMMON FUND LIABILITIES</b>		
Advances from Minister of Finance of Alberta	\$ 24	\$ 224
<b>CLIENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts, Mortgages and Notes Payable	8,333	8,296
Estate Administration Fees Payable	7,700	7,722
	<u>16,033</u>	<u>16,018</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	16,057	16,242
<b>NET ASSETS ADMINISTERED</b>	<u>473,354</u>	<u>479,184</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS ADMINISTERED</b>	<u><u>\$489,411</u></u>	<u><u>\$495,426</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Office of the Public Trustee Estates and Trusts Statement of Changes in Net Assets For the Year ended March 31, 2007

	(\$000)	
	2007	2006
<b>SOURCE OF ASSETS</b>		
Pensions, Benefits and Settlements Received	\$ 72,108	\$ 66,848
Client Assets Acquired During the Year	17,403	28,814
Income Earned on Common Fund Investments (Note 2(b))	22,061	22,475
Other Client Funds Received	5,717	5,892
Income from Client Securities and Investments	1,737	1,904
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS ACQUIRED</b>	119,026	125,933
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>DISPOSITION OF ASSETS</b>		
Distributions to Beneficiaries	53,282	53,091
Payments for Care and Maintenance of Clients	42,099	42,279
Assets Released to Clients	19,769	23,133
Taxes Paid on Behalf of Clients	2,744	2,687
Public Trustee Fees (Note 2(i))	5,542	5,223
Goods and Services Tax Paid by Clients	354	329
Common Fund Operating Expenses	1,066	943
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL DISPOSITIONS OF ASSETS</b>	124,856	127,685
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>DECREASE IN ASSETS</b>	(5,830)	(1,752)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET ASSETS- BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	479,184	480,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$473,354</u>	<u>\$479,184</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Office of the Public Trustee  
Estates and Trusts  
Common Fund Statement of Operations  
For the Year ended March 31, 2007**

	(\$000)	
	2007	2006
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Revenue from investments	\$ 21,503	\$ 22,128
Interest from deposits	558	347
	22,061	22,475
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
CDIC insurance	22	22
Bank charges	51	40
Investment custody fees	99	108
General expenses	97	81
Assurance payments (Note 7)	134	30
Common Fund transfer (Note 2(k))	624	619
Goods and Services tax on common fund transfer	39	43
	1,066	943
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	20,995	21,532
<b>INTEREST PAID TO CLIENTS (Note 2)</b>	19,254	20,350
<b>NET INCREASE IN COMMON FUND ASSETS</b>	1,741	1,182
<b>COMMON FUND ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	51,906	50,724
<b>COMMON FUND ASSETS – END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 53,647	\$ 51,906

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE  
ESTATES AND TRUSTS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
MARCH 31, 2007

## Note 1 Authority

The Public Trustee of Alberta operates under the authority of the *Public Trustee Act*, SA 2004, C.P. 44.1, (“the Act”).

The Public Trustee of Alberta (“Public Trustee”) protects the financial interests of vulnerable Albertans by administering the estates of dependent adults, decedents and minors.

The Minister of Justice of Alberta (“the Ministry”) is accountable for the Office of the Public Trustee as a part of the Ministry. These statements reflect the trust assets and related income and expenses, including administration fees charged by the Office of the Public Trustee to administer the estates. The entire cost of operating the Office of the Public Trustee is paid by the Ministry. All fees charged by the Office of the Public Trustee are paid to the Ministry. These amounts can be found in the financial statements of the Ministry.

## Note 2 Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Because the precise determination of many assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses is dependent on future events, the preparation of financial statements for a period necessarily includes the use of estimates and approximations, which have been made using careful judgement. In particular, the fair value of many assets is estimated at the time the Office of the Public Trustee assumes the responsibility for the asset. Actual results could differ from those estimates. In management’s opinion, these financial statements have been properly prepared within reasonable limits of materiality and within the framework of the accounting principles summarized below.

### (a) Basis of presentation

The basis of presentation of the March 31, 2007 financial statements has changed from previous years. The change in presentation reflects the changes in the *Public Trustee Act*, see Note 2(b). Current presentation segregates the Client Guaranteed Accounts from the Common Fund Assets.



## Note 2 Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices (continued)

The Balance Sheet for the year ended March 31, 2006 has been restated to reflect the current basis of presentation. Amounts previously reported as Trust Funds Under Administration are now reported as Common Fund Assets, less the amounts which represent Client Guaranteed Accounts of \$374,739,000. The amounts previously reported separately in the Balance Sheet for the year ended March 31, 2006 as Client Guaranteed Account Investments and Other Investments have been consolidated and restated as Investments for the same amount. Client Assets for the same year have been increased by the amount of Client Guaranteed Accounts. There has been no change to Total Assets, Total liabilities or Net Assets Administered. There are no changes to the Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended March 31, 2006. There were separate Statement of Operations for Client Guaranteed Investments and Other Investments for the year ended March 31, 2006. The separate statements have been consolidated as a single Common Fund Statement of Operations in accordance with the Act. Consolidated revenue of \$22,475,000 and consolidated expenses of \$943,000 for the year ended March 31, 2006 are unchanged from the total previously reported revenue and expenses for Client Guaranteed Account Investment and Other Investments. The amount of \$619,000 previously described as Management Fees for the year ended March 31, 2006 has been restated as Common Fund transfer, for the same amount, in accordance with the Act.

### (b) Common Fund and Client Guaranteed Accounts

Before 2005 the Public Trustee operated a common fund and a special reserve fund. Section 31(1) of the Act combined those two funds as the present common fund. Section 31(2) requires (with certain exceptions) money received by the Public Trustee for a client to be paid into the common fund. Section 33(3) requires any amount paid into the common fund for a client under section 31(2) to be credited to the client's guaranteed account with the Public Trustee.

Section 31(4) of the Act states that no client or other person has any claim to or against the common fund except as provided by section 33. Section 33(6) states that the amount outstanding on a client's guaranteed account is a charge against the assets of the common fund.

Section 32(1) of the Act states that assets may be transferred out of the common fund only as expressly required or permitted under the Act. Section 32(2) allows funds to be transferred out of the common fund to the client, to pay an expense or liability of the client (including Public Trustee fees authorized by section 40), or similar purposes. Amounts transferred from the common fund under section 32(2) are deducted from the client's guaranteed account (section 33(4)). Section 32(3) allows the Public Trustee to transfer amounts from the common fund to cover expenses of operating the common fund (e.g. bank charges, custodianship fees). Section 32(4) allows the Public Trustee, in accordance with the regulations, to transfer amounts from the common fund to be applied to the cost of administering the Act.

### Note 2 Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices (continued)

Amounts transferred from the common fund under either section 32(3) or section 32(4) are not deducted from clients' guaranteed accounts (section 32(5)), but are charged against common fund operations.

Section 34 of the Act states that the Public Trustee, in accordance with regulations, sets the interest rate to be credited to client guaranteed accounts.

#### (c) Common Fund Investments

Common fund investments consist primarily of bonds and are recorded at cost. Investment income is accrued as earned. Purchase price premiums or discounts are amortized on a straight-line basis over the remaining term of the bond.

#### (d) Client Accounts Receivable

Client accounts receivable include pension and other benefits, life insurance policies, mortgages, leases and other miscellaneous receivables.

Pension plans with a guaranteed minimum payment are recorded at net present value. Plans where there is no residual value are recorded at a nominal value of \$1.

Life insurance policies that carry a cash surrender value are stated at cash surrender value. Policies that do not carry a cash surrender value are recorded at a nominal value of \$1.

All other receivables are recorded at their face value.

#### (e) Client Securities and Investments

Client securities and investments, held for clients outside the common fund, consist primarily of bonds, annuities, shares, RRSPs, term deposits, guaranteed investment certificates and other investments. Annuities are recorded at the present value of their guaranteed term. If there is not a guaranteed term, the annuity is recorded at a nominal value of \$1. Other client securities and investments are recorded at their market value at the time the Office of the Public Trustee assumes responsibility for the investment.

Where a market value for an investment is not readily available, the investment is recorded at a nominal value of \$1. The carrying value of the investment is adjusted to market value if one subsequently becomes available.

## Note 2 Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices (continued)

### (f) Client Real Estate Holdings

Client real estate holdings are recorded at the property tax assessment value at the time the Office of the Public Trustee assumes responsibility for the property.

Where the tax assessed value for property is not readily available, for example with foreign property, the property is recorded at a nominal value of \$1. The carrying value of the property is adjusted to a tax assessed value if one subsequently becomes available.

### (g) Client Personal Property and Other Assets

Client personal property and other assets are recorded at fair value at the time the Office of the Public Trustee assumes responsibility for the assets.

Where no valuation is available, the asset is recorded at a nominal value of \$1. The carrying value of the asset is adjusted to market value if one subsequently becomes available.

### (h) Client Accounts Payable, Mortgages and Loans Payable

Client accounts payable, mortgages and loans payable represent encumbrances of client assets that are payable to independent third parties. These client obligations are settled as client resources become available. In some cases, a client's liabilities exceed the stated value of his/her assets. These items are included as accounts payable and are paid as the resources of the client become available. The carrying value of these liabilities approximates fair value.

### (i) Public Trustee Fees

Public Trustee fees on all official guardian accounts are calculated and collected in the month of the annual anniversary of the opening of the file. Fees are accrued for the period from the anniversary date to the balance sheet date. For accounts opened prior to January 1, 2005 a one-time calculation of administration fees on official guardian accounts was completed to December 31, 2004 and recorded as a liability. These fees will be collected from the client at the end of the Public Trustee's administration.

Public Trustee fees for dependent adult accounts are calculated and collected annually on the trust's anniversary date. Fees are accrued for the period from the anniversary date to the balance sheet date.

Public Trustee fees on decedent accounts are not charged until the trust or account is distributed. Due to the uncertainty with respect to the ultimate amount that will be charged and the short-term nature of the administration, no provision is made for these fees until the amount becomes known.

### Note 2 Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices (continued)

In addition to the above stated administration fees the Public Trustee may, in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of the Act, charge the client any fee that the Public Trustee deems is reasonable for any service, including legal services, that the Public Trustee provides to the client or for a task or function performed by the Public Trustee for the benefit of the client. Under section 40(1)(b), the Public Trustee is entitled to collect from the client any expense reasonably incurred on the client's behalf.

#### (j) Interest Paid to Clients

Section 34 of the Act states the Public Trustee shall set the interest rate for each category of guaranteed accounts in accordance with the regulation. Interest must be credited to guaranteed accounts in accordance to this section and the regulation. Effective May 2, 2005 interest was calculated on the minimum daily balance of each client's account and was credited to the client's account monthly. The interest rate was changed effective August 1, 2006 to 5.00%. For the period of July 1, 2004 to July 31, 2006 the interest rate was 5.50%.

#### (k) Common Fund Transfer

The Public Trustee, in accordance with section 32(4) of the Act and the regulation, may transfer amounts from the common fund to the General Revenue Fund to be applied to the cost of administering the Act.

### Note 3 Cash

Cash includes deposits in the Consolidated Cash Investment Trust Fund (CCITF) of the Province of Alberta. Alberta Finance manages CCITF with the objective of providing competitive interest income to depositors while maintaining appropriate security and liquidity of depositors' capital. The portfolio is comprised of high quality short-term and mid-term fixed income securities with a maximum term to maturity of three years. As at March 31, 2007, securities held by the CCITF have an average effective market yield of 4.36% per annum (March 31, 2006 3.96% per annum). Due to the short-term nature of these investments, the carrying value approximates fair value.

## Note 4 Investments

(in thousands)

Investments consist of fixed term securities. These investments have the following rates and maturity dates:

	2007	2006
<b>Government of Canada</b>		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 3.55% to 10.75% (2006 – 3.55% to 10.5%)	\$ 39,556	\$ 23,310
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 4.5% to 5.5% (2006 – 3.75% to 5.5%)	29,816	42,318
	<u>69,372</u>	<u>65,628</u>
<b>Province of Alberta</b>		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 4.5% to 6.9% (2006 - 4.5%)	10,453	8,452
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 5.85% (2006 – 5.85% to 6.9%)	10,974	13,054
	<u>21,427</u>	<u>21,506</u>
<b>Other Provinces</b>		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 4.75% to 6.63% (2006 - 4.9% to 9%)	169,316	164,450
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 4.3% to 7.5% (2006 - 4.75% to 7.5%)	56,266	83,862
Over 10 years, bearing interest at 4.85 to 6.75% (2006 – 5.5% to 6.75%)	22,777	22,817
	<u>248,359</u>	<u>271,129</u>
<b>Municipal</b>		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 5.85% to 6.25% (2006 – 5.85% to 6.5%)	5,068	5,089
Over 10 years, bearing interest at 6.1% (2006 – 6.1%)	1,018	1,020
	<u>6,086</u>	<u>6,109</u>
<b>Corporations</b>		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 4.75% to 6.15% (2006 – 6.15% to 6.5%)	24,564	1,254
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 3.96% to 6.3% (2006 - 3.96% to 6.9%)	14,031	37,138
Over 10 years bearing interest at 6.3% (2006 – 6.3%)	-	1,926
	<u>38,595</u>	<u>40,318</u>
<b>ATB Financial</b>		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 5% (2006- 5%)	11,062	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$394,901</u>	<u>\$409,690</u>
<b>Market Value</b>	<u>\$416,462</u>	<u>\$431,625</u>

## Note 5 Client Assets - Securities and Investments

(in thousands)

Client securities and investments consist of:

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Term and RRSP Deposits	\$ 5,968	\$ 7,298
Government of Canada Bonds	539	400
Provincial Issues	3	4
Shares and Other Securities	33,809	35,560
Total	<u>\$ 40,319</u>	<u>\$ 43,262</u>

Due to the numerous unique client investments, it is not practical to determine market value or disclose rates of return on these investments.

## Note 6 Financial Instruments

The Office of the Public Trustee, as part of its operations, holds a number of financial instruments in the common fund. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the financial instruments are not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit or market risks. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values unless otherwise noted.

## Note 7 Assurance Payments

Section 35(1) of the Act states that the Minister may authorize an amount to be transferred from the common fund to a person who has suffered a loss as a result of an act or omission of the Public Trustee, if the Public Trustee certifies that it is just and equitable to make the payment. Under section 35(2) the amount of the claim may not exceed the amount by which the value of the assets of the common fund, exceeds the total amount outstanding on guaranteed accounts immediately before the payment.

## Note 8 Contingent Liabilities

(in thousands)

Claims against the Public Trustee, which had not been resolved as at March 31, 2007 amounted to \$938,388 (2006 - \$940,397) excluding interest. No provision has been made for these unresolved claims, as the ultimate outcome cannot be predicted.



## Note 9 Statement of Cash Flows

A statement of cash flows has not been included in these financial statements as the cash flow information is readily apparent from the other statements included.

## Note 10 Related Party Transactions

(in thousands)

The following table summarizes the related party transactions with Alberta Justice for the year:

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Administration Fees	\$5,487	\$5,223
Common Fund Transfer	624	619
Total	<u>\$6,111</u>	<u>\$5,842</u>

## Note 11 Comparative Figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

## Note 12 Approval of Financial Statements

The Deputy Minister of Justice and Attorney General and the Public Trustee approved these financial statements.

# Alphabetical List of Government Entities' Financial Statements

## ENTITIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Ministry, Department, Fund or Agency	Ministry Annual Report
Access to the Future Fund <sup>1</sup>	Advanced Education and Technology
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation	Agriculture and Food
Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission	Health and Wellness
Alberta Cancer Prevention Legacy Fund <sup>2</sup>	Finance
Alberta Capital Finance Authority	Finance
Alberta Energy and Utilities Board	Energy
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission	Solicitor General and Public Security
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Endowment Fund	Finance
Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund	Finance
Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund	Finance
Alberta Heritage Science and Engineering Research Endowment Fund	Finance
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation	Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Alberta Insurance Council	Finance
Alberta Local Authorities Pension Plan Corporation <sup>3</sup>	Finance
Alberta Pensions Administration Corporation	Finance
Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission	Energy
Alberta Research Council Inc.	Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta Risk Management Fund	Finance
Alberta School Foundation Fund	Education
Alberta Securities Commission	Finance
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	Municipal Affairs and Housing
Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation	Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Alberta Treasury Branches	Finance
ATB Insurance Advisors Inc. <sup>4</sup>	Finance
ATB Investment Management Inc.	Finance
ATB Investment Services Inc.	Finance
ATB Services Inc.	Finance

## ENTITIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Ministry, Department, Fund or Agency	Ministry Annual Report
Child and Family Services Authorities:	Children's Services
Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority	
Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
East Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Authority	
North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Northeast Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Northwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Southeast Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Southwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Metis Settlements Child and Family Services Authority	
C-FER Technologies (1999) Inc.	Advanced Education and Technology
Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation	Finance
Colleges:	Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta College of Art and Design	
Bow Valley College	
Grande Prairie Regional College	
Grant MacEwan College	
Keyano College	
Lakeland College	
Lethbridge Community College	
Medicine Hat College	
Mount Royal College	
NorQuest College	
Northern Lakes College	
Olds College	
Portage College	
Red Deer College	
Department of Advanced Education and Technology	Advanced Education and Technology
Department of Agriculture and Food	Agriculture and Food
Department of Children's Services	Children's Services
Department of Education	Education
Department of Energy	Energy
Department of Finance	Finance
Department of Health and Wellness	Health and Wellness

# Alphabetical List of Government Entities' Financial Statements

## ENTITIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Ministry, Department, Fund or Agency	Ministry Annual Report
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing	Municipal Affairs and Housing
Department of Seniors and Community Supports	Seniors and Community Supports
Department of Solicitor General and Public Security	Solicitor General and Public Security
Department of Sustainable Resource Development	Sustainable Resource Development
Department of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture	Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Environmental Protection and Enhancement Fund	Sustainable Resource Development
Gainers Inc.	Finance
Government House Foundation	Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Historic Resources Fund	Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund	Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture
iCORE Inc.	Advanced Education and Technology
Lottery Fund	Solicitor General and Public Security
Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology	Advanced Education and Technology
Ministry of Agriculture and Food	Agriculture and Food
Ministry of Children's Services	Children's Services
Ministry of Education	Education
Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Industry <sup>5</sup>	Employment, Immigration and Industry
Ministry of Energy	Energy
Ministry of Environment <sup>5</sup>	Environment
Ministry of Executive Council <sup>5</sup>	Executive Council
Ministry of Finance	Finance
Ministry of Health and Wellness	Health and Wellness
Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation <sup>5</sup>	Infrastructure and Transportation
Ministry of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations <sup>5</sup>	International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations
Ministry of Justice <sup>5</sup>	Justice
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing	Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports	Seniors and Community Supports
Ministry of Service Alberta <sup>5</sup>	Service Alberta
Ministry of Solicitor General and Public Security	Solicitor General and Public Security
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development	Sustainable Resource Development
Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture	Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Ministry of the Treasury Board <sup>5</sup>	Treasury Board
N.A. Properties (1994) Ltd.	Finance
Natural Resources Conservation Board	Sustainable Resource Development
Persons with Developmental Disabilities Community Boards:	Seniors and Community Supports
Calgary Region Community Board	

## ENTITIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Ministry, Department, Fund or Agency	Ministry Annual Report
Central Region Community Board	
Edmonton Region Community Board	
Northeast Region Community Board	
Northwest Region Community Board	
South Region Community Board	
Persons with Developmental Disabilities Provincial Board <sup>6</sup>	Seniors and Community Supports
Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers Reserve Fund	Finance
Regional Health Authorities and Provincial Health Boards:	Health and Wellness
Alberta Cancer Board	
Alberta Mental Health Board	
Aspen Regional Health Authority	
Calgary Health Region	
Capital Health	
Chinook Regional Health Authority	
David Thompson Regional Health Authority	
East Central Health	
Health Quality Council of Alberta <sup>7</sup>	
Northern Lights Health Region	
Peace Country Health	
Palliser Health Region	
Safety Codes Council	Municipal Affairs and Housing
School Boards and Charter Schools:	Education
Almadina School Society	
Aspen View Regional Division No. 19	
Aurora School Ltd.	
Battle River Regional Division No. 31	
Black Gold Regional Division No. 18	
Boyle Street Education Centre	
Buffalo Trail Public Schools Regional Division No. 28	
Calgary Arts Academy Society	
Calgary Girls' School Society	
Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 1	
Calgary School District No. 19	
Calgary Science School Society	
Canadian Rockies Regional Division No. 12	
CAPE-Centre for Academic and Personal Excellence Institute	
Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73	

# Alphabetical List of Government Entities' Financial Statements

## ENTITIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Ministry, Department, Fund or Agency	Ministry Annual Report
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Christ the Redeemer Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 3	
Clearview School Division No. 71	
East Central Alberta Catholic Separate Schools Regional Division No. 16	
East Central Francophone Education Region No. 3	
Edmonton Catholic Separate School District No. 7	
Edmonton School District No. 7	
Elk Island Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 41	
Elk Island Public Schools Regional Division No. 14	
Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 2	
FFCA Charter School Society	
Foothills School Division No. 38	
Fort McMurray Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 32	
Fort McMurray School District No. 2833	
Fort Vermilion School Division No. 52	
Golden Hills School Division No. 75	
Grande Prairie Public School District No. 2357	
Grande Prairie Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 28	
Grande Yellowhead Regional Division No. 35	
Grasslands Regional Division No. 6	
Greater North Central Francophone Education Region No. 2	
Greater Southern Public Francophone Education Region No. 4	
Greater Southern Separate Catholic Francophone Education Region No. 4	
Greater St. Albert Catholic Regional Division No. 29	
High Prairie School Division No. 48	
Holy Family Catholic Regional Division No. 37	
Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 4	
Horizon School Division No. 67	
Lakeland Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 150	
Lethbridge School District No. 51	
Living Waters Catholic Regional Division No. 42	
Livingstone Range School Division No. 68	
Medicine Hat Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 20	
Medicine Hat School District No. 76	
Moberly Hall School Society	
Mother Earth's Children's Charter School Society	

## ENTITIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Ministry, Department, Fund or Agency	Ministry Annual Report
New Horizons Charter School Society	
Northern Gateway Regional Division No. 10	
Northern Lights School Division No. 69	
Northland School Division No. 61	
Northwest Francophone Education Region No. 1	
Palliser Regional Division No. 26	
Parkland School Division No. 70	
Peace River School Division No. 10	
Peace Wapiti School Division No. 76	
Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7	
Prairie Land Regional Division No. 25	
Prairie Rose School Division No. 8	
Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39	
Red Deer School District No. 104	
Rocky View School Division No. 41	
St. Albert Protestant Separate School District No. 6	
St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1	
St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 38	
Sturgeon School Division No. 24	
Suzuki Charter School Society	
Westmount Charter School Society	
Westwind School Division No. 74	
Wetaskiwin Regional Division No. 11	
Wild Rose School Division No. 66	
Wolf Creek School Division No. 72	
Supplementary Retirement Plan Reserve Fund	Finance
Technical Institutes and The Banff Centre:	Advanced Education and Technology
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology	
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology	
The Banff Centre for Continuing Education	
Universities:	Advanced Education and Technology
Athabasca University	
The University of Alberta	
The University of Calgary	
The University of Lethbridge	

# Alphabetical List of Government Entities' Financial Statements

## ENTITIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Ministry, Department, Fund or Agency	Ministry Annual Report
Victims of Crime Fund	Solicitor General and Public Security
Wild Rose Foundation	Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture

## ENTITIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Fund or Agency	Ministry Annual Report
Alberta Foundation for Health Research	Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research	Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering Research	Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund Board	Education
Improvement Districts' Trust Account	Municipal Affairs and Housing
Local Authorities Pension Plan	Finance
Long-Term Disability Income Continuance Plan - Bargaining Unit	Service Alberta
Long-Term Disability Income Continuance Plan - Management, Opted Out and Excluded	Service Alberta
Management Employees Pension Plan	Finance
Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers Pension Plan	Finance
Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers (Unregistered) Pension Plan	Finance
Public Service Management (Closed Membership) Pension Plan	Finance
Public Service Pension Plan	Finance
Special Areas Trust Account	Municipal Affairs and Housing
Special Forces Pension Plan	Finance
Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers	Finance
Workers' Compensation Board	Employment, Immigration and Industry

### (Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Established July 10, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Proclaimed May 31, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Incorporated December 16, 2005.

<sup>4</sup> Incorporated July 12, 2006.

<sup>5</sup> Ministry includes only the departments so separate departmental financial statements are not necessary.

<sup>6</sup> Ceased operations June 30, 2006.

<sup>7</sup> Established July 1, 2006.

