

Schedule "A"

City of Prince George 2021 UBCM Resolutions

1. Improved Efficiencies in the Prosecution of Criminal Offences

WHEREAS the BC Crown Counsel Policy Manual's guidelines regarding charge assessment states that unless impracticable to do so, police will lay an Information charging a person with an offence only after approval of charges by Crown Counsel has been given;

AND WHEREAS police responsibilities regarding disclosure in criminal and regulatory offence proceedings is defined in the Disclosure Memorandum of Understanding between the BC Prosecution Service, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (BC) and all BC police agencies, Crown Counsel's responsibility in accordance with the Crown Counsel Act, is to "examine all relevant information and documents and, following the examination, to approve for prosecution any offence or offences that he or she considers appropriate";

AND WHEREAS the costs and man hours required to prepare a fulsome disclosure before charges are approved by Crown Counsel, can result in delays in charges being laid;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the BC Prosecution Service to work with all police agencies in British Columbia to improve efficiencies in disclosure and information management practices in order to reduce delays in charges being laid for the prosecution of criminal offences.

2. Increasing Capacity in Provincial Court Systems through Alternative Coordinated Initiatives

WHEREAS Provincial Crown Counsel prosecutes offences and appeals in British Columbia that arise under Canada's Criminal Code and British Columbia statutes;

AND WHEREAS collaborative approaches that address root causes of crime, such as mental illness and addictions, create effective and targeted responses by providing offenders with supports, services and ties to their community to promote rehabilitation and a crime-free lifestyle;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government, through the implementation of coordinated initiatives such as community/integrated court and addiction treatment centres, First Nation's Health Councils and Integrated Case Assessment Teams, recognizes social and economic factors and the negative effects of reliance on established measures within the mainstream justice system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Attorney General to improve capacity in the provincial court system by funding, province-wide, coordinated and collaborative alternatives to the court system.