

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

Randall S. Boccock, Chair



Southwestern Ontario Fact Sheet

Essex

Ontario Court of Justice

Essex is outside the acceptable range for the completion of family trials and the times for child protection matters as set out in the Family Law Rules Regulations. There are currently five Ontario Court of Justice judges to cover both family and criminal matters in a jurisdiction with a population of 393,402. There is a satellite court about 45 minutes from the main court in Windsor.

Superior Court of Justice

It is also outside the acceptable range in three of the categories dealing with time to civil trial. It reports having seven judges for the population. There is an unfilled vacancy in Essex which, when filled, will likely improve the situation.

Kent

Ontario Court of Justice

Kent is reporting difficulties in the family court but there is an unfilled vacancy for a judge and once appointed, the situation should improve.

Lambton

Ontario Court of Justice

Lambton is not meeting the time frames for child protection matters and is outside the range for long criminal trials and preliminary hearings. Lambton has a total of three Ontario Court of Justice judges to meet the needs of a population of 127,000.

Superior Court of Justice

Lambton is outside the acceptable range for the time from a preliminary hearing to a criminal judge and jury trial. The Jurisdiction is reporting two judges in the SCJ.

Oxford

Ontario Court of Justice

Oxford is outside the acceptable range for scheduling conferences, completing family trials, and completing criminal trials lasting longer than one day. There is one family and one criminal court judge to meet the needs of a population of 150,000. Respondents report that 'blitzes' have been used to clear the backlog but they do not help address the on-going problems in this area.