



Chief Judge Shannon Metivier
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan Annual Update
June 15, 2023

Thank you for providing me an opportunity to update CBA members with news and information from Provincial Court.

Judiciary

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

Judge Stephen Kritzer	December 15, 2022	Lloydminster
Judge Lisa Watson	April 5, 2023	Saskatoon

I anticipate approximately seven retirements in the next 12-18 months.

Court Locations

As Chief Judge it is my responsibility to review circuit points and court resources. In an effort to assist in this evaluation I visit numerous court points a year. Often, I will visit a permanent court point or circuit to provide relief and get a hands-on experience of court in that jurisdiction, but I may also visit a location to meet with the judiciary outside of court.

The Provincial Court has 13 court centres with resident judges and 60 circuit points. The circuit points consist of 16 fly-in points and 15 First Nations circuit points, including four Cree Court locations.

Lloydminster, which had become a circuit point of North Battleford in September 2021, was re-established as a permanent court location February 2023.

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

Court Protocols

The Provincial Court has implemented a few “Public Protocols”, namely, Forms of Address and Pronouns for Court Participants, Oath or Solemn Affirmation of a Witness and Indigenous Smudging Ceremony Protocol. The Protocols can be found on our webpage at <https://sasklawcourts.ca/provincial-court/court-protocols/>.

Rules of Court

On January 3, 2023, the Provincial Court introduced its first Criminal Rule of Court: Rule 1 Case Management. More will follow.

Compliance with Rules is mandatory. It is the responsibility of lawyers and persons representing themselves in criminal court proceedings to know the rules that may apply to their proceeding.

The Court's Practice Directives remain in force. It is intended that the relationship between the Court's Rules and its Practice Directives will be harmonious, however, if a conflict ever arises, then the Rule prevails.

Rules are effective as soon as they are published to the Court's website found at <https://sasklawcourts.ca/provincial-court/practice-directives-standardized-conditions/>.

Court Modernization and Technology

The Ministry has undertaken a videoconference expansion project with a three-year plan to replace all courtroom audio and digital recording systems. I am also advocating for long term planning and project management for conversion to electronic records, electronic filing, as well as software for keeping registry data and court scheduling.

Court Security

Perimeter screening is currently in use at Provincial Court in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert with two additional units likely to be installed in North Battleford and Moose Jaw Provincial Court. We have also been advised that hand wands are being purchased to provide security to all Provincial Court locations in Saskatchewan.