



Associate Chief Judge Sanjeev Anand
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan Annual Update

June 16, 2022

Thank you for inviting the Provincial Court to provide an annual update for the CBA Saskatchewan Annual Meeting on June 16, 2022. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to keep CBA members informed of new developments at the Provincial Court.

Judiciary

The Provincial Court has 49 judges at full complement. The following appointments have occurred since the last CBA annual meeting:

Judge Lynn Hintz	September 9, 2021	Yorkton
Judge Jane Wootten	October 28, 2021	Saskatoon
Judge Dorinda Stahl	November 3, 2021	La Ronge
Judge Bradley Mitchell	November 3, 2021	Saskatoon
Judge Derek Maher	February 2, 2022	Yorkton
Judge Ian Mokuruk	March 30, 2022	North Battleford
Judge Bryce Pashovitz	March 30, 2022	Meadow Lake

Judicial Education

Provincial Court judges attend two Saskatchewan Provincial Court Judges' Association (SPCJA) educational conferences per year. The fall 2021 conference was held virtually but we were able to meet in-person for the spring 2022 conference.

Judges also have the opportunity to attend National Judicial Institute (NJI) programming. Recently the Canadian Council of Chief Judge's entered into an agreement with NJI to allocate equal representation of provincial/territorial judges at the seminars to ensure each Court is able to participate. Some examples of the NJI seminars are Criminal Law, Indigenous Law, Preventing Wrongful Convictions, Family Law, and Hearing and Deciding *Charter* Issues.

Judges also have opportunity to seek out other educational opportunities in areas of personal interest such as Restorative Justice, Reinventing Criminal Justice and Problem-Solving Courts conferences.

Swearing-in Event – May 6, 2021

On May 6, 2022, an unprecedented swearing-in ceremony was held for ten of our new judges. Approximately 145 people attended the event at the Remai Modern art gallery in Saskatoon, including the 10 guests of honor, 8 speakers, 14 Provincial Court judges and about 110 family and friends of our honorees. Although it wasn't the intimate ceremony we are familiar with it definitely was a huge success.

Court Locations

The Court has 12 permanent offices and 60 circuit points. Access to justice throughout the province is a priority and is evaluated on a regular basis. A review of circuit points and consultation with Crown and Legal Aid assists in the designation of resources throughout the province and may result in the closure of court points or the establishment of them based on need and the ability to accommodate.

The Provincial Court web page provides details on court locations and sitting times and can be found at <https://sasklawcourts.ca/>.

Court Security

April 1, 2022, the Provincial Protection Services Branch, Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety united the Court's Deputy Sheriffs with other "safety officers" to centralize and integrate services for court security. This includes the delivery of court security, prisoner transport and detention.

Remote Appearances

A four-year initiative is underway to expand the availability and utilization of technology to increase the capacity for remote court appearances and counsel/client interviews across the province. This will include installation and upgrades in correctional centres, RCMP and municipal police detention areas with a focus on northern and remote centres.

Technology in the Courts became a priority during the pandemic and will continue to challenge all of us to adapt and change with it. The Court appreciates counsel's flexibility to appear in different manners and varying formats across the province.

Court Modernization and E-Justice

A Provincial Offences Project has been undertaken as a means to conclude voluntary payment offence notice tickets. When fully implemented services will be provided on-line. This three-phase project will begin in November 2022 and conclude June 2023.

Objectives on Diversity

In response to the CBASK letter, dated April 26, 2022, with suggestions for improving transgender, non-binary and gender diverse inclusivity in Saskatchewan Courts, the Provincial Court intends to implement a pronoun protocol in keeping with the protocols adopted by the Court of Appeal and Court of Queen's Bench and will discuss other recommendations at its fall *en Banc* meeting.