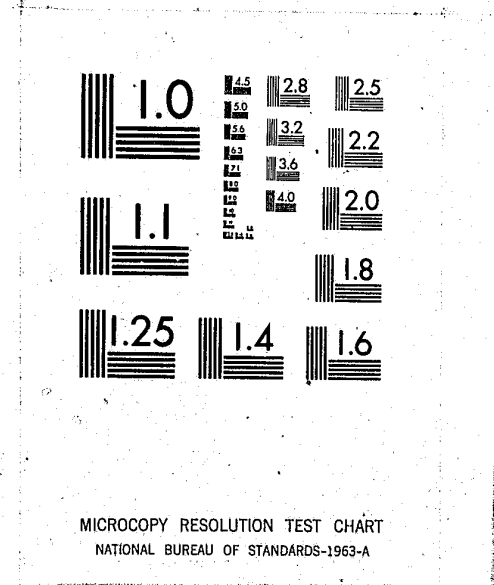


National Criminal Justice Reference Service

ncjrs

This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.



Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504.

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U. S. Department of Justice.

National Institute of Justice
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20531

81613

Annual Report of the Attorney General

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1977

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by

Alberta Attorney General

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.

NCJRS

OCT 9 1981

ACQUISITIONS

Alberta
ATTORNEY GENERAL



ATTORNEY GENERAL

403/229-4346

Office of
the Attorney General

404 Legislative Building
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6

March 30, 1978

The Honourable The Speaker of
the Legislature
Province of Alberta
219 Legislative Building
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Department of the Attorney General for
the year ended March 31, 1977.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Foster, Q.C.
Attorney General

Preceding page blank

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Deputy Minister	7
The Office of the Attorney General	8
Highlights of the Report	9
Courts in Alberta	10
Provincial Court	10
Supreme and District Courts	12
Court Services	13
Court Facilities and Construction	14
Legal Representation and Advice	15
Criminal Justice	15
Civil Law	15
New Legislation	15
Legal Research and Analysis	16
Constitutional and Energy Law	16
Public Services	17
Administrative Services	17
Crimes Compensation Board	17
Central and Vehicle Registries	18
Gaming Control	18
Land Compensation Board	18
Land Titles Registration	19
Law Foundation	19
Legal Aid	21
Medical Examiner/Coroner System	22
Motor Vehicles Accident Claims	23
Public Trustee	23
Public Utilities Board	24
Support Services	26
Communications/Public Affairs	26
Law Libraries	26
Management by Objectives	27
Personnel	28
Records and Information	28
Finance	29
Appendix	31
Acts Administered by the Attorney General	31

Produced by
Communications/Public Affairs
Alberta Attorney General
9919 - 105 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2E8
7804 2M

Preceding page blank

LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY MINISTER

December 15, 1977

The Honourable James L. Foster, Q.C.
Attorney General
Province of Alberta
404 Legislative Building
Edmonton, Alberta

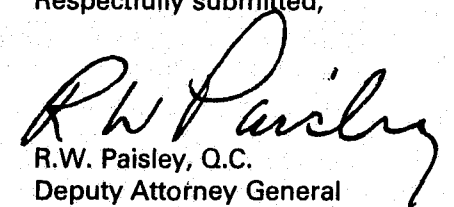
Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit to you the third Annual Report of the Department of the Attorney General of the Province of Alberta for the fiscal year April 1, 1976, to March 31, 1977.

The reorganization and restructuring of the department which began in 1975-76 has continued into the current fiscal year with even greater intensity. Although the principal developments in the year under review are summarized on page 9 under the title **Highlights of the Report**, this capsule outline of a year's activity is no substitute for the detailed description of departmental accomplishments on the pages which follow.

We are, of course, indebted to the efforts of the many employees of the Department who are dedicated to change and improvement in the administration of justice in Alberta. Without their combined talents and professional abilities, we could not have recorded such notable achievements.

Respectfully submitted,


R.W. Paisley, Q.C.
Deputy Attorney General

Preceding page blank

THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General, holder of an office which has existed in Canada for over 200 years, is unique among ministers of the Crown. Although he must function politically in administering a major government department, he must be above all political considerations in the exercise of his responsibilities as attorney to the Queen.

In this respect, he is responsible to the Queen and not to the government. In deciding when to prosecute and when to discontinue a prosecution, he is not under the jurisdiction of the cabinet, nor should such decisions be influenced by political considerations. They are decisions made as the Queen's attorney and not as a member of the government of the day.

As a cabinet minister and member of the Legislative Assembly, the Attorney General is in all matters ultimately answerable to the Legislature, but in matters relating to criminal prosecutions he is open to questioning and censure only after the termination of any particular criminal proceedings. Any suggestions of political pressure in relation to the administration of criminal justice would be abhorrent to the most fundamental constitutional precepts.

This barrier between the Attorney General and politics is somewhat less rigid when he is serving as legal advisor to the government in civil or non-criminal matters. Here, however, he must be constantly aware that the public depends on him for protection from legislative invasion of civil rights. Accordingly, in advising on legislation, the Attorney General must ensure that government policy and political considerations are secondary to the trust that he holds for the public at large. This general duty to the public also includes representation of the Crown in the courts in all matters in which rights of a civil nature come into question.

In Alberta, the specific functions and duties of the Attorney General fall under six headings:

Administration of Justice

In broad outline, supervision of the machinery of justice involves administration of the courts, appointment and supervision of the staff necessary for the administration of justice, supervision of Crown Counsel, the Public Trustee, and all matters connected with judicial offices. In addition, the Attorney General is responsible for recommending the appointment of judges to the Provincial Courts.

Criminal Justice

Directing the prosecution of criminal cases remains one of the most important historic and traditional duties of the Attorney General. This is to be distinguished from the policing aspects of law enforcement, which are now the responsibility of the Solicitor General. This division of duties helps to ensure a judicial approach to the exercise of the Attorney General's unique and absolute prosecutorial discretion. All prosecutions on behalf of the Crown are conducted by or are subject to the supervision of agents of the Attorney General.

Civil Law

Civil litigation on behalf of the government or government agencies covers a wide field ranging from tort law to involved

matters of judicial review of decisions of tribunals. Lawyers in the civil law section of the Department represent the interests of the province and of various other departments of government in such disputes. They have the further duty of advising the heads of the departments or agencies of the government upon all matters of law connected with their affairs. All lawyers for the various departments are in the employ of the Attorney General whether or not they have been seconded to those departments. This helps to maintain the lawyers' independence for the operating necessities of particular departments, thus ensuring that the legal opinions which guide government action are given from positions of objective neutrality.

Constitutional and Energy Law

Difficult questions of constitutional law and matters having to do with energy are of special concern to the Attorney General of Alberta. Advice and litigation in these matters is the specialty of lawyers in a section of the Department established to deal with these questions.

New Legislation

The Attorney General is specifically charged by statute with a duty to advise the government upon all matters of law connected with legislative enactment, and to supervise all government measures of a legislative nature. In performing these duties, the Attorney General employs legislative counsel, who prepare draft legislation to implement departmental programs.

Again in the area of new legislation, the Attorney General employs lawyers whose responsibility is to conduct research into the need for changes in the law and to make recommendations in law designed to give effect to such changes.

Other Areas

In addition to the broad responsibilities of supervising all government legislation which he bears as chief law officer of the Crown, the Attorney General has the specifically delegated duty to administer certain statutes of Alberta. In this area, departmental staff function much as solicitors in every department, developing and adjusting legislative programs for Cabinet approval.

The Attorney General fulfills these widespread responsibilities through the staff of the Department of the Attorney General directed by the Deputy Attorney General. The Department has specialized sections dealing with each of the Attorney General's functions.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

- Reorganization of the judiciary in the Provincial Court through appointment of the Chief Judge and five Assistant Chief Judges, an improved program of judicial rotation, and revisions to judicial circuits to increase the effectiveness of judicial services.
- Establishment of Project Omega, a task force designed to develop short- and long-range plans for more effective delivery of court services.
- Specific development of plans to divert a huge volume of minor traffic and parking offences away from the criminal court context.
- Accommodation of a total caseload volume of 316,592 cases in the Provincial Court in 1976, up 10.4% over the previous year.
- Initiation of a pilot project to test the effectiveness of pre-trial disclosure techniques.
- Appointment of three senior administrators and other staff to assist in the operation of Supreme and District Court, the Provincial Court, and the Family and Juvenile Court.
- Development of staff training programs for para-legal personnel and for justices of the peace.
- Upward revision of the limits for small claims actions to \$1,000 for both debts and damages.
- Provision of court facilities and services in 102 centres in Alberta.
- Development of massive plans for modification or construction of improved court facilities in twenty base and circuit points throughout the province.
- Renovation of courthouse and other facilities in Calgary; development of plans for expansion of facilities in Edmonton.
- An increase in prosecutorial staff of 22 persons for a total of 97 Crown counsel in Criminal Justice.
- Further development of staffing in Civil Law to a total of 31 solicitors at the year end.
- Preparation of 89 acts, 1,329 orders-in-council and 348 regulations during the year under review.
- Research into the need for legislative change in fatality inquiries, matrimonial property, court unification, "de-criminalization" of traffic offences, and other areas.
- Representation of the province's interest in such constitutional and energy matters as fisheries, combines investigation, education, national parks, marketing of natural resources and the Bill of Rights.
- Establishment of one service location for clients of the Central and Vehicle Registries.
- Awards by the Crimes Compensation Board totalled \$371,332, up 57.8% over the previous year.
- Gaming Control licensed 30,510 gambling events in 1976 at which total gross receipts were \$82.8 million.
- The Land Compensation Board dealt with 32 applications under the Expropriation Act.
- Over 150,000 certificates of title on land transfers were issued by Land Titles; conversion to the new loose title system was nearing completion.
- The Alberta Law Foundation provided grants totalling nearly \$2.1 million to over 30 organizations and programs.
- Legal Aid granted certificates of assistance to 13,743 persons, disbursing over \$3.4 million.
- The province adopted a medical examiner system under the new Fatality Inquiries Act, separating legal and medical responsibilities in the investigation of sudden and unexpected death.
- Benefits under the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund were augmented, and the driver's fee increased for the first time in thirty years.
- In functioning as official guardian, and dealing with the estates of deceased persons and mental incompetents, the Public Trustee administered assets of nearly \$73.6 million, up 14.6% over the previous year.
- Alberta's Public Utilities Board issued 445 orders and decisions on gas, electricity, telephone, water and other franchise or rate applications.
- Major acquisitions totalling \$482,000 by the newly integrated Law Library system were virtually completed.
- The Department employed approximately 1,800 persons during the current fiscal year.
- The expense budget of the Department as a whole totalled \$36.6 million, up 30.8% over the previous year.

COURTS IN ALBERTA

Provincial Court

Chief Provincial Judge R.A. Cawsey

As recommended by the Board of Review in its report in 1975, a Chief Provincial Judge was appointed in March 1976, and in June four Assistant Chief Judges were appointed for Southern Alberta, Calgary, Central Alberta, Edmonton and circuits out of Edmonton. An assistant Chief Judge for Family and Juvenile Court was appointed in November.

Provincial Court Reorganization

Established by the Attorney General on March 1, 1976, the Provincial Court Reorganization Agency continued throughout the current fiscal year to initiate, co-ordinate and supervise implementation of the recommendations of the Provincial Court Board of Review headed by the Honourable Mr. Justice W.J.C. Kirby. Many areas of the court and the department were involved in these changes.

To develop and facilitate implementation of short- and long-range plans for more effective and efficient delivery of court services, the Attorney General established a departmental task force called Project Omega on November 1, 1976.

Staffing for Omega has been arranged through secondment of six persons from various areas of the department. Its mandate calls for the active support and involvement of persons within the department and utilization of professional services outside the department when the need is identified.

The priorities of Project Omega are the requirements of adult criminal and traffic courts, giving attention to the needs of other courts, agencies or groups, if such consideration, directly or indirectly, will help achieve their objectives.

Project Omega's initial steps dealt with identification of features of the existing court systems which require improvement together with the collection of information needed to undertake the solution guidelines stage. Analysis was undertaken by organizational units — court administration, judiciary, prosecution and headquarters. Liaison was also established with the Solicitor General's department, police agencies, municipalities and the defence bar.

In its analysis of traffic courts, Omega's thrust has been to develop alternatives to the present methods of handling minor traffic offences, in a manner consistent with the Kirby Board recommendations. A traffic diversion proposal has been submitted to, and approved in principle, by Cabinet.

In other areas, particular attention is being paid to witness management, criminal case processing, weighted caseload management and caseload management.

Caseload Volume

The Provincial Court of Alberta dealt with 316,592 cases in 1976-77, an increase of 30,014, or approximately 10.4 percent over the previous fiscal year. Further details appear in the accompanying table. Included in these figures were 17,315 family and juvenile cases, compared with 16,198 in the previous year.

Criminal Matters

Every criminal case originates in the Provincial Court and is disposed of either by plea of guilty, trial, or preliminary inquiry. An

increase in the number of cases going to trial which are defended by counsel has resulted in more court time being devoted to trials, and in longer trials with more appeals. Lengthy trials are avoided when a lawyer gets involved in the early stages.

Family and Juvenile Court

Family and Juvenile Court is part of the Provincial Court and deals with questions of custody, maintenance, enforcement of alimony and maintenance orders, enforcement of orders under the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act and temporary wardship cases under the Child Welfare Act. It also deals with all charges under the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

Small Claims Jurisdiction

The Provincial Court hears trials under the Small Claims Act. With the increase in jurisdiction to \$1,000 effective January 1, 1977, the volume of cases has increased dramatically. In Edmonton and Calgary, there are Small Claims Courts dealing exclusively with these matters. In other areas of the province, small claims are heard by a Provincial Court judge. The Provincial Court also deals with claims under the Labour Act, and wage claims under the Master and Servants Act.

Coroner's Inquests

All Provincial Court judges were appointed as coroners during 1976 in anticipation of the passing of the new Fatality Inquiries Act. During the year, all coroner's inquests were conducted by Provincial Court judges.

Judicial Administration

With the appointment of the Chief Provincial Judge in March 1976, responsibility for judges was shifted to this office. Judges on circuit out of Edmonton and Calgary are under the administrative control of the Assistant Chief Judge in those cities. Judges in northern Alberta not resident in Edmonton are administered directly by the Chief Judge. Family and Juvenile Courts judges are administered by the Assistant Chief Judge in charge of Family and Juvenile Courts. The Chief Judge has one secretary and has appointed an administrative assistant. Assistant Chief Judges work with court personnel but without additional administrative staff.

Judicial Appointments

During the current fiscal year, ten Provincial Court judges were appointed, two died and one resigned. The result was a net increase of seven judges, or 9.7 percent. Three appointments were in Edmonton, and one each in Lethbridge, Vermilion, Calgary, Wetaskiwin, and Grande Prairie. The total number of Provincial Court judges now stands at 79.

The Judicial Council for Provincial Court Judges screens all applicants for appointment as judges. Applicants are interviewed

by the Council and appointments are made only with its approval. There is difficulty attracting candidates to the Provincial Court bench, but a minimum standard of 35 years of age and 10 years of practice is the objective.

Education of Judges

Seminars were held in Devon for 35 criminal court judges; an additional seminar was held for Family and Juvenile Court judges. All newly appointed members of the bench are given an orientation period of between one week and one month before assuming

judicial duties. In 1976 for the first time, all new judges appointed within the past year attended a two-week course in Kingston, Ontario, under the direction of the Canadian Judges Association and the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. Fifty judges attended an educational seminar in Banff for western Canadian judges.

Circuit Changes

Plans for revision of circuits were introduced to give more equitable distribution of judicial work by realigning the circuits so judges

Provincial Court — Hearings

	1975-76	1976-77	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Fines assessed and collected	145,761	158,343	12,582	+ 8.6
Fines assessed and unpaid as of March 31, 1977	13,157	13,743	586	+ 4.4
Committed to gaol	18,187	18,084	(103)	- .6
Dismissed	8,781	11,008	2,227	+25.3
Withdrawn	55,279	67,804	12,561	+22.7
Special sentences (committals, probation orders, discharges, etc.)	10,848	12,248	1,400	+12.9
Total	252,013	281,266	29,253	+11.6
Miscellaneous	2,731	1,752	(979)	-35.8
Master and Servants	128	105	(23)	-17.9
Labour Act	1,052	1,086	34	+ 3.2
Small Claims	14,451	15,063	612	+ 4.2
Family Courts	6,274	7,415	1,141	+18.1
Juvenile Courts including provincial judges acting as ex officio judges of the Juvenile Court	9,924	9,900	(24)	- .2
Total	286,573	316,587	30,014	+10.4

Provincial Court — Charges

(Including Small Claims Act and Family and Juvenile Court)

	1975-76	1976-77	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Disposed of in court	286,573	316,587	30,014	+10.4
Airport and government property tags	9,296	8,597	(699)	- 7.5
Traffic tickets paid out of court	226,817	281,387	54,570	+24.0
Total	522,686	606,571	83,885	+16.0

Provincial Court — Judges

	March 31, 1976	March 31, 1977	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Barristers and Solicitors	56	65	9	+16.0
Without Law Degree	16	14	(2)	-12.5
Total	72*	79*	7	+ 9.7

*Three of these are part-time appointments.

spend less time driving and more time on the bench. Caseloads were reviewed and court was discontinued at points where volume did not justify the expense and where the public would not be inconvenienced by using another circuit point.

Court Visitations

The Assistant Chief Judges rotate judges through different circuits and a policy has been adopted of having Calgary judges sit in Edmonton, and vice versa. In addition, judges who normally sit in urban centres travel on circuit, and circuit judges sit in urban centres.

Pre-Trial Disclosure

A pilot project was instituted in Edmonton in December 1976 in an attempt to bring Crown and Defence counsel together in advance of the preliminary inquiry so they might reduce the number of witnesses called at preliminary inquiries. This could also reduce the number of preliminary inquiries. Although Crown counsel have traditionally given full disclosure to the Defence, a formal testing of the procedure was felt to be desirable. The pilot project is continuing.

Supreme and District Courts

	1975-76	1976-77	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Supreme Court Trial Division				
Civil actions commenced	17,952	20,724	2,772	+15.4
Civil trials heard	6,483	6,550	67	+ 1.0
Criminal trials heard	786	752	(34)	- 4.3
Supreme Court Appellate Division				
Civil appeals filed	345	414	69	+20.0
Civil appeals heard	186	250	64	+34.4
Criminal appeals filed	861	902	41	+ 4.7
Criminal appeals heard	749	757	8	+ 1.1
District and Surrogate Court				
Civil actions commenced	27,350	34,564	7,214	+26.4
Civil actions heard	999	1,309	310	+31.0
Criminal trials heard	1,426	1,875	449	+31.5
Applications for probate	5,597	5,966	369	+ 6.6
Sheriff				
Writs of execution filed	12,089	14,205	2,116	+17.4
Distress warrants filed	9,542	11,755	2,213	+23.2
Seizures made	6,634	7,263	629	+ 9.4
Attempted seizures	4,712	5,419	707	+15.0
Process served	17,761	18,830	1,069	+ 6.0
Revenue				
Sheriff's Revenue	\$ 310,564	\$ 353,883	\$ 43,319	+14.0
Clerk's Revenue	\$1,245,918	\$1,529,870	\$283,952	+22.8

Supreme and District Courts

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Appellate Division:

W.A. McGillivray

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Trial Division: J.V. Milvain

Chief Judge of the District Court: John N. Decore

Although members of the bench of the two superior courts in Alberta are federally appointed, these courts are administered by the Department of the Attorney General. There are 17 judges in the Supreme Court Trial Division, and nine in its Appellate Division. The District Court consists of twenty members of the judiciary.

Supreme Court

During the current fiscal year in the Supreme Court of Alberta 20,724 civil actions were commenced, an increase of 2,772 cases, or 15.4 percent over the previous year. The Trial Division heard a total of 7,302 cases in civil and criminal jurisdictions. The Appellate Division heard 250 civil and 757 criminal appeals, approximately 7.7 percent more than in 1975-76.

District Court

In the District Court, 34,564 civil actions were launched, up by 7,214 or 26.4 percent over the previous year. District Court heard a total of 3,184 civil and criminal cases during the year under review. This was about 31.2 percent more than in 1975-76.

Jury Trials

Amendments to the Criminal Code permitting jury trials in the District Courts have made these trials possible in circuit points outside the main judicial centres. These include Barrhead, Fort McMurray, Edson, St. Paul, Lloydminster, Camrose, Brooks and Blairmore. The past fiscal year has seen an unprecedented growth in demand for jury trials, particularly in the major centres. The demand has increased the work load in the sheriff's office as prospective juror lists are prepared and jury summonses are served by his personnel. Calgary, for example, compiled a list of 10,000 names of prospective jurors last year.

Further particulars on caseloads and other developments appear in the accompanying table.

Court Services

Director of Court Services: Thomas J. Adamson

This section is responsible for the design and maintenance of an administrative structure that meets the needs of all courts throughout Alberta. Its primary and continuing objective is to make appropriate and effective use of personnel and other resources to develop and manage a comprehensive court services program throughout the Department of the Attorney General. The section provides information as to court sittings and court schedules.

Staffing

As a result of the Kirby Board of Review's recommendations, three senior administrators have been appointed during the year under review — one to Supreme and District Courts, one to Provincial Courts, and one to Family and Small Claims Courts. In addition, five liaison officers were hired to assist senior court administrators in projects such as judicial series classification review, court organization, traffic diversion, and the role of the justice of the peace. In total, courthouse staffing has increased by 47 persons.

Staff Training

Eighty-six employees participated in the two-week para-legal training program. Several employees attended seminars offered by the Institute for Court Management of Denver, Colorado.

Fine Option Program

A fine option pilot project was established in the Edmonton Provincial Courts on February 6, 1976, as a joint venture by the Departments of the Solicitor General and the Attorney General. Its intention is to provide an alternative to incarceration by offering community work to people who are unable to pay fines. The pilot project is continuing.

Justices of the Peace

In the past justices of the peace were not given formal instruction as to their duties and responsibilities, and there was no performance assessment procedure. In the period under review, ques-

tionnaires were sent to those justices of the peace who are paid by fees to determine frequency of use, availability, and willingness to attend a training course. A first draft of a manual for justices of the peace has been prepared.

As of January 1977, a breakdown of justices of the peace in Alberta is as follows:

Paid by Fees	241
RCMP	301
City Police and Highway Patrol	247
Court Staff and Other	180
Total	969

Judicial/Court Services Class Review

A review began late in 1976 to investigate whether the salaries of Provincial Court clerks and other clerical staff are commensurate with their responsibilities, and whether they are competitive with the corresponding salaries in other provinces, in business and in the professions. The central Personnel Administration Office is reviewing the completed study.

Family and Juvenile Court

The responsibility for the administration of the Family and Juvenile Courts in Red Deer, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat has been removed from the staff of the Solicitor General and placed under the Attorney General. As a result, three new clerks of the Family and Juvenile Courts were appointed.

The Lethbridge Family and Juvenile Court was moved to the Provincial Building in Lethbridge from the Courthouse. There is one courtroom as well as interview rooms for users of the court.

Small Claims

On January 1, 1977, amendments to the Small Claims Act were proclaimed, which raised the monetary limits under the Act from \$200 in damages and \$500 in debt to \$1,000 in both debt and damages. This has reduced the number of claims going to the District and Supreme Courts.

The Provincial Courts for Small Claims in Calgary and Edmonton have experienced an increase in claims filed of 45 percent and 35 percent respectively during the first three months of 1977 over the same period in 1976. This is a result of increased jurisdiction and natural growth.

Court Facilities and Construction

Special Advisor and Planning Coordinator: Peter M. Jenner

Court services are provided in 102 centres in the province. Twenty of these are base points where there are usually resident staff and Provincial Court judges (Edson, Hanna and Vegreville have resident staff only). These base points are also served by District Court on circuit from Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge, and by the Supreme Court Trial Division on circuit from Edmonton and Calgary. Court facilities at the base points are housed in thirteen courthouses, ten provincial buildings, three municipal buildings, and four private rental accommodations.

Current Changes

During the year under review, a new location, Sherwood Park, was opened. Thirteen circuit points were closed because of small caseloads, proximity to other court locations, poor facilities and concern over the effective use of judges' time.

Edmonton Expansion

Plans for Phase 2 of the Edmonton Law Courts Building include new accommodation for Provincial, Family and Juvenile, and Small Claims Courts next to the existing Supreme and District Court facility. The Phase 2 facility is scheduled to be completed in 1981. Interim accommodation was obtained for Provincial Court administration and Provincial Court judges.

Renovations in Calgary

Calgary court facilities were renovated. An addition and interior alterations were completed in the District and Supreme Courthouse, resulting in more courtrooms, more offices for the judiciary and additional space for the bar and law library. The Provincial Court and Remand Centre were renovated. The fifth floor was

reorganized to accommodate Provincial Court judges and court administration, and a second elevator was installed to provide secure access for persons in custody to the remaining four courtrooms.

New Facilities in Other Centers

Consultants were commissioned to produce a program and site for the future courthouse in Red Deer. Programming for new base point courthouses began for Hinton, St. Albert, Stony Plain, Leduc and Fort Saskatchewan. Work commenced on new circuit court facilities in Assumption, Beaverlodge, Breton, Evansburg, Spirit River, Taber, Turner Valley and Wainwright. New buildings were almost completed in Airdrie, Cochrane, Fairview, Ponoka, St. Paul and Westlock.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND ADVICE

Criminal Justice

Director of Criminal Justice: Yaroslav Roslak, Q.C.

The Criminal Justice Section is responsible for the administration of criminal justice throughout the province.

Staffing

During 1976-77 the department hired 30 additional Crown counsel and support staff. The hiring of the additional counsel will lead to the gradual elimination of police as prosecutors.

The section now employs 97 full-time Crown counsel located in the following districts: Calgary, Drumheller/Hanna, Vegreville/Edmonton Head Office, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge/Fort Macleod, Medicine Hat, Peace River, Red Deer and Wetaskiwin. In the Judicial District of Edmonton, four retainer agents are used at St. Paul, Bonnyville, Lloydminster and Fort McMurray, but these will soon be phased out and replaced with permanent offices.

Case Reporting System

In September 1976, a Crown counsel case reporting system was established to report to senior management the results of prosecutions of the more serious cases heard in Alberta and the Supreme Court of Canada. These statistics provide an excellent means of monitoring the effectiveness of the criminal justice system regionally and province-wide.

Pre-Trial Disclosure

Beginning in January of 1977, the Division participated in a pre-trial disclosure project in Provincial Court, Edmonton. The purpose of this pilot project is to test the usefulness of a formalized system in which Crown and Defence counsel could meet prior to trial to reveal the Crown's case to the accused. Designed to save time and to eliminate the calling of unnecessary witnesses, this project is continuing.

Professional Development

The professional development of Crown counsel is gained by in-service training and attendance at seminars sponsored by the Alberta Crown Attorneys' Association, the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, and meetings with the Alberta and Canadian Bar Association.

Civil Law

Director of Civil Law: Alexander Hogan, Q.C.

The responsibilities of the Attorney General include acting as legal advisor to all departments in government and representing the Crown in all courts of civil jurisdiction. The department's Civil Law section is concerned with these matters.

Centralized Approach

The policy of the section is to centralize all legal services where possible, and to second lawyers to other government departments where they act in advisory capacities on the interpretation of

statutes, contracts and other matters of civil law. The centralized approach contrasts with the earlier manner in which legal advice was made available to government departments; solicitors were attached to specific departments on a permanent basis. Now these positions are being absorbed into the Department of the Attorney General in order to achieve certain advantages of centralization.

Four Advantages

Chief among these advantages is the independence and objectivity which accrue when the legal advisor is not employed in a subordinate relationship to the head of the department to which he is providing advice. This independence means that the solicitor is not likely to feel obliged to rationalize the position of an administrator whose position may not be legally sound.

Further advantages of centralization of legal advice arise by virtue of the professional nature of legal supervision through the Department of the Attorney General, as well as uniformity in the interpretation of statutory and case law when legal positions, policies, and procedures affect two or more departments of government. In addition, the rotation of departmental assignments of lawyers in the Civil Law section provides for greater opportunity for career development and specialization.

Centralization of lawyers in this department and their separation from subordinate allegiance to particular departments is consistent with the necessary independence of the Attorney General who has statutory authority to determine the legality of administrative decisions in the provincial government. In summary, objectivity of advice, competence of supervision and uniformity of interpretation characterize the centralization of legal services in government, and are identified with the independent position of the Attorney General in Alberta.

Staff Changes

All lawyers in the Civil Law section are presently based in Edmonton, and report to the Director of Civil Law. Legal staff has increased by five persons to a total of 31 solicitors at March 31, 1977. In addition, four senior solicitors and ten junior lawyers were hired in the months immediately following the end of the fiscal year.

New Legislation

Legislative Counsel: Glen Acorn, Q.C.

The Office of the Legislative Counsel prepared the 89 public and general acts assented to during the period under review and the 1,329 orders-in-council that were passed by Cabinet during that period. It also played a major role in drafting the 348 regulations that were filed under The Regulations Act. The Legislative Counsel has helped to reduce the number of orders-in-council passed annually by approximately 1,000 from the number passed in 1971. Research projects, reports and model legislation drafts were also completed by the section in conjunction with the province's contribution to the work of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada.

Legal Research and Analysis

Director, Legal Research and Analysis: Margaret Donnelly

The primary function of this section is to conduct research into the need for changes in the law. Some of the activities of this section during the reporting period which culminated in legislation involved the Fatality Inquiries Act and the Extra Provincial Enforcement of Custody Orders Act. This section was also involved in conducting legal research on specific topics and in developing proposals relating to the reform of matrimonial property law, the development of a unified family court, the merging of the District and Supreme Courts, the law dealing with juvenile offenders and the removal of traffic offences from the criminal courts. This section maintains liaison with law reform bodies and with the Uniform Law Conference. Staff consists of the director and three other solicitors.

Constitutional and Energy Law

Assistant Deputy Attorney General: William Henkel, Q.C.

The Constitutional and Energy Law section provides advice on all matters of constitutional law as they arise both within the department and within other departments of government and furnishes legal opinions in respect thereto. In similar ways, it offers advice and legal opinion on all matters of energy law. Additional responsibilities are to represent the Attorney General in all constitutional litigation, to assist in preparation of such cases, to act as counsel or appoint counsel where appropriate, and to monitor proposed federal and provincial legislation and programs in terms of their constitutionality. Advice is also provided to the Deputy Attorney General on constitutional matters in which he takes a particular interest. The section expanded during the current year from one to three lawyers, including the Assistant Deputy Attorney General.

Legal Opinions

In the period under review, this section furnished legal opinions on such subjects as the application of various provincial statutes to native Indians or to lands reserved for Indians, the constitutionality of proposed federal legislation including amendments to the Fisheries Act, the Combines Investigation Act and the Criminal Code, provincial legislative authority to control weather modification, patriation of the constitution, applicability of the Canadian Bill of Rights, provincial legislative authority over education, and applicability of various provincial statutes in the national parks.

Energy Law

In the area of energy law, the section obtained and prepared opinions on ownership and control of Alberta's natural resources. A major concern was the matter of the province's right to control the marketing of these resources. The Assistant Deputy Attorney General is a member of the Energy Committee of Cabinet.

Court Cases

Members of the section have also acted as counsel in a number of court cases: at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Alberta, on matters involving the provincial authority to initiate criminal prosecutions and the validity of the definition of juvenile delinquent; at the Supreme Court of Canada as counsel representing the province either as a party to the action or as an intervenant.

By way of example, counsel have appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada in the following cases (in each case, the nature of the proceedings is indicated):

Capital Cities Communications Inc. v. CRTC
Constitutional jurisdiction over cablevision; provincial intervention.

Her Majesty In Right of the Province of Alberta v. Canada Transport Commission
Constitutional obligation of the province in acquiring control of PWA; to obtain approval of the CTC.

Canadian Industrial Gas and Oil Ltd. v. Government of Saskatchewan and the Attorney General of Canada
Constitutional validity of provincial tax legislation relating to oil and gas; provincial intervention.

Reference re Ontario Orders and Regulations pursuant to the Constitutional Questions Act, the Agricultural Products Marketing Act, the Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act and the Farm Products Act.
Constitutional validity of federal delegation of powers to provincial marketing boards; provincial intervention.

Nova Scotia Board of Censors v. The Attorney General of Nova Scotia and Gerard McNeil
Constitutional validity of provincial censor legislation; provincial intervention.

Simpson Sears Limited v. Provincial Secretary of New Brunswick et al and the Attorney General of Ontario et al
Constitutional validity of provincial consumption tax; provincial intervention.

Alex Frank v. Her Majesty the Queen, represented by the Attorney General of Alberta
Constitutional interpretation of the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement as it affected Indians within the province.

La Regie des Services Publics et al v. Francois Dionne et al
Constitutional jurisdiction of the Province of Quebec to regulate a cablevision operation within the province; provincial intervention.

Additional examples of cases considered in Alberta courts are as follows:

National Freight Consultants Inc. v. Motor Transport Board
Constitutional jurisdiction of the Province of Alberta to limit carriage of general merchandise extra-provincially (Supreme Court).

R. v. Engler and Latimer
Constitutional validity of a municipal by-law prohibiting a procession without a permit, and the freedom of speech and assembly provisions of the Alberta Bill of Rights (Supreme Court).

R. v. Leslie Hodge and Cornerbrook Farms Ltd.
Validity of a provincial health regulation prohibiting certain uses of land contested as a contravention of the Alberta Bill of Rights (Provincial Court).

PUBLIC SERVICES

Crimes Compensation Board

Chairman: Ernest S. Watkins, Q.C.

Alberta's Crimes Compensation Board was established in 1969 to help victims of violent crime who suffer pecuniary loss as a direct result of injuries.

Awards up 58%

Each year the number of applications made and compensation awarded have increased. In 1976, awards totalled \$371,332, an increase of \$136,057, or 57.8% over the previous year. The number of applications received jumped 10 percent to 176 from 160 received in 1975. A total of \$59,113 was paid in fees and disbursements to the three Board members. In 38 sitting days during the year (25 in Edmonton, 10 in Calgary, and three in other centres) the Board heard cases on which it made 249 decisions.

Breakdown of Awards

Of the total payments by the Board in 1976, \$219,314 covered loss of earnings, \$23,379 for medical expenses, \$32,320 for pecuniary loss to dependents of victims, \$35,200 for pain and suffering, \$5,744 for funeral expenses, \$45,106 for other pecuniary loss, and \$10,268 for counsel and legal fees.

The greatest increase over 1975 among these categories was the jump from \$3,500 awarded in the previous year for pain and suffering. This benefit can only be awarded in exceptional circumstances, and the increase is largely accounted for by a total of \$12,300 in awards to five Calgary city police officers injured in a "shoot-out" on December 20, 1974.

Applications Received

In the year ending December 31, 1976, the Board received 176 applications of which 165 were for personal injuries and 11 for death benefits. The number of applications from Edmonton, 55.8 percent, far exceeded those from any other area including Calgary which submitted 19.3 percent of the applications. More than eight out of every 10 applications were from males, and over half of all first hearings in 1976 were cases involving alcohol.

Administrative Services

	1975-76	1976-77	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Commissioners for Oaths				
Appointments	18,054	20,685	2,631	+14.6
Revenue	\$64,777	\$69,672*	\$ 4,895	+ 7.6
Notaries Public				
Full Appointments	20	17	(3)	-15.0
Limited Appointments	388	372	(16)	- 4.1
Revenue	408	389	(19)	- 4.6
	\$ 2,010	\$ 2,090	\$ 80	+ 3.9
Provincial Secretary's Office				
Notarial Certificates Issued	23	29	6	+26.0
Certificates of Authentication Issued	869	930	61	+ 7.0
Total Fees Collected	\$ 1,848	\$ 2,039	\$ 191	+10.3

*A remission of \$23,110 was the result of the appointment of commissioners without fee.

Of the 1976 applications received in 1976, 78 were dealt with at the first hearing. Of these, 43 were final awards, 21 were interim awards, eight were supplemental awards, and 19 were refused. In 1975, 85 of the 122 applications were dealt with at first hearing, and 73 were final awards, 20 were interim awards, 18 were supplemental decisions, and 11 were refused.

Criminal Causes

The large majority (60%) of cases at first hearings were those involving the crime of assault causing bodily harm. Of lesser importance (about 10% each) were claims arising from attempted murder and robbery with violence. Crimes in the remaining cases were wounding with intent, non-capital murder, manslaughter, common assault, criminal negligence, dangerous use of a fireman, impaired driving and indecent assault.

Public Awareness

The Board is grateful for the help of the media and members of police forces and other social agencies in helping to increase public awareness of the Board's purpose. Recognizing the need to extend knowledge of the Act, the Board held a sitting in Lethbridge in January 1977 to which it invited representatives of police forces, municipalities, and social agencies, as well as the communications media. In September 1976, a sitting was held in the Moot Courtroom of the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary, to which students were invited. Three applications were heard in the morning, and a discussion on the work of the Board was held in the afternoon. Both of these experiments were considered successful.

New Appointment

In 1976, Mr. Bruce V. Massie, Q.C., of Edmonton was appointed to the Board to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. George Bryan, Q.C.

Administrative Services

Administrator: L. Olson

Administrative Services is responsible for the administration of the appointments of commissioners for oaths, notaries public and the administration of the Provincial Secretary's Office. Comparative statistics are outlined in the following table:

Central and Vehicle Registries

Registrar, Central Registry: H.J. Corie
Registration Clerk, Vehicle Registry: J.G. Banks

The Central Registry office records documents and conducts searches on all chattels other than motor vehicles, aircraft, trailers, oil drilling equipment and railway rolling stock which are the responsibility of the Vehicle Registry. Both registries are now in the same location to provide the public with a one-stop service for lien and encumbrance registrations and searches.

Vehicle Registration

Document registrations have doubled in the past six years from 152,436 in 1970-71 to 307,945 in 1976-77. Public search inquiries have doubled in the past five years from 100,110 in 1971-72 to 207,138 in 1976-77. The Vehicle Registry also records sheriff's vehicle seizures as well as on vehicles subject to customs import duty.

Statutes controlling the Vehicle Registry's function are the Bills of Sale Act, Conditional Sales Act, Garagemen's Lien Act, and the Chattel Security Registries Act.

Central Registry

Administrative functions in this office are performed by the registrar with a staff of 15. It offers the public a protective service for registered documents and encumbered goods and chattels, as well as providing registration and searches concerning limited partnerships, partnerships and trade names for the province.

The Central Registry employs an operating system known as the Microfilm Information Retrieval Access Code, and a computerization program is planned. A feasibility study was submitted to Treasury January 31.

Statutes controlling the Central Registry are the Chattel Security Registries Act, the Bills of Sale Act, the Conditional Sales Act, the Assignment of Book Debts Act, and the Partnership Act.

Gaming Control

Chief Inspector: Ronald R. Sheppard

In April 1976 the Gaming Control Section was formed, with three service arms: Licencing, Audit and Investigation. The section has a full-time staff of twelve persons.

Gaming Control 1976

	No. of Licences	No. of Events	Licence Fees	Paid Out in Prizes	Paid Out in Expenses	Net Profit
Bingos	1,457	22,717	\$ 44,579	\$16,579,453	\$3,130,397	\$ 5,240,726
Casinos	277	460	139,185	16,410,722	2,594,706	4,761,528
Raffles	2,751	6,964	22,316	2,198,474	1,698,033	3,659,561
Pull Tickets	369	369	121,737	19,643,007	1,094,459	5,883,971
Total	4,854	30,510	\$327,817	\$54,831,656	\$8,517,595	\$19,545,786

Growth in Gaming

Between 1974 and 1976, the total number of licenced gaming events in Alberta rose from 21,336 to 30,510, an increase of 9,174 or 43%.

In the last three years, Gaming Control has issued 12,680 licences (none for pull tickets in 1974), for a total of 78,650 events. Fees collected during that time amounted to \$637,215. The cash flow for casinos, bingos, raffles and pull tickets in 1976 totalled just under \$83 million, up 37% from the previous year's \$52.5 million. Further particulars appear in the accompanying table.

The Need for Control

The rapidly increasing size and frequency of gaming events in Alberta has given rise to a need for further controls. Systems for financial accountability have been developed to ensure that the proceeds from these events actually go to charitable or religious organizations or to exhibitions operated on a non-profit basis.

New Rules and Procedures

Separate control program proposals for bingos, casinos, raffles, and pull tickets are under development. When announced, submissions will be invited from groups and individuals, and meetings will be arranged with organizations to explain the new proposals.

Land Compensation Board

Chairman: K.J. Boyd

During 1976, this Board received 32 applications, of which 19 were applications for determination of compensation and 13 were applications for notice of motion to hear matters relating to provisions of the Expropriation Act. Seventeen orders of the Board were issued, including four determining final compensation to expropriated owners and 13 relating to notices of motion.

Increasing Number of Cases

At the beginning of the period, there were three active case files, all of which were applications for determination of compensation, and at the end of the period there were 18 active cases in the docket.

The Board received many more applications this year than in the first year, probably because of a better informed public, the level of activities by governments in expropriation matters, and the usual time lapse between beginning an expropriation and a compensation hearing.

A number of expropriation cases remain to be heard by the Public Utilities Board, as a result of Section 73 of the Expropriation Act which provides that where proceedings were begun under the previous Expropriation Act, those proceedings will be concluded under that Act.

Public Information

A pamphlet entitled *Expropriation in Alberta* was printed in a quantity of 15,000 copies. Its purpose is to present information in simple and straightforward terms to the public. The Board also produced a flow chart of expropriation and compensation procedures which has been distributed to 100 people exposed to these matters daily.

Individual Board members have addressed groups including members of the Law Society of Alberta, municipal advisors, and a chapter of the Appraisal Institute of Canada.

Legislative Amendments

Several amendments to the Expropriation Act and the Municipal Government Act were passed at the fall sitting of the Legislature. The Legal Research section of the Attorney General's department has begun a review of the anomalies and discrepancies existing in statutes concerning expropriation and compensation.

Decisions

All Board decisions are filed in provincial courthouses, in the law libraries of the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary, with Canada Law Book Limited, and in the Board's office in Calgary. The Board will provide free copies of any specific decisions if requested.

Staffing

The Board consists of five members, including the chairman and two full-time members. It has a support staff of three.

Law Foundation

Chairman: James W. Beames, Q.C.

The Alberta Law Foundation was established by amendments to the Legal Profession Act April 1, 1973. It is funded by means of interest paid to the Foundation on lawyers' general trust accounts and income from the investment of these funds.

Objectives

The Foundation's objects are: to conduct research into and recommend reform of law and the administration of justice, to

maintain law libraries, to contribute to the legal education and knowledge of the people of Alberta, to assist native peoples' legal programs, student legal programs and the like. Its affairs are conducted by a board of seven directors, three of whom are appointed by the Attorney General.

Programs Supported

Some of the programs supported by the Foundation are:

Institute of Law Research and Reform
Canadian Law Information Council
Joint Library Committee (which operates Courthouse libraries)
Alberta Statutes for High Schools
Legal Resource Centre
Legal Education Society of Alberta
Alberta Debate and Speech Association
Native Counselling Services
Dramatic Law Presentations
Student Legal Services — Edmonton
Native Legal Education
Legal Guidance Education Program — Calgary
Indian Association of Alberta
Legal Guidance Clinics — Calgary

Financial Position

In the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, the Foundation's revenue totalled \$2,251,066, its expenses were \$26,576, and its allocations to over 30 organizations and programs totalled \$2,088,512. The current year's surplus of \$135,978 was added to the cumulative unallocated surplus, bringing that total to \$2,270,456. The Foundation considers it desirable to maintain an unallocated surplus large enough to permit it to respond quickly to applications for assistance which further its stated objectives.

The percentage of the Foundation's revenues which is allocated to the support of specific programs has been steadily increasing from 58% in 1975 to 94% in 1977. This is partly a reflection of the fact that the Alberta Law Foundation is becoming better known to the people of Alberta, and partly the result of increasing applications for projects which the board considers worthy of support.

Land Titles Registration

Registrar, Southern Alberta: H.E. McCombs
Registrar, Northern Alberta: I.D. Dickins

The Land Titles Offices were established to maintain land records and the integrity of the land system in Alberta by retaining all registered documentation and corresponding titles. The Torrens System is an integral part of the Land Titles Act and reflects the attributes of reliability, simplicity, economy, speed and suitability in the Alberta system.

The primary responsibility of each office is to ensure that documents presented are registrable, properly executed and conform to law. The registration of most documents is ultimately reflected on the appropriate title, thus providing a current record of all titles within the province. All land-related records are available to the general public according to the prescribed schedule of fees.

South Alberta Registration District

The South Alberta Land Registration District includes all lands in Southern Alberta north to and including Township 34. The North Alberta Registration District includes all lands north of Township 34.

The Calgary Land Titles Office introduced the loose title system on April 1, 1973. This method of filing titles required the renewal of approximately 250,000 titles which was done over a period of three years and was completed during the fiscal year. All titles in the South Alberta Registration District are now on the loose title system.

North Alberta Registration District

The loose title system was introduced in the Edmonton office in 1975. As document registration occurred, titles were converted to the new format. In addition, special project staff are converting titles to speed the implementation of the new system. By the end of the fiscal year, approximately 35% of all titles had been converted to the new format.

Increased Productivity

The team system of document registration which was recently introduced, has benefited greatly by the conversion of titles to the new format as evidenced in part by a significant increase in productivity. A twenty-four hour registration time continues to be a major objective in both offices.

Land Titles

	1975-76	1976-77	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Document Registration				
Transfers	112,082	118,726	6,644	+ 6.0
Mortgages	68,620	77,962	9,342	+ 13.6
Caveats	43,976	47,345	3,369	+ 7.7
Liens	5,379	6,997	1,618	+ 30.1
Withdrawals/Discharges	77,564	90,864	13,300	+ 17.1
Easements	26,412	17,942	(8,470)	- 32.1
Miscellaneous	37,882	33,794	(4,088)	- 10.8
Total	371,915	393,630	21,715	+ 5.8
Survey Plan Registrations				
Subdivision Plans	1,150	1,574	424	+ 36.9
Condominium Plans	69	182	113	+163.8
Road Plans	445	550	105	+ 23.6
Right-of-Way Plans	1,177	1,780	603	+ 51.2
Others	103	198	95	+ 92.2
Total	2,944	4,284	1,340	+ 45.5
Tax Recovery				
Titles Endorsed	6,315	5,790	(525)	- 8.3
Tax Notices Issued	13,468	13,035	(433)	- 3.2
Certificates of Titles Issued				
On Transfers	142,328	150,626	8,298	+ 5.8
New Subdivision Plans	20,045	26,029	5,984	+ 29.9
New Condominium Plans	3,398	5,591	2,193	+ 64.5
Total	165,771	182,246	16,475	+ 9.9
Services				
TWX Searches	97,981	103,615	5,634	+ 5.8
Telephone Searches	29,057	31,469	2,412	+ 8.3
Photocopies of Titles and Documents	1,860,399	2,798,706	938,307	+ 50.4

Retrieval of registered documents from microfilm for search purposes was introduced during the previous period and now permits the searching of over three-quarters of a million documents from this system.

Training Seminars

Para-legal training for document examiners continues to be offered to those eligible, on two levels. An intermediate course is offered on interpretation of the Land Titles Act and other related Acts as well as an advanced course involving case study and interpretation as it relates to land titles and property law. Both courses are followed by a comprehensive examination. Special one-day seminars on land titles practices were held for clients during the fiscal period.

Statistically, the number of documents presented for registration during the fiscal year shows only a slight increase. One area of significant increase is the number of condominium plans and liens registered.

Legal Aid

Director: G.P. Sommerville

The Legal Aid Society of Alberta supplies services to disadvantaged persons throughout the province in all serious criminal charges and most civil matters. Means tests are used to determine financial eligibility; it is not a "free" service. Some eligible applicants are required to repay some or all of the cost incurred by the Society in paying the solicitors appointed.

The Society is administered by a joint committee of 15 persons representing the provincial and federal governments, the Law Society of Alberta, and the general public. It has a staff of 48 persons.

Funding

The Alberta Government funds legal aid, and the Federal Government contributes toward the cost of legal aid in criminal matters on the basis of 75¢ per capita of the population of the province. Some revenue is generated from money recovered from clients and interest on deposits. The net provincial cost for the year ending March 31, 1977, was \$1,868,317 compared to \$1,815,101 in the previous year. The increased cost was \$53,307 or just under 3 per cent.

Applications for Assistance

In the 1976-77 fiscal year, Legal Aid Alberta received 20,195 applications for assistance, about the same as in the previous period. The number of certificates granted, however, increased to 13,743 in 1976-77, up 10% from the 12,471 certificates granted in the previous year.

There were 8,294 criminal cases disposed of in the period, and 3,254 civil cases for a total of 11,548.

New Projects and Expansion of Existing Programs

Due to the overall success of the Duty Counsel Pilot Project in the Provincial and Juvenile Courts in Calgary, the program was expanded to the equivalent courts in Edmonton late in 1976. There are 70 lawyers on the duty counsel roster in the Calgary Provincial Court, and 89 in Edmonton. There are 50 lawyers on the roster in the Calgary Juvenile Court, and 31 in Edmonton.

A Duty Counsel Manual and Handbook for both courts, similar to those used by the duty counsel in Calgary, was compiled for use in Edmonton. A training session for lawyers who placed their names on the roster was conducted in July. Because of budgetary restraints, it was not possible to fund innovative programs such as Neighbourhood Law Offices in remote areas.

Administrative Procedures

To ensure that its internal administrative and accounting procedures are efficient and effective, the society retained a firm of management consultants to review administrative and accounting systems; to develop recommendations for improving accounting

systems; to assess the organizational structure, office space, workloads of interviewing staff, data processing services, and other related matters.

Native Counselling

The Native Counselling Service and the Legal Aid Society continued to work closely to insure the availability of legal aid to the native people of Alberta. Several meetings with both newly appointed native court workers and experienced staff were held during the year.

Cooperative Programs

The Legal Guidance Service in Calgary and the Legal Aid Society continue to maintain a joint divorce program. The Society continued its annual support to Student Legal Services in Edmonton with a \$13,000 grant. However, the specific assistance provided Student Legal Services to advise young persons at Edmonton's Juvenile Detention Centre has been suspended.

Staffing

During the year under review, budget limitations meant that the Society was only able to retain the services of one additional interviewer/counsellor in the Edmonton office. Two community interviewer/counsellors were retained in Red Deer and Peace River two months before the end of the budget year.

Receipts and Disbursements

For the year ended March 31, 1977, receipts totalled \$3,543,283. This includes the province's contribution, recoveries and contributions from clients, interest and contributions from the Alberta Law Foundation. Disbursements for the same period totalled \$3,481,100, and including fees paid to duty counsel, the grant to Student Legal Services, management consultant study, planning committee study, administrative expenses as well as fees paid in criminal and civil cases.

Actual recoveries and contributions for the year ended March 31, 1977, totalled \$218,281 and ancillary savings amounted to \$60,236. The average cost of a criminal case (federal) was \$211, and the average cost of a civil case was \$238.

Medical Examiner/Coroner System

Chief Medical Examiner: Dr. J.C. Butt

The Chief Medical Examiner has a head office in Calgary with overall responsibility for the entire province as well as for the southern region, extending from Hobbema south. The northern region is administered through the Edmonton office.

New Legislation

Following a study by the Kirby Board of Review, a medical examiner system was adopted for investigating sudden, unexpected, or unexplained deaths in the province. Pilot projects helped to evaluate the proposed system, and legislation entitled *The Fatality Inquiries Act* passed in the Legislative Assembly in November 1976. Its effective date was postponed until early in the following year in order to allow sufficient time for development of staff and procedures.

Public Inquiries

The new legislation will remove the responsibility for public inquiries (inquests) from the medical investigative system. Decisions as to whether an inquiry will be held will be made by a

Fatality Review Board composed of one physician, one lawyer, and one lay person. The inquiry will be organized through the Provincial Court system. More consistent and effective public inquiries will result in fewer, more meaningful inquiries, from which a greater measure of prevention of future occurrences may be derived. A reduction had already been achieved in 1976 when there were 67 inquests, 39 less than in the previous year.

Death Notifications

In 1976 there were 3,186 deaths reported, compared to 2,971 in 1975. It is anticipated that under the new Fatality Inquiries Act there will be more sudden death notifications and investigations under the supervision of the Chief Medical Examiner's Office.

Medical Investigators

At present there are three full-time investigators in Calgary and three in Edmonton who assist in investigations of sudden death

Deaths Reported 1975

Manner of Death	Calgary	Edmonton	Southern Rural	Northern Rural	Total
Natural	383	409	275	263	1,330
Accidental	82	86	113	157	438
Motor Vehicle Accidents	80	67	159	214	520
Suicide	80	68	68	71	287
Homicide	12	22	13	8	55
Unclassified	6	10	5	12	33
Undetermined	18	17	16	13	64
Medical Examiners' Cases	661	679	649	738	2,727
Other Deaths Notified	35	159	33	17	244
Total Reported	696	838	682	755	2,971

Deaths Reported 1976

Manner of Death	Calgary	Edmonton	Southern Rural	Northern Rural	Total
Natural	312	268	246	240	1,066
Accidental	62	60	94	138	354
Motor Vehicle Accidents	67	74	182	222	545
Suicide	80	95	64	80	319
Homicide	13	20	11	16	60
Unclassified	50	39	27	25	141
Undetermined	22	41	8	22	93
Medical Examiners' Cases	606	597	632	743	2,578
Other Deaths Notified	229	248	79	52	608
Total Reported	835	845	711	795	3,186

under the direction of the local medical examiner. In rural areas, police officers are medical investigators.

Autopsies

If an autopsy is necessary to complete an investigation, transportation to and from a recognized autopsy facility is provided at no cost to the next-of-kin. Such facilities are available in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Grande Prairie. In 1976, there were 169 fewer autopsies than in 1975, because efforts were made to reduce the number of autopsies performed and have the causes of death determined by an external examination.

Continuing Education

A symposium was held in June 1976 at the Health Sciences Centre, University of Calgary, which included a meeting with the National Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners of Canada.

Preventive Programming

An extensive computerized statistical program is being developed with the aim that information obtained by medical examiners be utilized in the prevention of unnatural deaths.

Public Trustee

Public Trustee: L.W. Gardiner, Q.C.

The Public Trustee Act combines the functions of the Official Guardian, the Administrator of Estates of Mentally Incompetent Persons, and the Public Administrator of Deceased Estates.

The Public Trustee protects the assets and financial interests of estates of children under 18 years of age and missing persons, estates of persons legally unable to handle their own affairs because of mental or physical disability, and deceased persons who die intestate having no relatives in the province or having relatives who ask the Public Trustee to act for them.

Funds Under Administration

At the end of the period under review, trust assets were \$73,558,681, an increase of 14.6 percent over the previous year. Cash deposits to Public Trustee bank accounts totalled \$32,210,623 during the period, compared to disbursements of \$31,642,451.

Official Guardian

The Official Guardian division opened 1,141 new trust administrations, an increase of 12 percent over the previous period. These administrations involved mainly deceased estates in which minors were benefited, and trusts originating from awards to minors resulting from motor vehicle accidents. Cash balances on hand are credited with 7½ percent interest compounded semi-annually from the Consolidated Investment Fund.

Public Trustee

	1976	1977	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Bank deposits of trust funds	\$30.0	\$32.2	\$2.2	+ 7.3
Disbursements from trust accounts	30.5	31.6	1.1	+ 3.6
Assets under administration — at book value	64.1	73.6	9.5	+14.8

Estates of Mental Incompetents

The division responsible for the protection of estates of mentally incompetent people opened 206 new administrations, twenty less than in the previous period. Although the number of administrations decreased, the individual estates are larger and more complicated.

Deceased Estates

New deceased estate files opened by the Public Administration section totalled 909, compared to 930 in the previous period. The inflationary increase in real estate values has contributed most to larger valuations of individual estates.

New Estates and Trusts

A total of 2,256 new estate and trust administrations were begun during the period, and 16,115 administrations were in process at March 31, 1977. This service is provided by 140 employees, including solicitors, estates officers and support staff in Edmonton and Calgary. On February 1, 1977, data recording in the Edmonton office converted to computerized equipment.

The accompanying table indicates the increase in the value of trust transactions during the last two years (in millions):

Motor Vehicle Accident Claims

Administrator: N.J. Semotiuk

The Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund offers financial protection to the public against uninsured hit-and-run motorists causing property damage, injury and death. The fund was established in 1947. Since April 1, 1976, protection has been extended to include hit-and-run accidents involving off-highway vehicles.

Alberta's MVAC Fund now pays claims up to \$50,000 for personal injury and property damage when the person responsible cannot be located or the person suffering damages cannot collect.

Deficit Position

At March 31, 1977, the fund had a cumulative deficit of just under \$5.9 million. Over the thirty-year period since its inception, the fund

has paid out a total of \$30.0 million in claims for personal injury, property damage, hospital, medical and ambulance charges, auto repairs and other costs which have increased substantially. Receipts in the same period have been \$24.1 million. Up to this point in time, the fund had been financed by annual assessments of \$1 per vehicle per year included in motor vehicle licence fees.

Fee Increase

Although there had been no increase in the annual fee for thirty years, it was announced in February that everyone who purchased a motor vehicle licence for 1977 would pay a fee of \$3 per year. The \$2 fee increase will go toward covering the accumulated deficit.

Public Information

A pamphlet explaining the Fund entitled *Protection For You in Motor Vehicle Accidents* was released in March, and 850,000 copies were prepared for free distribution at the time of issuing vehicle licenses. Its prime purpose was to outline MVAC benefits and substantiate the fee increase.

Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund

	<u>1975-76</u>	<u>1976-77</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Receipts	\$1,521,915	\$2,028,528	\$506,613	+33.2
Expenditures	2,545,159	3,441,262	896,103	+35.2
Deficit	\$1,023,244	\$1,412,734	\$389,490	+37.4

Public Utilities Board

Chairman: William R. Horton

The Public Utilities Board reports to the President of the Executive Council of Alberta on a calendar year basis and the information in this report is based on the Board's 1976 Annual Report.

Responsibilities

The Board is charged with the responsibility for regulating public utilities and gas utilities under its jurisdiction to ensure that the customers of such regulated utilities receive safe and adequate service at rates which are just and reasonable to both the customers and investors of those utilities.

The Board is also responsible for:

- (a) approving franchise agreements,
- (b) approving taxation agreements,
- (c) hearing appeals regarding utility rates charged by municipally-owned utilities,
- (d) hearing appeals with respect to decisions of certain other boards, agencies and departments,
- (e) fixing compensation regarding the sale of assets of rural electrification associations,
- (f) fixing compensation in respect to seepage claims and environment damage claims,
- (g) fixing compensation regarding municipal expropriations,
- (h) fixing the minimum price of milk,
- (i) conducting inquiries on its own motion or as directed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council,
- (j) issuing Natural Gas Rebates Certificates.

Hearings

During 1976, a total of 445 orders and decisions were issued. These included 54 in respect to gas utilities and 27 in respect to electricity,

telephone, water and other utilities. Also included were 91 orders in respect to franchise applications, and 150 applications for exemptions. Although the number of applications for exemptions in 1976 dropped to less than half the level of the previous year, the more time-consuming applications on gas, electricity and telephone rates have increased as the increased number of orders and decisions indicate (from 53 in 1975 to 74 in 1976). There were 77 cases pending at the end of December 1976.

Regulatory Approach

In determining the rate base for utilities, the Board considers the original cost of the property when it was first devoted to public use, prudent acquisition cost to the owner, depreciation, amortization or depletion, and necessary working capital. It believes that the return on the rate base must be fair to both the investors and customers of the utility. In fixing just and reasonable rates, the Board ensures that the revenue requirement is distributed, by means of the rates, among the various classes of customers on an equitable basis and that no rate, charge, regulation or classification is unjustly preferential or unduly discriminatory. Three primary rate design criteria are that the rates should provide sufficient revenue to ensure a fair return, that costs should be fairly apportioned to customers, and that wasteful use should be discouraged.

Interim Rate Approvals

In times of serious inflation, any regulatory lag in establishing rates tends to impair the financial integrity of the utility to the ultimate disadvantage of the customer. Thus the Board generally approves franchise applications for interim refundable rate increases. These become effective at the commencement of the rate hearing process, providing always that the applicant will refund any revenue in excess of revenue requirement finally determined by the Board.

Customer Rates

In recent years, there have been dramatic increases in utility rates across Canada. Utility rate increases in Alberta have been minimized as a result of the Alberta Government's gas support price policy. However, other factors have produced dramatic rate

increases, whether the utilities have been regulated by the Board or are municipal utilities not under its jurisdiction. Though generally stable in earlier years, frequent major rate increases commenced in Alberta in 1974 and continued through 1976.

Cost of Service Inquiry

During 1976, the Gas Utilities Amendment Act removed the powers of the board to fix the producer price of gas except as that power may be restored from time to time by order-in-council. On September 21, the Lieutenant Governor in Council directed the Board to conduct an inquiry into the principles and methods which should apply in the determination of the Alberta cost of service as defined in The Natural Gas Pricing Agreement Act, to hold hearings in conjunction with its inquiry, and to make a report and recommendations. This inquiry will impose a heavy burden on the Board and its staff during the ensuing year. At least 38 interested parties are involved in the issue.

Application for Exemption

A provision of The Public Utilities Board Act, 1975, extends to the Board the power to declare, by order, an applicant not to be a utility, or to declare, by order, that a provision of any section of the Act does not apply to an applicant. The result of this provision has been that only one group of utilities, that is, water haulers, has sought exemption from board control. The Board ruled in their favour.

Reviews and Appeals

Under Section 56 of The Public Utilities Board Act, the Board may review, rescind or vary any order or decision made by it. During 1976, application was made to the Board to review, rescind or vary only two of its decisions.

Orders and decisions of the Board are subject to appeal, upon a question of law or a question of jurisdiction, to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Alberta, and subsequently to the Supreme Court of Canada. During 1976, five orders and decisions were under appeal.

Board Compensation and Staffing

The Public Utilities Board is a quasi-judicial tribunal, the members of which are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for ten years. Late in 1975 the number of members authorized by statute was increased from five to nine. As a result of resignations late in 1975, and difficulties in finalizing new appointments, the Board operated with seven members through most of 1976.

During late 1975 and the first half of 1976, Board staff was re-organized, which resulted in the elimination of one director and one senior officer and the realignment of staff under the Chief Executive Officer into two main functional groups — administrative and technical services.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Communications/Public Affairs

Special Advisor: Harold A. Sellers

In recognition of an increasing need for improved communication between the Department and its external publics, and internally as well, a special advisor in communications and public affairs was appointed in July 1976.

Variety of Services

The services now provided by this section include advice, assistance and implementation of a variety of communications programs for other branches of the Department. These services include consultation on public relations problems, media relations, news releases, press coverage, interviews in the press, on radio and television, audio-visual media, advertising, and the preparation, production and distribution of folders, brochures, posters, booklets and reports.

Principal Projects

During the year under review, this newly established section became involved in servicing a number of departmental requirements for internal and external communication. For the Department as a whole, the section produced the annual report of the Attorney General for the previous fiscal year, published a departmental news bulletin entitled *Docket* issued every second month, and commenced preparation of a services directory to provide a brief but comprehensive outline of the function of the Department and the services it offers.

A few examples of important communications projects handled for specific branches of the Department include explanatory folders and posters relating to introduction of the new Fatality Inquiries Act, a continuing series of releases on individual awards by the Crimes Compensation Board, posters dealing with regulations issued by the Gaming Control section, and province-wide distribution of an information folder on changes in fees and coverage under the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund.

Advice and Assistance

Advice and assistance on a number of matters of public importance were also provided during the year under review. These included launching of the Edmonton pilot project on pre-trial disclosure, re-location of the Central Registry, publicity on grants by the Alberta Law Foundation, and communication with magazine retailers throughout Alberta on the problem of access by young persons to so-called "adult" publications.

Communications/Public Affairs also assisted in establishment of the task force, Project Omega, set up in November 1976 to develop and implement improved systems for effective delivery of court services.

The section consists of three persons who are located in the Department of the Attorney General, but is able to draw upon the communications and production services of the Public Affairs Bureau for further advice and assistance.

Law Libraries

Chief Librarian: Dr. George Solt

Law Libraries in Alberta have been established for Supreme and District Courts as well as for the Provincial Court system, and are centrally administered by the Chief Law Librarian.

Supreme and District Court Libraries

Alberta's twelve judicial districts are served by Supreme and District Court Law Libraries, administered by the Chief Law Librarian in Edmonton.

In 1976-77 the annual book budget for this system was \$80,000. In addition, the Alberta Law Foundation provided a grant of \$104,000. Reports, financial and administrative policy, reference policy and co-ordination of book selection subcommittees are the responsibility of the eight-member Joint Library Committee.

By the end of the 1976-77 fiscal year, there were 22 persons on staff, of which 19 were full-time. Five of these are professional librarians. New premises in Calgary are able to accommodate the growing collection; in Edmonton there are about 31,000 volumes, and in Calgary, approximately 35,000 volumes.

Library Reorganization

The two main libraries and the smaller branches have been reorganized. The Edmonton and Calgary collections now include basic Canadian, English, Australian and New Zealand research material, as well as major American digests and law reports. Red Deer, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat libraries were re-catalogued, and all three centres acquired full-time or part-time staff. Collections in the other branches were up-graded, and only the Peace River library remains to be reorganized.

In October 1976, the Attorney General's departmental library in the Madison Building was brought into the system and made the responsibility of the Chief Law Librarian.

In 1976 microform material was added to the collections in Edmonton and Calgary. This was necessary because increasing amounts of retrospective material can only be purchased in this form, and if collections were to be completed, this material had to be made available. Space problems were another consideration.

Grants and Acquisitions

The amount spent by the government on books is matched by the Law Society of Alberta, which together totalled \$80,000 for 1976-77. In addition, the library system has received an annual grant from the Alberta Law Foundation.

In response to Kirby Board of Review recommendations that libraries be made available to judges and counsel working in the Provincial Courts, the Departmental Library Committee, along with the Provincial Judges' Education Committee and the Director of Criminal Justice, developed collections for reference and personal libraries.

Provincial Court Libraries

The central office in Edmonton for Provincial Court Libraries was established in August 1976. It was partly administered by the Departmental Library Committee, which was disbanded in November 1976. Administrative responsibilities then passed to the Chief Provincial Law Librarian. This is an initial step in the plan to make the Provincial Courts Libraries part of the Law Library Branch of the department. The book and operating budget, however, comes solely from government funds.

A member of the clerk of the court staff in each centre sees to the daily administration of the libraries. The Edmonton office handles all acquisitions, cataloguing, classification and invoicing procedures, and will visit branch libraries to assist staff working there.

Acquisitions

Between September 1976 and March 1977, the Edmonton office ordered basic collections for 31 judges' reference libraries, 21 counsel personal libraries, 76 judges' personal libraries, and 105 Crown counsel personal libraries. By March 1977, approximately 95 percent of the books had been received — at a cost of \$482,000. Of these libraries, 21 judges' and seven counsel reference libraries were operational immediately. Material for the rest is being stored until space is available.

Library Locations

Locations for twenty-nine judges' libraries scheduled for immediate development include Banff, Calgary (Provincial, Family and Juvenile, and Small Claims Courts), Camrose, Drumheller, Edmonton (Provincial Family and Juvenile, and Small Claims Courts), Edson, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, High Prairie, Jasper, Lethbridge Provincial Court, Peace River, Red Deer (Provin-

cial, Family and Juvenile, and Small Claims Courts), Sherwood Park, St. Paul, Vermilion, and Wetaskiwin. Counsel reference libraries are in Calgary (2), Camrose, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Jasper, and St. Paul.

Collections

All collections hold basic criminal law, provincial and Supreme Court of Canada reports, federal and provincial statutes, as well as basic text and digest material. Where Family Court and/or Small Claims Court cases are heard, attempts have been made to tailor the collections to meet the needs of these courts. The library sub-committee of the Provincial Judges' Association is consulted on all major purchases for judges' reference libraries. The Provincial Courts Librarian also reports regularly to the Joint Library Committee (Law Society and Attorney General's Department) on general progress made on the development of counsel reference libraries.

Management by Objectives

MBO Consultant: A.K. Stoeckmann

Management by Objectives (MBO) is a management concept designed to enrich staff effectiveness through systematic results-oriented planning and the implementation of objectives. MBO Advisory Services assists managers in directing their talents and best efforts toward achieving organizational objectives.

MBO was introduced to the department in 1973 as part of the government's intention to improve management planning, motivation, and its performance appraisal and salary administration systems. These programs are designed to increase the efficiency of

Joint Law Library Committee — Years ended March 31

	1975-76	1976-77	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Revenue				
Law Society of Alberta	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$ 5,000	+14.3
Government of Alberta	35,000	40,000	5,000	+14.3
	70,000	80,000	10,000	+14.3
Expenditure				
Library Book Purchases	87,470	92,236	4,766	+ 5.3
Audit Fee	350	450	100	+28.6
	87,820	92,686	4,866	+ 5.5
Deficit	(17,820)	(12,686)	(5,134)	-28.8
Interest Income	925	577	(348)	-37.6
Deficiency of Revenue over Expenditure	\$16,895	\$12,109	(4,786)	-28.3

the department's managers through short- and long-range planning, and to provide them with better control over their managerial efforts.

Departmental Needs

In adapting MBO to the special needs of a service-oriented environment and its successful application in a complex legal setting, the service has overcome the weaknesses of earlier limited approaches to management. MBO is evolving into a comprehensive managerial system that satisfies human aspirations as well as organizational demands.

The process now channels all efforts towards the successful achievement of organizational aims by allowing all facets of management — planning, staffing, directing, and controlling — to interact freely with each other.

The current re-introduction of Management by Objectives aids departmental managers in the development of a management approach that focuses on specific departmental needs. Paramount among these are the introduction of managers to systematic planning, the management of time, the organization of work habits, the development of improved communication among managers, and the integration of a comprehensive performance appraisal system.

Introduction and Acceptance

In identifying the performance dimensions that are important to organizational effectiveness, managers helped develop a common language for discussing performance and making decisions about people. Thus, MBO increased objectivity and enhanced the validity of staff decisions.

Although it had been thought awareness of a highly accepted concept like MBO would develop within the department by word of mouth, it has been found necessary to take a more positive approach. During the year under review, a rigorously active program was introduced to ensure acceptance and implementation, particularly in fostering competence in planning as a learning experience for managers. This program is continuing.

Continued Consultation

Effective use of MBO requires the continuation of on-the-spot consultation in planning. Interviews must focus on the integration of plans and objectives for the Department, developing appropriate performance standards, clarifying the appraisal process, and integrating MBO into the job.

Personnel

Director of Personnel: Clarence R. Shank

Late in 1976, Personnel commenced a re-orientation and re-organization of the human resource management program to provide professional advisory services to both management and employees which would assist them in meeting departmental objectives.

New and Replacement Positions

Personnel met the demand for new or replacement positions needed through new requirements, turnover, promotions and internal transfers. These increased requirements reflected implementation of Kirby report recommendations.

Organization Analysis and Classification

The Organization Analysis and Classification section through organizational reviews and position classification undertook re-classification changes necessary to meet organization requirements. A major review of judicial clerks was made and forwarded to the Public Service Commissioner's Office. This group represents about 20 percent of the department's entire staff of approximately 1,800 persons.

Training and Development

Manpower planning has been introduced in order to identify future staff requirements. This will assist in development of career programs. Some development and training needs were met by offering the Provincial Court para-legal course and training (orientation) for new employees and court monitors/transcribers. A program for Supreme and District Court clerks is also underway.

A training and development policy was drafted and approved by the department's Management Committee. A re-design of the employee performance appraisal form was introduced on a trial basis.

Effects of Change

The rapid rate and magnitude of the changes occurring throughout the department are reflected in the increasing number of verbal and formal grievances and statements of unrest relating to such changes. It will be essential to introduce a full-time labour relations person to deal with these matters.

Records and Information

Director of Records and Information: H.A. Brinton

This division is responsible for correspondence, forms, reports, directives, word processing, file operations, subject classification, records equipment and supplies, vital records, information retrieval, records disposition, mail/messenger services and photocopying services. It also provides all records services to head office, and assists branch offices.

New Systems

During the period, a Crown counsel case reporting system was designed for reporting to senior management the results of the

prosecution of more serious cases heard in Alberta courts and the Supreme Court of Canada. Also, the general policy/directive system, which complies the Department's directives, was implemented.

Records Disposition

A Land Titles Office records disposition schedule was implemented. Records totalling 4,007 cubic feet were destroyed; 2,695 cubic feet were transferred to the Alberta Records Centre, and 79 cubic feet were transferred to the Provincial Archives. The disposition was 4,264 cubic feet more than in the previous year.

Finance

Director of Finance: Taylor Gordon

The Finance Division provides financial administrative support to all other divisions and sections of the department. It is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the proper receipt and expenditure of funds, taking into consideration parameters of both inter-departmental and government-wide application. The day-to-day function of this division is to assist all levels of management in an overview of their allocated funding and the proper expenditure of same.

Budgeting

In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1977, the budgeting process was being restructured as the Department began to adopt an overview approach through the Management Committee whose members act as program coordinators for budgetary purposes. Under this system, these persons then communicate instructions to directors, managers, and supervisors responsible for the operation of each particular segment of the budget. In this manner, a more comprehensive awareness is being developed internally of the budget process and the responsibility of all to the budget cycle.

Fines and Statistics

The Fines and Statistics Section has been reorganized to increase the efficiency of the work flow. Statistics were supplied by the section to various agencies and government departments throughout the year, including Project Omega. The section is responsible for the re-distribution of fines and costs that were levied in the Provincial Court. During the period this amounted to \$18,154,758 as noted in the accompanying table.

Fines Levied — Years ended March 31

	1975-76	1976-77	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Fines paid to province	\$ 7,480,594	\$ 8,957,077	\$1,476,483	+ 19.7
Costs paid to province	98,978	1,151	(97,827)	- 98.8
Fines paid to federal government	673,027	971,092	298,065	+ 44.3
Costs paid to federal government	11,924	450	(11,474)	- 96.2
Fines paid to municipalities	6,884,065	8,175,938	1,291,873	+ 18.8
Costs paid to municipalities	43,032	721	(42,311)	- 98.3
Fines paid to Workers' Compensation Board	75	—	(75)	-100.0
Fines paid to Oil and Gas Conservation Board	9,750	9,864	114	+ 1.2
Fees paid to Justices of the Peace	36,611	38,463	1,852	+ 5.1
Total	\$15,238,056	\$18,154,756	\$2,916,700	+ 19.1

Microfilming

During this fiscal year, the microfilm labs in Edmonton and Calgary successfully carried out an "old records clean-up" operation in the Land Titles Offices. In Edmonton the old day book system has been filmed and in Calgary total conversion is now complete from the old titles books to the new loose title system. Branches of the department for which a complete microfilming service has been carried out are the Land Titles Office, Fines and Statistics, Central Registry Chattel Mortgage Section, and the Vehicle Registry.

Materials Management

Re-organization of the Materials Management Section is continuing with the implementation of new systems that will provide more effective control of the Department's material resources. This includes centralization of all stationery purchases and the use of computer to record fixed and rental assets of the Department.

Centralized stationery purchasing eliminates duplication and gives the Department the benefit of reduced costs through bulk purchasing. Computerized control of fixed assets provides the Department more efficient utilization of equipment and provides information for efficient equipment replacement. Additional personnel have been hired to improve the Department's utilization of space and to provide more efficient purchasing of furnishings.

Revenue

Revenue has increased by 19.7 percent to \$26,150,373 from \$21,854,263. Further details appear in the accompanying statement.

The procedures for treatment of revenue have been updated to enable the Department to cope with such increases and a system of internal control has been established in the area.

Expenditure

The re-organization of staff in the Expenditure Section is almost completed. The team approach is working in conjunction with the program budgeting system.

A Schedule of Expenditures for the year ended March 31, 1977, including comparative figures for 1976 appears in the accompanying table.

Net Revenue — Years ended March 31

	1975-76	1976-77	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Land Titles Act — Registration Fees	\$ 8,590,372	\$10,975,438	\$2,385,066	+27.8
Land Titles Act — Assurance Fund Surplus	1,088,074	1,640,487	552,413	+50.8
Government of Canada — Statutory Fines	4,256,729	4,454,368	197,639	+ 4.6
Provincial — Statutory Fines	3,328,078	3,327,498	(580)	—
Clerks of the Court Act — Fees	1,328,802	1,327,415	(1,387)	- 0.1
Public Trustee Act — Fees and Earnings	910,626	997,814	87,188	+ 9.6
Government of Canada — Legal Aid	857,000	884,000	27,000	+ 3.2
Other	1,494,582	2,543,353	1,048,771	+ 70.2
Total	\$21,854,263	\$26,150,373	\$4,296,110	+19.7

Expenditure — Years ended March 31

	1975-76	1976-77	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Minister's Office	\$ 111,804	\$ 100,225	\$ (11,579)	- 10.4
General Administration	4,951,207	4,503,671	(447,536)	- 9.0
Public Trustee	1,722,214	1,944,713	222,499	+ 13.0
Law Libraries	187,367	434,941	247,574	+132.1
Incidental Justice	370,372	81,031	(289,341)	- 78.1
Coroners	724,232	969,451	245,219	+ 33.9
Crimes Compensation Board	274,264	495,750	221,486	+ 80.8
Masters in Chambers	93,565	99,475	5,910	+ 6.3
Supreme and District Courts and Sheriffs Offices	2,533,897	3,099,169	565,272	+ 22.3
Official Court Reporters	2,763,020	3,468,760	705,740	+ 25.5
Judges of the District Court	128,176	103,199	(24,977)	- 19.5
Provincial Judges	5,160,550	6,844,645	1,684,095	+ 32.6
Agents of the Attorney General	1,336,563	5,004,512	3,667,949	+274.4
Legal Aid Plan	2,000,000	3,300,000	1,300,000	+ 65.0
Witnesses, Interpreters and Jurors	664,106	865,676	201,570	+ 30.4
Land Titles Office — Calgary	1,544,045	1,651,102	107,057	+ 6.9
Land Titles Office — Edmonton	2,416,108	2,574,947	158,839	+ 6.6
Summer Temporary Employment Program	9,884	—	(9,884)	-100.0
Public Utilities Board	1,036,285	1,118,548	82,263	+ 7.9
Total	\$28,027,659	\$36,659,815	\$8,632,156	+ 30.8

APPENDIX

Acts Administered by the Attorney General

Administration of Estates Act	Jury Act
Administrative Procedures Act	Justices of the Peace Act
Age of Majority Act	Juvenile Court Act
Alberta Emblems Act	Land Titles Act
Alimony Orders Enforcement Act	Land Titles Act Clarification Act
Animal Protection Act	Landlord's Rights on Bankruptcy Act
Arbitration Act	Legal Profession Act
Assignment of Book Debts Act	Legitimacy Act
Bills of Sale Act	Limitation of Actions Act
Blind Persons' White Cane Act	Liquor Control Act*
Builders' Lien Act	Alberta Lord's Day Act
Bulk Sales Act	Maintenance Order Act
Chattel Security Registries Act	Married Women's Act
Clerks of the Court Act	Masters and Servants Act
Commissioners for Oaths Act	Mechanical Recording of Evidence Act
Common Parties Contracts and Conveyances Act	Mentally Incapacitated Persons Act
Conditional Sales Act	Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act
Condominium Property Act	National Housing Loans Act (Alberta)
Constitutional Questions Act	Notaries Public Act
Contributory Negligence Act	Oaths of Office Act
Court Forms Act	Occupiers Liability Act
Criminal Injuries Compensation Act	Partnership Act
Dangerous Dogs Act	Perpetuities Act
Daylight Saving Time Act	Petty Trespass Act
Defamation Act	Police Act, 1973*
Defence of Common Employment Act	Possessory Liens Act
Demise of the Crown Act	Private Streets Act
Department of the Attorney General Act	Proceedings Against the Crown Act
Devolution of Real Property Act	Provincial Court Act
District Courts Act	Public Inquiries Act
Domestic Relations Act	Public Trustee Act
Dower Act	Public Utilities Board Act
Alberta Evidence Act	Queen's Counsel Act
Execution Creditors Act	Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act
Exemptions Act	Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act
Expropriation Act	Regulations Act
Extra-curial Orders Act	Reports of Judicial Proceedings Act
Factors Act	Road Building Machinery Equipment Act
Family Court Act	Sale of Goods Act
Family Relief Act	Seduction Act
Fatal Accidents Act	Seizures Act
Fatality Inquiries Act	Sex Disqualification Removal Act
Federal Courts Jurisdiction Act	Sheriffs Act
Fraudulent Preferences Act	Small Claims Act
Frustrated Contracts Act	Statutes Act
Garagemen's Lien Act	Summary Convictions Act
Gas Utilities Act	Surrogate Courts Act
Guarantees Acknowledgement Act	Survivorship Act
Infants Act	Tort-Feasors Act
Innkeepers Act	Transfer and Descent of Land Act
Interpretation Act	Trustee Act
Intestate Succession Act	Ultimate Heir Act
Judicature Act	Unconscionable Transactions Act
	Uniformity of Legislation Act
	Warehouse Receipts Act
	Warehousemen's Lien Act
	Wills Act
	Women's Institute Act
	Woodmen's Lien Act

* Jointly administered by the Solicitor General and the Attorney General

END