



ALBERTA  
JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL

*Office of the Minister*

## PREFACE

The vision of the Ministry of Justice and that of the Attorney General of Alberta is of a "fair and safe society supported by a trusted justice system." The Ministry and Attorney General's mission is to protect the rights of all individuals in Alberta and advance the interests of society by fostering: safe communities; access to justice; respect for the law; understanding of and confidence in the justice system; and the legal foundation for social cohesion and economic prosperity.

Within the Ministry of Justice, the Criminal Justice Division is responsible for the conduct of prosecutions pursuant to the *Criminal Code of Canada*, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, certain other federal statutes, and all provincial statutes. The mission of the Criminal Justice Division is to serve "the public and the interests of justice through excellence in prosecutions." The Division has committed to delivering effective prosecution services with the following values:

- Integrity and fairness in prosecuting and in dealing with people in the prosecution process, the public, and each other,
- The independent exercise of prosecutorial discretion,
- Respect for the Rule of Law,
- Respect for people and the rights and freedoms guaranteed to them by law,
- Respect and support for victims and their rights,
- Development, support, and maintenance for the Division's dedicated and informed people,
- Understanding and respect for cultural differences,
- Work with communities to develop and maintain a Criminal Justice System that meets the needs of those communities.

Crown prosecutors within the Criminal Justice Division are agents of the Attorney General of Alberta and are responsible for the conduct of all prosecutions falling within the jurisdiction of the Criminal Justice Division. To facilitate the on-going excellence in

the conduct of these prosecutions and to assist in maintaining trust in the criminal justice system, the discretionary decisions made by Crown Prosecutors, many of which are difficult and sometimes unpopular, must be reached in a manner that is objective, fair, transparent and consistent.

To this end, a *Code of Conduct for Crown Prosecutors* and a series of guidelines and practice memoranda has been created. Collectively referred to as the Crown Prosecutors' Policy Manual, these documents constitute the Attorney General's instructions to all Crown Prosecutors, and are designed to guide Crown Prosecutors as they make discretionary decisions in respect of specific prosecutions.

The Crown Prosecutors' Policy Manual represents an ongoing commitment by the Criminal Justice Division to integrity, excellence, accountability and professionalism. For the Manual to be effective, all those acting on behalf of the Attorney General of Alberta must adhere to its guidelines and directions. Such adherence will help to ensure that prosecutions in Alberta are conducted objectively and fairly, and with transparency and consistency.

The *Code of Conduct for Crown Prosecutors* is integral to the Crown Prosecutors' Policy Manual and merits specific mention. This document describes concepts and principles that are at the very core of the considerable public duties and responsibilities of all Crown Prosecutors. As such, these concepts and principles form the foundation of the more specific policy documents that guide Crown Prosecutors in fulfilling these duties and responsibilities.

(To be clear, however, the Crown Prosecutors' Policy Manual does not have the status of law. It does not in any way override the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* or any governing legislation, and it is not intended to provide legal advice to members of the public or to create any rights enforceable at law in any legal proceeding.)

To be effective, the Crown Prosecutors' Policy Manual must receive broad distribution and must be easily accessible to all Crown Prosecutors. To this end, the *Code of Conduct for Crown Prosecutors*, the guidelines, and the practice memoranda will be housed on the Criminal Justice Division intranet site. Search by topic will permit ready access to relevant documents.

Finally, recognizing that to remain relevant, the Crown Prosecutors' Policy Manual must remain current. The *Code of Conduct for Crown Prosecutors*, the guidelines, and the practice memoranda will be regarded as a living document; a perpetual *work-in-progress*. These documents will be under continuous review and will be updated as new issues and challenges require new policies or revisions to existing ones. All those

within the Criminal Justice Division should be conscious of this and are encouraged to suggest changes where policies are unclear or out-dated.

I am pleased to introduce the revised Crown Prosecutors' Policy Manual and trust it will be an invaluable resource to all Crown Prosecutors.

Alison Redford

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Redford', written in a cursive style.

Minister of Justice and  
Attorney General

Date: APRIL 30 | 2008