

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

Randall S. Boccock, Chair



Northern Ontario

Kenora

Ontario Court of Justice

Kenora is reporting that the time set aside for family conferences is insufficient. Kenora has two judges to do both family and criminal matters in an area with six road access sites and twenty fly-in sites. Respondents indicate that the lack of judges results in delays caused by the inability to deal with settlement conferences and trials on the same matter.

Superior Court of Justice

Kenora is outside the acceptable range in dealing with civil motions being scheduled less frequently than every week. Kenora has one supernumary judge and there is concern being expressed that his position will not be filled upon his retirement.

Rainy River

Ontario Court of Justice

Rainy River is outside the acceptable range for the scheduling of family conferences. Motions are scheduled less frequently than weekly. Child protection matters are not being completed in acceptable time frames and longer criminal trials are outside the acceptable range for completion.

Superior Court of Justice

Rainy River is outside the acceptable range with respect for four areas, including time delays for conferences and criminal judge and jury trials. This area is also reporting that both civil and family motions are being held less than once per week. There is the equivalent of one judge for the population base of 22,000.

Additional problems are being reported because the judges servicing Rainy River are rotated in from Thunder Bay which means court attendances are sometimes required to be held in Thunder Bay.

Thunder Bay

Ontario Court of Justice

Thunder Bay is outside the acceptable range for mid-length criminal trials and holds motions court less frequently than once per week. Thunder Bay has two judges and there are two vacancies. The population of Thunder Bay is 150,000 and holds court in eleven different sites and travel time between sites varies from one to four hours. Respondents indicate that even when the two vacancies are filled, there could be room for two more judges to adequately service the area.

Superior Court of Justice

Thunder Bay is outside the acceptable range in only one area, which is the time from pre-trial to a long trial.

Algoma

Ontario Court of Justice

Algoma is outside the acceptable range for scheduling case conferences, completing family trials and completing lengthy criminal trials. Child protection matters are not being addressed in a timely fashion. Algoma has five judges to address family and criminal in a jurisdiction with a population of 100,000 and five court sites. Travel time between each site is approximately 2.5 hours.

Cochrane

Ontario Court of Justice

Cochrane is not completing child protection matters within the proscribed time frames and has motions court less than once per week. However, the concerns about delays could be addressed once the current vacancy is filled.

Superior Court of Justice

Cochrane is outside the acceptable range for scheduling conferences and has civil and family motions less than once per week. It also reports that the amount of time allotted for conferences is inadequate. There are two judges for a population of 60,000 with two locations about 1.5 hours apart.

Hastings

Ontario Court of Justice

Hastings does not meet the acceptable time frame for the scheduling of conferences, the completion of child protection matters and the completion of lengthy trials. Respondents say the three judges in the area cannot deal with the caseload.

Superior Court of Justice

The time frame for the scheduling of conferences is not being met. Both civil and family motions are being dealt with less frequently than once a week. There is one judge for a population of 150,000, assisted by one supernumary judge.

**A supernumary judge is a judge who has the option to retire but who chooses to sit half the time of a full time judge.*