



Chief Judge Shannon Metivier
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan Annual Update
June 13, 2024

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

Judiciary

When at full complement the Provincial Court consists of a Chief Judge and 48 judges. The following appointments have occurred since the last CBA annual meeting:

Judge Nathan Forester	June 15, 2023	La Ronge
Judge Kim Armstrong	July 27, 2023	Meadow Lake
Judge David Chow	July 27, 2023	Moose Jaw
Judge Jennifer Claxton-Viczko	July 27, 2023	Melfort
Judge Darren Howarth	July 27, 2023	Saskatoon
Judge Alan Jacobson	May 30, 2024	Swift Current
Judge James Korpan	May 30, 2024	Regina
Judge Mitch Miller	May 30, 2024	Estevan

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

Court Locations

The Provincial Court has 13 Court centres with resident judges and 59 circuit points. The judges' circuits include 16 fly-in points and 15 First Nations circuit points, four of which are Cree Court locations.

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

2023 Provincial Court Compensation Commission

The judges of the Provincial Court express their gratitude to the CBA Saskatchewan and to the Saskatoon Criminal Defence Lawyers Association for their support in the 2023 Compensation Commission.

Court Protocols/Processes

The Provincial Court is in the process of finalizing another public protocol to address court travel in inclement weather. The Circuit Travel Safety Protocol will be available on our webpage at <https://sasklawcourts.ca/provincial-court/court-protocols/> in the coming weeks.

The Court will be implementing a uniform process for Mental Health and Youth Detox warrants to be consistent throughout the province. The forms and public information will be available on our website.

Court Modernization and Technology

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety are moving to the next stage in the Videoconferencing Expansion Project. The expansion will include increased video conferencing equipment and installation of new video suites in living units of provincial correctional centres and detention areas of RCMP detachments. The goal of the project is to provide more flexibility for courts to schedule video appearances, facilitate remote counsel meetings with clients in custody, and improve safety for correctional staff and inmates.

Notwithstanding the Videoconferencing Expansion Project, the Provincial Court continues to lag behind provincial courts in other provinces and behind the other two Saskatchewan courts in the availability and utilization of technology (e.g. digitized documents, electronic records and Case Management Systems, e-Filing, electronic scheduling).

Therapeutic Courts

New initiatives in Provincial Court include Drug Treatment Court North Battleford and an Urban Indigenous Court in Saskatoon.