

THE COUNTY & DISTRICT LAW PRESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION DES BÂTONNIERS DE COMTÉS ET DISTRICTS

Randall S. Bocoock, Chair



Central Ontario Fact Sheet

Victoria Haliburton

Ontario Court of Justice

Victoria/Haliburton is outside the acceptable range for the completion of preliminary hearings. There are four judges to cover criminal and family matters at two sites approximately one hour apart, for a population of 90,000. 'Blitzes' have been used to address trial backlogs but do not help the situation for the long term.

Superior Court of Justice (Victoria)

Victoria is having difficulties with a backlog of matters waiting for trial. 'Blitzes' using judges from neighbouring jurisdictions are being used as a way of dealing with the backlogs. Victoria has one judge.

Grey

Ontario Court of Justice

Grey is outside the acceptable range for the completion of family trials and lengthy criminal matters.

Superior Court of Justice

It is being reported that Grey is outside the acceptable range for the timing of conferences and the completion of family trials.

Parry Sound

Ontario Court of Justice

Parry Sound is outside the acceptable range for mid-length criminal trials and has motions court less frequently than once a week. There is one judge to cover both family and criminal matters and court is held at three different sites, with a travel time of approximately one hour. Respondents say the caseload justifies 1.5 judges and assistance is sometimes provided by judges from Sudbury. This does however cause delays when trying to schedule matters expected to take longer than one day.

Peterborough

Ontario Court of Justice

Peterborough is outside the acceptable time frame for the completion of child protection matters and short or mid-length criminal trials. There are 5.5 judges assigned to the area, although one judge is currently on a medical leave.

Superior Court of Justice

Peterborough is outside the acceptable time frame for the completion of criminal trials and has both family and civil motions scheduled less than once a week. The current schedule for motions court isn't enough for the large volume of cases. Peterborough has two judges for a population of 135,000.

Muskoka

Superior Court of Justice

Muskoka does not meet the acceptable time range for scheduling conferences. Civil motions occur less frequently than once a week and there are delays reported in securing civil pre-trials. There are specific problems reported with family court as there are inadequate court dates available to serve the area. There are two judges for a population of 57,563.

Simcoe

Superior Court of Justice

Respondents indicate that more judges are required in the Unified Family Court, with 30 to 40 matters on each motions list. The wait times for case and settlement conference dates often reach four months. Further, Simcoe is reporting that the satellite courts are under serviced and there are not enough dates for regular and long motions.