



Justice and Public Safety

ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025

Justice and Public Safety

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Province of New Brunswick
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TRANSMITTAL LETTERS

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

Her Honour The Honourable Louise Imbeault

Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the annual report of the Department of Justice and Public Safety, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. McKee', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Honourable Robert K. McKee, K.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

Her Honour The Honourable Louise Imbeault

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It is my privilege to submit the annual report of the Department of Justice and Public Safety, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Honourable Robert Gauvin
Minister of Public Safety

TRANSMITTAL LETTERS

From the Deputy Minister to the Minister

Honourable Robert K. McKee, K.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of the Department of Justice and Public Safety for the fiscal year April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Comeau", with a stylized, wavy line extending from the end.

Michael J. Comeau, K.C.
Deputy Minister

From the Deputy Minister to the Minister

Honourable Robert Gauvin
Minister of Public Safety

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I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of the Department of Justice and Public Safety for the fiscal year April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael J. Comeau, K.C.
Deputy Minister

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Improving access to justice was a priority of the Department of Justice and Public Safety in 2024-2025.

This year, the department introduced two important pieces of legislation, Bills 39 and 40, which were passed by the Legislative Assembly, to help free up more time for judges and the courts. The Office of the Attorney General also continued to demonstrate excellence, both in its work before courts and tribunals and in the legal advice it provides to the Crown.

I am fortunate to work alongside a dedicated and professional team that is committed to ensuring our justice system — the cornerstone of democracy — meets the needs and expectations of New Brunswickers. I look forward to the year ahead as we continue building on this progress and find new ways to improve and accelerate access to justice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. McKee', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Honourable Robert K. McKee, K.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The Department of Justice and Public Safety made the province safer on a number of fronts in 2024-2025.

For example, new rules came into effect to make New Brunswick roads safer by strengthening the administrative penalties for impaired drivers. The government is also investing \$3.6 million over three years to improve community safety in eight Mi'gmaq communities. In addition, peace officers with Inspections and Enforcement New Brunswick continued to work to curb the sale of illegal drugs and tobacco in our province through the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods program. And the list goes on.

There is no substitute for safe communities, and they don't happen by accident. New Brunswick is one of the safest places to live thanks in part to the hard-working employees at the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

I'm lucky to work with these people every day.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Gauvin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Honourable Robert Gauvin
Minister of Public Safety

DEPUTY MINISTER'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Department of Justice and Public Safety for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

In 2024-2025, Justice and Public Safety had many achievements, including changes to several key pieces of legislation aimed at curbing impaired driving, breaking down interprovincial trade barriers and increasing the efficiency of our courts.

In addition, a program organized by the Office of the Fire Marshal ensured more NB homes were fire safe by distributing more than 12,000 smoke/carbon dioxide alarms free of charge. And we continued to make progress on the new Central New Brunswick Correctional Centre and new Fredericton Justice Building.

Whether it's on the frontlines in our correctional facilities, courthouses or communities, or working behind the scenes, every Justice and Public Safety employee makes an impact and helps make New Brunswick a great place to live.



Michael J. Comeau, K.C.
Deputy Minister

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Delivering for New Brunswickers

The priorities the Government of New Brunswick (GNB) focused on represent the stories and solutions we hear from residents across the province. Our goal is to make a difference and enhance the quality of life for everyone in the province we proudly call home. Together, we are learning, growing, adapting, and discovering new and transformative ways of doing business. GNB is focused on taking the necessary steps to move our priorities forward, and work is being done more efficiently and effectively every day. New Brunswickers are resilient, creative and compassionate people, and by working collaboratively, we can create the brighter future we all deserve. GNB is prioritizing partnerships and trusting and empowering the people and organizations on the ground working most closely with New Brunswickers to achieve results.

Priorities

GNB is focused on creating a brighter future for all New Brunswickers. To make progress towards this vision, several priorities have been identified within the following areas:

- Health care
- Affordability and housing
- Education
- The economy
- Environment
- Trusted leadership

We invite you to explore the commitments we have made within each priority area, as well as updates on our achievements and the metrics we use to measure success. For more information, visit: gnb.ca/accountability.

HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Department of Justice and Public Safety focused on these government priorities through:

- Amendments aimed at breaking down interprovincial trade barriers related to alcohol were introduced to the *Liquor Control Act*.
- \$3.6 million was invested over three years to improve community safety in eight Mi'gmaq communities.
- Progress continued on the construction of the new Fredericton Justice Building.
- Design work, site preparation and groundwork were started on the new Central NB Correctional Centre.
- A new temporary program was created in collaboration with the New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) in Minto to train correctional officers to support the new NB Central Correctional Centre.
- Legislation was introduced to establish a new approach within the provincial court structure to allow for a centralized bail hearing process.
- The title of various court officials and authorities was consolidated, and roles expanded through legislation to include conducting certain child, youth and adult protection matters under one subordinate judicial authority.
- Disaster financial assistance programs were approved to help individuals, small businesses, not-for-profit organizations and local governments that suffered property damage following two severe winter storms in 2023-2024.
- New regulations were introduced requiring new transport truck drivers to take an approved training program before being granted a Class 1 licence.
- The *Motor Vehicle Act* was amended to strengthen the administrative penalties for impaired drivers and allow for immediate roadside suspensions.
- The Office of the Fire Marshal collaborated with the Department of Social Development and local fire departments to distribute more than 12,000 smoke/carbon dioxide alarms to NB homes free of charge.
- Legislative Services produced 27 Acts and 77 Regulations.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Outcome # 1: Improved community confidence in law enforcement

The Department of Justice and Public Safety works with community partners to build confidence in the activities of law enforcement. In 2024-2025, this was accomplished through strategic investments and cooperation with agency partners to dismantle organized crime activities.

Why is it important?

New Brunswickers deserve to feel safe in the communities they call home and have confidence in those working to promote and ensure safety. While work continues across departments and agencies to address some of the root causes of crime, such as addiction, it is also essential to effectively address illegal activities that cause harm to individuals, families and communities.

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

- \$3.6 million was invested over three years to improve community safety in eight Mi'gmaq communities.
- In 2024-25, 80 new RCMP officers were hired across the province.
- The Department of Justice and Public Safety peace officers closed 37 illegal cannabis dispensaries and performed 21 operations that resulted in the seizure of tobacco products totalling 2,103,733 cigarettes.
- Under the authority of the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, 44 properties were vacated due to illegal activity.

Outcome # 2: Improved criminal justice system outcomes

Addictions, mental illness, poverty, poor literacy – these are among the obstacles that prevent those involved in the criminal justice system from avoiding the cycles of criminal activity. As government works to address the root causes of crime, the department has established programs and approaches within its mandate to reduce recidivism, provide improved access to justice and play a role in helping clients access the help they need.

Why is it important?

Efforts to improve criminal justice outcomes contribute to a safer society that looks after one another, providing everyone an opportunity to live resilient, dignified and productive lives.

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

- Bill 40 was passed, consolidating the role of various court officials and expanding their authority to conduct certain child, youth and adult protection matters.
- All clients of New Brunswick's correctional centres have access to modernized rehabilitative programming, aimed at identifying risk factors for reoffending and develop basic life skills to help clients reintegrate positively after release.
- Work began on the development of the Moncton Addictions and Mental Health Court Program to connect persons in the criminal justice system with effective and dignified treatment where appropriate.

Outcome # 3: Reduced court delays

The complexity of criminal cases and limited staffing resources are among several factors that contribute to court delays, which significantly impact every person connected to the justice system. Year after year, the department works to improve timely access to justice by investing strategically in technology and people, and by deploying practical approaches to delivering services.

Why is it important?

Timely access to court services is a foundational aspect of an impartial, effective justice system. Modernizing practices and ensuring sufficient staffing helps contribute to the efficient operation of our courts.

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

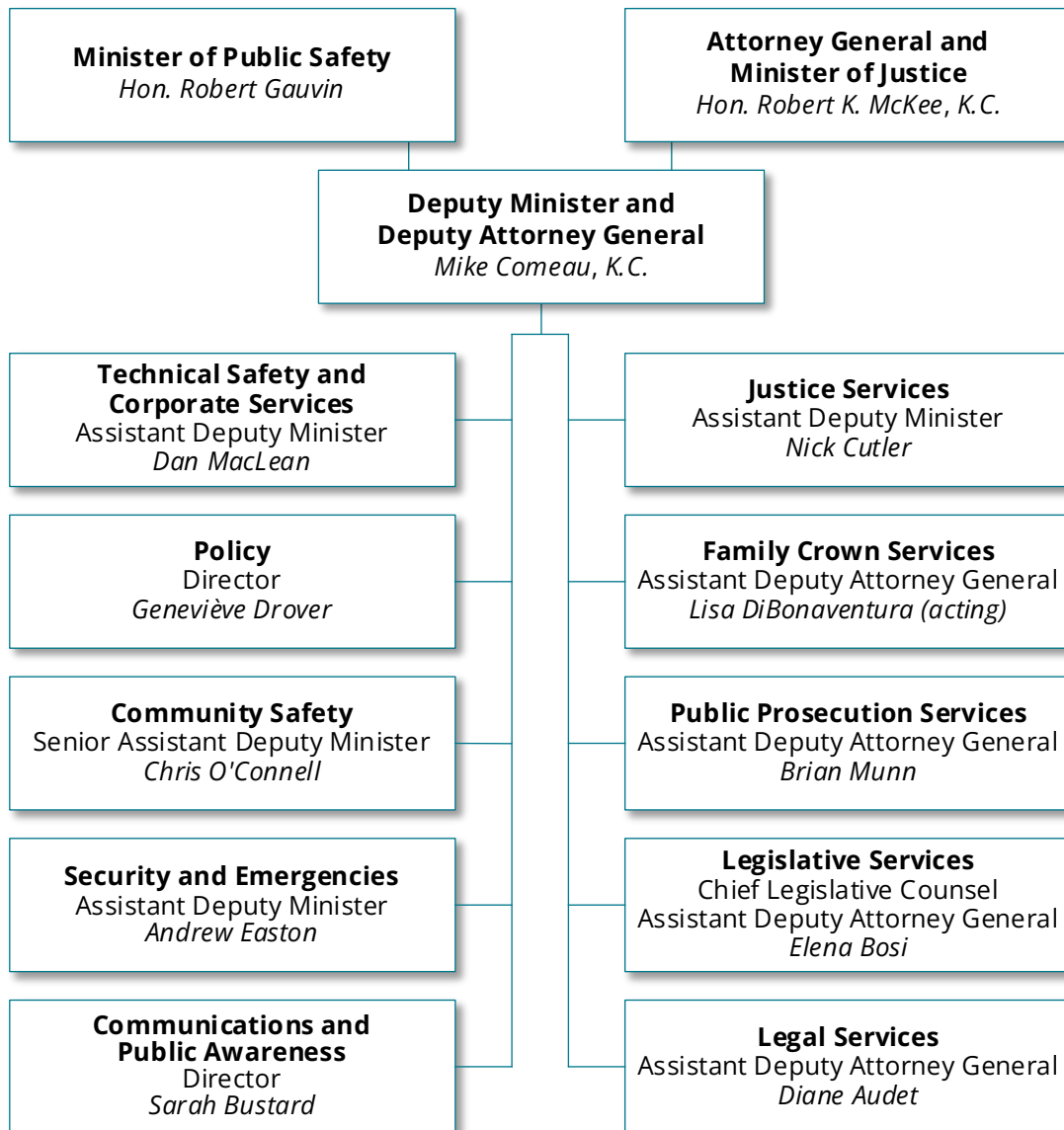
- The child protection adjudication model project was implemented in 2024-2025 and is expected to remove 50 per cent of child protection cases from court.
- Bill 39 was enacted, establishing a new approach within the provincial court structure to allow for a centralized bail hearing process.
- The Office of the Attorney General hired 30 more Crown Prosecutors to help alleviate workload pressures.

OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

The Department of Justice and Public Safety was formed to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to public safety. The department strives to provide quality programs and services that enhance the safety and security of New Brunswickers and their communities and a fair, accessible justice system.

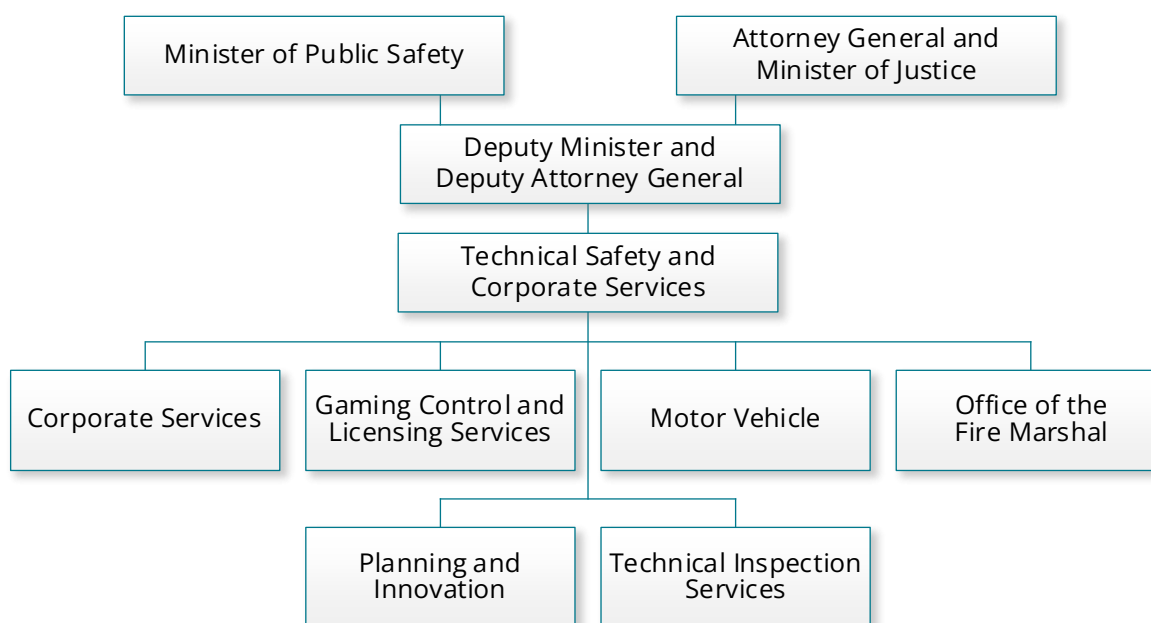
The vision of the department is “Working together for a safe, secure and just New Brunswick”.

The department had 1,764 regular, part-time, term and temporary employees, up from 1,717 in the previous fiscal year.



DIVISION OVERVIEW

TECHNICAL SAFETY AND CORPORATE SERVICES



Overview

The **Technical Safety and Corporate Services Division** provides direction and support to all departmental managers and employees in the areas of financial services, legislative/regulatory and legal analysis, human resources, employee health and safety, information management, fleet and facilities management and accountability. The division is also responsible for the department's regulatory branches related to fire safety, technical inspections of buildings and structures, motor vehicles, liquor, gaming, and security services.

The **Gaming Control and Licensing Services Branch** is the regulatory authority responsible for the licensing, registration and permitting of applicants under the *Liquor Control Act*, *Gaming Control Act*, *Private Investigators and Security Services Act*, *Film and Video Act* and the *Salvage Dealers Licensing Act*. The branch coordinates with both internal and external inspectors, investigators, departments, corporate bodies, agencies, and systems. The branch is responsible for maintaining and upholding the integrity of gaming in New Brunswick through the registration of suppliers and licensing of all employees of the casino gaming industry.

The **Motor Vehicle Branch** provides oversight of safety standards for motor vehicle registration, issues motor vehicle dealer licences, administers the motor vehicle inspection program through inspection stations, and administers the International Registration Plan program for the inter-jurisdictional registration of commercial vehicles. The branch promotes highway safety through testing aspiring drivers, issuing driver licences and ID cards, monitoring driver behaviour, and sanctioning unsafe drivers and carriers. The branch also administers educational and ignition interlock programs for persons convicted of impaired driving.

The **Office of the Fire Marshal** delivers fire prevention and protection programs and works with fire departments, municipalities, and partner organizations to promote fire safety. The office monitors changes to the National Building Code and National Fire Code, the National Fire Protection Association codes, and fire safety trends and concerns to develop and promote provincial policies, standards, and procedures for the fire service. The office works with multiple agencies to conduct fire safety inspections and perform fire cause and origin investigations. It is the lead agency for the response to all hazardous material emergencies for the province of New Brunswick.

The **Planning and Innovation Branch** is responsible for supporting the department's strategic direction through business planning, performance measurement, data analytics, continuous improvement, and accountability.

The **Technical Inspection Services Branch** is responsible for regulating the safe design, fabrication, installation, and operation of electrical, plumbing, propane, natural and medical gas systems, boilers, pressure vessels, elevating devices, amusement rides and buildings. Responsibilities also include qualifying and licensing specific tradespeople and contractors, performing accident investigations, providing education, and accrediting private sector services.

Overview of Corporate Services branches

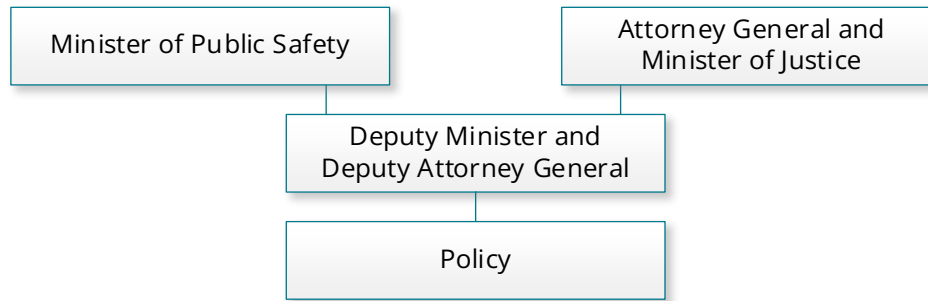
The **Finance and Administration Branch** provides financial leadership and expert advice to senior management, departmental managers and staff. The branch maintains the operational accounting function by providing financial consulting, budgeting, monitoring, accounting services, and revenue and expenditure forecasting. It also enforces financial policies and procedures and manages the department's facilities and fleet.

The **Human Resources Branch** is responsible for providing leadership and support to the department in the areas of human resource planning, recruitment, classification, labour relations, employee relations, training, performance management, change management, organizational development, human resource policies, worker safety and program implementation.

The **Information Management Services Branch** is responsible for information management and security, risk management and records management. It supports business planning of information management solutions for the department. It ensures alignment of departmental business objectives and technology initiatives by providing strategic oversight, direction and advice.

The **Internal Communication and Employee Engagement Branch** supports the department by planning and executing strategic, timely communication to employees across the organization, and strengthening employee culture through engagement activities. The branch also coordinates departmental correspondence and provides advice and support on corporate projects.

POLICY



Overview

The **Policy Branch** provides ministerial and departmental areas leadership and support in the development of program and policy initiatives. The branch also provides information and advice in support of legislation development, and federal/provincial/territorial relations, as well as coordination of legislative activities and departmental matters related to the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Personal Health Information Privacy and Access Act*.

COMMUNITY SAFETY



Overview

The **Community Safety Division** administers programs and services to contribute to a safer society. The division is responsible for institutional and community-based programs for offenders, youth justice initiatives, court security, support for victims of crime, programs to reduce and prevent crime, firearms licensing, policing standards and contracts, and investigations of sudden and unexpected deaths. The division is also responsible for Inspections and Enforcement New Brunswick, a provincial non-direct policing law enforcement agency.

Inspections and Enforcement New Brunswick is a provincial law enforcement agency responsible for providing education, inspection, investigative and enforcement functions under provincial and federal acts. Peace officers with special constable appointment have general public safety and policing mandates and work to enhance public safety and protect government revenues, the environment, natural resources and government infrastructure. It has additional responsibilities in the areas of liquor control; commercial, passenger and off-road vehicle safety; gaming control; tobacco sales to minors; smoke-free places investigations; disrupting the sale of illegal cannabis, tobacco, drugs, and alcohol; and protecting communities against the harmful effects of crime. Agri-food and public health inspectors protect the public from health hazards, maintain healthy environments and reduce the incidence of disease in the areas of food safety, environmental health, recreational and institutional sanitation, water quality, abattoirs and dairy-related operations, emergency preparedness and communicable disease control.

Overview of Correctional Services branches

Adult Custody Services is responsible for the administration of five provincial correctional institutions for adult offenders sentenced to incarceration of two years less a day and for holding accused persons deemed to be dangerous and/or a security risk while awaiting trial or awaiting immigration hearings.

The **Community and Youth Justice Services Branch** is responsible for developing and delivering programs for justice-involved youth and adults using evidence-based prevention approaches and supporting the rights of victims of crime. These programs include provincial adult and youth diversion programs, restorative justice approaches, rehabilitative case management for adults and youth sentenced to community correctional supervision, and support services for victims of crime like court preparation and victim impact statements. It provides custody placements for youth aligned with a continuum of care model of intervention that addresses the young person's risks and needs. The branch employs peace officers that, in addition to their primary areas of responsibility, may be called on to complete other duties during large-scale civic emergencies.

The **Crime Prevention and Program Development Branch** is responsible for developing collaborative, evidence-based, and cost-effective crime prevention approaches throughout New Brunswick. The branch offers research, development, and evaluation support to operational branches in the department to ensure that strategies and programs align with a best-practice continuum of care model.

The **Sheriff Services Branch** is responsible for providing court security for all courthouse locations in accordance with the *Court Security Act*. The branch coordinates detainees' security, including transportation, escort and detention supervision, as well as jury management, document service and court orders execution. Sheriffs also perform peace officer duties as prescribed by over 80 federal and provincial statutes.

Overview of Policing, Firearms and Coroner Services branches

Coroner Services is an independent and publicly accountable investigation of death agency. The service is responsible for reviewing all suspicious or questionable deaths in New Brunswick, and for conducting inquests as may be required by statute and/or in the public interest. Coroner Services does not have a vested interest of any kind in the outcome of death investigations. The agency administers the Child Death Review Committee and Domestic Violence Death Review Committee.

The **Policing Standards and Contract Management Branch** aims to prevent and reduce crime and victimization through the coordination of effective and efficient policing services and evidence-based programs. The branch is responsible for developing and promoting provincial policies, standards, agreements and collaborative partnerships that ensure the delivery of consistent and standardized police services throughout New Brunswick. It oversees contract management services and supports the provision of RCMP services under the Provincial Police Service Agreement as well as managing agreements with municipalities and local service districts for the provision of RCMP services.

The **Provincial Firearms Office** contributes to the safety of communities by managing the ownership, purchase, movement and use of firearms within the province through the administration of federal firearms legislation.

JUSTICE SERVICES



Overview

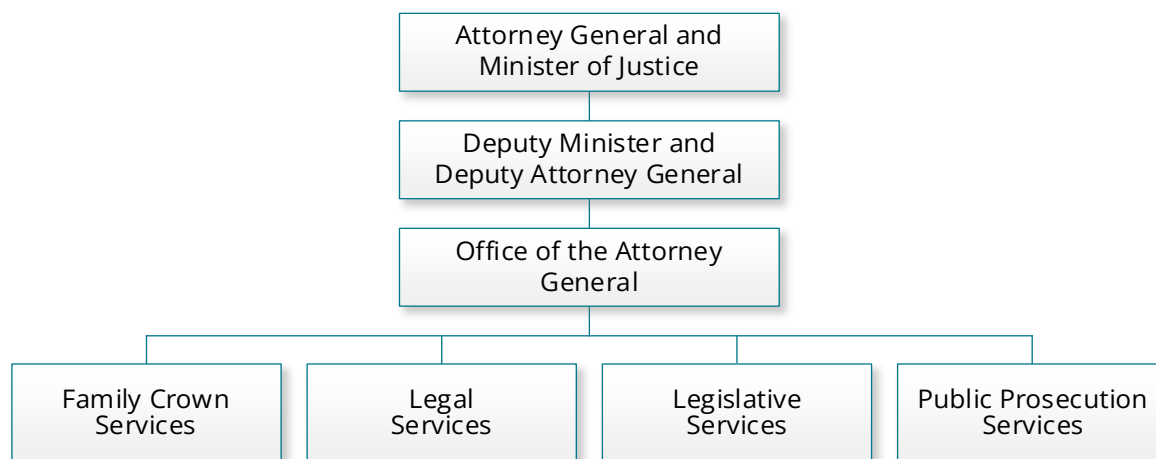
The **Justice Services Division** ensures a transparent, accessible, and unbiased justice system. The division is responsible for the administration of provincial courts, support for the judiciary, and the enforcement of family support orders.

The **Court Services Branch** supports New Brunswick's court system across all three levels of court: the Court of Appeal, the Court of King's Bench, and the Provincial Court. This includes courts and functional areas such as the Small Claims Court, Probate Court, Bankruptcy and Insolvency Division, and the Criminal and Youth Justice Courts. The branch manages court attendance, order production, case file management, registry services, and other legal and administrative services in support of the judiciary, justice participants, and the public. It also delivers specialized initiatives, including the Healing to Wellness Court, Domestic Violence Court, Family Case Management, the Family Law Information Center, the Mental Health Docket, Intimate Partner Violence Intervention, and the Case Management Triage Officer program.

The **Office of Support Enforcement** enforces family support provisions in court orders and agreements in accordance with the *Support Enforcement Act* by using progressive enforcement actions to ensure compliance.

The **Justice Support Services Branch** provides strategic and operational support for the technological and functional processes related to the administration of New Brunswick's provincial courts. Responsibilities include the management of information technology systems, business intelligence, evaluation of legislative and policy changes and establishment and oversight of service level agreements.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Overview

The **Office of the Attorney General** promotes the impartial administration of justice to enable the Attorney General to discharge their constitutional responsibilities regarding the enforcement of the criminal law, the provision of legal advice and the representation of the Crown in all civil and constitutional matters, as well as the drafting of legislation and regulations.

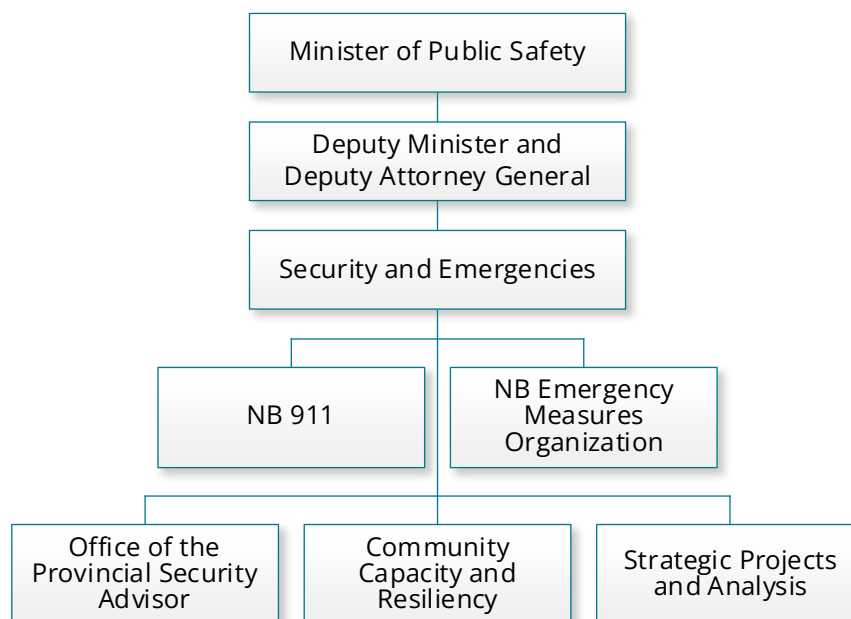
The **Family Crown Services Branch** provides professional legal services, including litigation and legal opinions to the Department of Social Development and to the Director of Support Enforcement in the area of family law. It also acts as designate and agent of the Attorney General under specific federal and provincial legislation and international treaties in the areas of family law and the civil aspects of international child abduction.

The **Legal Services Branch** provides professional legal services to government departments and some agencies in the areas of employment and administrative law, constitutional law, corporate, commercial and property law, and litigation. It also provides legal opinions on issues and matters related to the ongoing operations of government.

The **Legislative Services Branch** provides a central legislative drafting service in both Official Languages, for all public acts and regulations, to all government departments; provides advice to the Executive Council on legislative matters; discharges the responsibilities conferred upon the Registrar of Regulations under the *Regulations Act*, provides legal advice on Cabinet agenda, and discharges the responsibilities conferred upon the King's Printer under the *King's Printer Act*.

The **Public Prosecution Services Branch** ensures that laws enacted for the protection of all citizens are respected and enforced by providing independent, effective, and impartial prosecution services. With the decision to continue or terminate a prosecution, the Crown prosecutors exercise broad discretion in the public interest.

SECURITY AND EMERGENCIES



Overview

The **Security and Emergencies Division** is responsible for coordination amongst different levels of government and the private sector to improve prevention, preparedness and response capabilities in New Brunswick for deliberate, accidental or natural events. Responsibilities include 911 services, emergency management and recovery programs, security, and critical infrastructure.

The **Community Capacity and Resiliency Branch** is responsible for taking learning from crises and coordinating provincial efforts to help communities become more resilient to future emergencies. Regional teams work in direct alignment with Regional Service Commissions to help implement strategies targeting the social issues that drive the inequitable impact of emergencies on communities.

The **Office of the Provincial Security Advisor** (OPSA) contributes to provincial security by assessing threats, risks, and vulnerabilities facing New Brunswick that could impact public safety, critical infrastructure, the economy, and the function of government. OPSA provides advice and support to government, critical infrastructure owners and operators, as well as the law enforcement, security and intelligence community. OPSA facilitates collaboration between stakeholders at all levels of government and the private sector to foster a secure, resilient, and competitive province.

The **NB 911 Branch** is responsible for ensuring an effective province-wide system for the coordination of emergency services and for the reporting of emergencies to service providers through a public safety answering point, by working with telecommunications partners and emergency response stakeholders. The branch develops, implements and ensures compliance with standards, policies and operating procedures that ensure response to all emergencies reported via 911.

The **New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization** (NB EMO) promotes the development of emergency programs at all levels of government encompassing prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. It coordinates provincial emergency operations and supports communities, municipalities and regional service commissions with resources and information to ensure effective local response to major emergencies.

The **Strategic Projects and Analysis Branch** provides analysis and leadership on priority projects and programs within the Security and Emergencies Division. The team delivers business intelligence/data analytics support, collaborates with the divisional leadership team on corporate strategy, and supports the development and implementation of outcome-focused operational policies.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TABLE 1: ORDINARY EXPENDITURE STATUS REPORT BY PRIMARY

Fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 (\$000)

	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET*	ACTUAL	VARIANCE (UNDER) OVER
Personal services	171,215.8	13,189.0	184,404.8	175,287.9	(9,116.9)
Other services	166,000.1	271.0	166,271.1	181,162.3	14,891.2
Materials and supplies	5,472.9	-	5,472.9	7,548.9	2,076.0
Property and equipment	845.9	-	845.9	2,733.7	1,887.8
Contributions, grants and subsidies	18,748.5	75.4	18,823.9	22,670.7	3,846.8
Debt and other charges	17,570.8	-	17,570.8	18,149.0	578.2
Chargeback recoveries	(5,012.0)	-	(5,012.0)	(12,873.0)	(7,861.0)
Total	374,842.0	13,535.4	388,377.4	394,679.5	6,302.1

Actual expenditures were over budget by \$6.3M; this was the result of RCMP in-year contract settlements and pressures within adult institutions surrounding WorkSafe and rising food costs. The Legal Aid grant was over budget during the fiscal year and supported by an offsetting increase to the federal grant from Justice Canada.

*Note that the final budget does not include a \$5.5M supplementary estimate granted in 2024-2025. If included, the overall variance for the department would be a \$802K deficit.

TABLE 2: ORDINARY EXPENDITURE STATUS REPORT BY PROGRAM

Fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 (\$000)

	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET*	ACTUAL	VARIANCE (UNDER) OVER
Technical Safety and Corporate Services	25,834.0	1,126.6	26,960.6	28,206.6	1,246.0
Community Safety	249,941.0	6,807.9	256,748.9	261,851.4	5,102.5
Office of the Attorney General	28,825.0	3,618.0	32,443.0	32,252.7	(190.3)
Justice Services	31,452.0	1,619.8	33,071.8	31,058.3	(2,013.5)
Legal Aid	13,844.0	220.6	14,064.6	15,348.0	1,283.4
Security and Emergencies	24,946.0	142.5	25,088.5	25,962.5	874.0
Total	374,842.0	13,535.4	388,377.4	394,679.5	6,302.1

Actual expenditures were over budget by \$6.3M.

- Technical Safety & Corporate Services: Costs attributed to the building code acceleration project. This initiative is federally funded and offset by revenue.
- Community Safety: Over budget due to RCMP in-year contract settlements and pressures within adult institutions surrounding WorkSafe and rising food costs.
- Justice Services: Under budget due to vacant positions within newly established programs.
- Legal Aid: Grant was over budget as supported by an equally offsetting increase to the federal grant from Justice Canada.
- Security & Emergencies: Overall variance is the result of two unfunded events (December 2023 and February 2024) within the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program.

*Note that the final budget does not include a \$5.5M supplementary estimate granted in 2024-2025. If included, the overall variance for the department would be a \$802K deficit.

TABLE 3: ORDINARY REVENUE STATUS REPORT BY SOURCE**Fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 (\$000)**

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE (UNDER) OVER
Other taxes	5,100.0	7,072.7	1,972.7
Return on investment	47.0	50.0	3.0
Licences and permits	152,600.0	167,337.8	14,737.8
Sale of goods and services	48,465.0	55,662.6	7,197.6
Fines and penalties	6,708.0	6,195.4	(512.6)
Miscellaneous	340.0	1,715.1	1,375.1
Conditional Grants – Canada	22,428.0	5,199.6	(17,228.4)
Total	235,688.0	243,233.2	7,545.2

The overall surplus for ordinary revenue for 2024-2025 was \$7.5M. The major variances include increased fees received under the *Motor Vehicle Act* (Licences and permits), installations and inspections (licences and permits) and the *Fire Prevention Act* (other taxes), and recoveries from municipalities for the RCMP (sale of goods and services). Also included was new funding associated with the building code acceleration initiative (Miscellaneous). This was offset by lower-than-expected recoveries within the DFA program (Conditional Grants – Canada) as a large number of claims were deemed ineligible and no longer included for cost sharing with the federal government.

SUMMARY OF STAFFING ACTIVITY

Pursuant to section 4 of the *Civil Service Act*, the Secretary to Treasury Board delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective department(s). Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES ¹		
EMPLOYEE TYPE	2024-2025	2023-2024
Permanent	1,596.0	1577.5
Temporary	168.4	139.0
TOTAL	1,764.4	1716.5

¹Does not include casuals.

The department advertised 87 competitions, including 80 open (public) competitions and 7 closed (internal) competitions.

Pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of the *Civil Service Act*, the department made the following appointments using processes to establish merit other than the competitive process:

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
Specialized Professional, Scientific or Technical	An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a high degree of expertise and training a high degree of technical skill recognized experts in their field 	15(1)	0
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	Provides Aboriginals, persons with disabilities and members of a visible minority group with equal access to employment, training and advancement opportunities.	16(1)(a)	1
Department Talent Management Program	Permanent employees identified in corporate and departmental talent pools, who meet the four-point criteria for assessing talent, namely performance, readiness, willingness and criticalness.	16(1)(b)	57

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
Lateral transfer	The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within Part 1, 2 (school districts) and 3 (hospital authorities) of the Public Service.	16(1) or 16(1)(c)	27
Regular appointment of casual/temporary	An individual hired on a casual or temporary basis under section 17 may be appointed without competition to a regular properly classified position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(i)	72
Regular appointment of students/apprentices	Summer students, university or community college co-op students or apprentices may be appointed without competition to an entry level position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(ii)	0

Pursuant to section 33 of the *Civil Service Act*, zero (0) complaints alleging favouritism were made to the Deputy Head of Justice and Public Safety and zero (0) complaints were submitted to the Ombud.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

BILL #	NAME OF LEGISLATION	DATE OF ROYAL ASSENT	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
22	<p><i>An Act to Amend the Safer Communities and Neighbourhood Act</i></p> <p>https://www.legnb.ca/en/legislation/bills/60/3/22/an-act-to-amend-the-safer-communities-and-nei</p>	June 7, 2024	<p>Amendment to add “tobacco”, which will include the possession or sale of tobacco as defined in the <i>Tobacco Tax Act</i>, in contravention of that Act or the regulations.</p> <p>The Act was also amended to include for a first offence a minimum of 90 days closure, and a minimum 90 days closure and a maximum 120 days closure for any subsequent offence.</p>
25	<p><i>An Act Respecting an Act Respecting Child and Youth Well-Being</i></p> <p>https://www.legnb.ca/en/legislation/bills/60/3/25/an-act-respecting-an-act-respecting-child-and</p>	June 7, 2024	<p>Amendments made to the Bill that will validate actions taken in good faith and protect from liability those who acted in good faith under provisions repealed or amended by <i>An Act Respecting Child and Youth Well-Being</i> from the date of Royal Assent on December 13, 2023, until proclamation of the <i>Child and Youth Well-Being Act</i> on January 26, 2024.</p>

BILL #	NAME OF LEGISLATION	DATE OF ROYAL ASSENT	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
28	<i>An Act to Amend the Provincial Court Act</i> https://www.legnb.ca/en/legislation/bills/60/3/28/an-act-to-amend-the-provincial-court-act	June 7, 2024	<p>Amends were made to increase the rate paid to retired judges working on a per diem basis. The 2020 Judicial Remuneration Commission made the recommendation to change the rate in its 2023 report on salary and benefits paid to Provincial Court judges. The recommendation was subsequently accepted by this Government. The amendment is required to ensure the Act reflects the current rate being paid to retired judges working on a per diem basis.</p>
36	<i>An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act</i> https://www.legnb.ca/en/legislation/bills/60/3/36/an-act-to-amend-the-motor-vehicle-act	June 7, 2024	<p>The amendments strengthen short-term suspensions and established an Immediate Roadside Suspension Program for impaired drivers.</p>
37	<i>An Act to Amend the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act</i> https://www.legnb.ca/en/legislation/bills/60/3/37/an-act-to-amend-the-salvage-dealers-licensing	June 7, 2024	<p>Amendments will improve public safety measures under the Act by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requiring a fire safety plan and site layout 2. Applying special conditions to licensees 3. Increasing penalties for licensing violations 4. Suspending licences during major non-compliance investigations

BILL #	NAME OF LEGISLATION	DATE OF ROYAL ASSENT	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
39	<i>Justices of the Peace Act</i> https://www.legnb.ca/en/legislation/bills/60/3/39/justices-of-the-peace-act	June 7, 2024	<p>Most provinces and territories rely on one role within the Provincial Court structure to hear matters that do not need to go before a Provincial Court judge, and those for which they have been granted jurisdiction.</p> <p>The legislation will allow for this role to conduct bail hearings under a new centralized bail hearing process that is being established.</p>
40	<i>An Act Respecting Hearing Officers</i> https://www.legnb.ca/en/legislation/bills/60/3/40/an-act-respecting-hearing-officers	June 7, 2024	<p>The Bill consolidated the functions of Case Management Masters, Emergency Adjudicative Officers and Small Claims Adjudicators into one subordinate judicial authority, which has been used in practice for several years but is not reflected in legislation. It also expanded the authority of this role to include certain child and adult protection matters under the <i>Child and Youth Well-Being Act (CYWBA)</i> and <i>Family Services Act (FSA)</i>, respectively.</p> <p>The Bill granted the Lieutenant-Governor in Council the authority to appoint people to this role and to designate which aspect they will focus on to allow for specialization in one area if required.</p> <p>With respect to child and adult protection matters, this role was granted the authority to address procedural issues, adjudicate and issue interim or final orders for various matters. A process for appealing matters before those who are in this</p>

			role, where no existing appeals provisions are set out in other legislation, is being added to ensure procedural fairness.
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NAME OF REGULATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
<i>Provincial Court Act, General Regulation</i>	April 18, 2024	Amendments to eliminate the right for lawyers who work for the province to transfer sick leave and service credits if appointed to the provincial court.
<i>Provincial Offences Procedure Act-Trespass Act, General Regulation</i>	May 1, 2024	Amendments to make certain offences under the <i>Trespass Act</i> ticketable.
<i>Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, Standards Regulation</i>	May 1, 2024	Amendments to bring New Brunswick code references up to date with the latest standards.
<i>An Act Respecting Hearing Officers</i>	June 7, 2024	Amendments to establish a new adjudication model where subordinate judicial officials would be used to hear certain child, youth and adult protection matters. The primary purpose of the changes is to alleviate the pressure on the Court of King's Bench by enabling this role to adjudicate certain matters.
<i>Small Claims Act, General Regulation</i>	October 15, 2024	Amendments to address the growing backlog by replacing appeals by way of new hearing or application with one traditional appeal process and limit the right of appeal to question of law or jurisdiction.
New Brunswick Regulation 2024-60 <i>Judicature Act and the Provincial Offences Procedure Act</i>	October 15, 2024	Amendments made to allow for binding judicial resolution conferences, a two-staged confidential settlement process where parties involved in a legal dispute meet to attempt to resolve their issues with the assistance of a judge.

NAME OF REGULATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
New Brunswick Regulation 2024-59 <i>Judicature Act</i> and the <i>Provincial Offences Procedure Act</i>	December 1, 2024	Amendments made to ensure those appointed to the new role set out in <i>An Act Respecting Hearing Officers</i> can properly carry out their role in dealing with child and youth protection matters.
New Brunswick Regulation 2024-61 <i>Judicature Act</i> and the <i>Provincial Offences Procedure Act</i>	December 1, 2024	Amendments made to clarify the application of the Rule of Court and the Form.
<i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> , General Regulation	January 1, 2025	Amendments to set license reinstatement fees, application for review fee and administrative penalties related to Immediate Roadside Suspensions.
<i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> , Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device Program Regulation	January 1, 2025	Amendment to remove the condition of not owning or having access to a vehicle as an exemption from mandatory participation in the Ignition Interlock Device Program.
<i>Victims Services Act</i> , General Regulation	January 1, 2025	Amendments to allow a 20 per cent victim surcharge to apply to administrative penalties related to Immediate Roadside Suspensions.

The acts for which the department was responsible in 2024-2025 may be found at:
<https://laws.gnb.ca/en/bycategory/cs?categoryId=departmentId&itemId=justice>

SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACTIVITIES

Introduction

The Department of Justice and Public Safety remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Official Languages Act and to promoting a work and service culture that values linguistic duality. Over the past year, the department has continued to advance efforts aligned with four objectives found in the Implementation plan 2024-2031. The following summary highlights the initiatives and actions taken to strengthen our bilingual capacity, support employee development, and ensure high-quality service delivery in both official languages.

Strategic Objective 1

Ensure high-quality, equal bilingual services to all New Brunswickers:

- In 2024–2025, the Department of Justice and Public Safety focused on several key objectives to strengthen compliance with the *Official Languages Act* and support the principles outlined in the Language of Service Policy. These objectives included ensuring that employees are well-informed of their responsibilities regarding official languages; maintaining departmental structures that support the delivery of quality, equitable services in both official languages to all New Brunswickers; and providing staff with ongoing access to official languages-related activities. The department also prioritized access to second language training (SLT) based on operational needs to further enhance service delivery. A continued focus was placed on reducing the number of public complaints made to the Commissioner of Official Languages by fostering a culture of awareness, accountability, and continuous improvement.
- In 2024–2025, the Department of Justice and Public Safety reinforced official languages responsibilities among all staff, including middle and senior managers. Second language training was provided as needed. Managers led by example in delivering bilingual services, and efforts were made to ensure consistent application of the active offer. These actions supported the department's goal of improving service quality and reducing complaints, and overall, the objectives were successfully met.

The department recognizes the importance of maintaining accurate linguistic profiles to ensure balanced and effective bilingual teams.

The department worked closely with the Secretariat of Official Languages on this objective.

Strategic Objective 2

Provincial government employees are able to work and pursue a career in the official language of their choice:

- For the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Department of Justice and Public Safety prioritized several objectives to support the effective implementation of the Language of Work Policy and promote a truly bilingual workplace. These priorities included ensuring that all employees are aware of and understand the policy, creating conditions that allow individuals to work in the official language of their choice, enabling employees to actively use and strengthen both their first and second official language in the workplace, and supporting equitable career development opportunities in either official language.

- In 2024–2025, the Department of Justice and Public Safety implemented several initiatives to support the Language of Work Policy. New employees were informed of available tools to support their language development, and managers were engaged to ensure they could effectively lead bilingual teams. Employees were encouraged to use their language of choice in meetings and performance reviews, with support from middle and senior management.

These activities helped increase awareness, strengthen bilingual capacity, and promote the use of both official languages in the workplace. Overall, the department successfully met its objectives, with continued efforts underway to build on this progress.

The department worked closely with the Secretariat of Official Languages on this objective.

Strategic Objective 3

New Brunswickers understand the socio-economic benefits of bilingualism through improved and effective communication and better support.

- In order to meet this objective in 2024–2025, the Department of Justice and Public Safety placed an emphasis on ensuring clients understand their rights and obligations in the official language of their choice.

Strategic Objective 4

Positive measures are implemented to promote the development of both official linguistic communities:

- In 2024–2025, the Department of Justice and Public Safety supported language retention and development and promoted it in recruitment efforts.
- The department met its objectives by providing employees with access to second-language maintenance opportunities, such as conversation groups and informal learning activities that encouraged regular language use. Additionally, the department collaborated with schools and post-secondary institutions to promote careers in the public service in both official languages.

Conclusion

Throughout the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Department of Justice and Public Safety made significant strides in advancing its commitment to official languages by strengthening both its capacity to provide quality services in English and French and its support for a bilingual workplace culture. In alignment with the *Official Languages Act*, the department implemented strategic initiatives aimed at increasing the availability and visibility of bilingual services, encouraging the active offer, and supporting employees in the use and development of their second official language.

This year, the department has seen a significant increase in employee participation in second language training, thanks to new programs being offered through the New Brunswick Secretariat of Official Languages. We actively promoted these learning opportunities within the department, resulting in greater bilingual capacity and staff feeling supported in their professional development.

These collective efforts reflect the department's ongoing dedication to creating a respectful, inclusive, and equitable environment for both clients and employees, and to embedding official languages as a foundational element of service excellence and workplace well-being.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Section 1 – Includes the current reporting year and the previous year.

NAME AND YEAR OF AUDIT AREA WITH LINK TO ONLINE DOCUMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
	TOTAL
Child Death Investigation, Inquest and Review Process – Department of Justice and Public Safety (2024) https://www.agnb-vgnb.ca/uploads/volume_translations/3/report/agnb-V2-2024-report.pdf	28
Pandemic Preparedness and Response – Department of Justice and Public Safety (2023) https://www.agnb-vgnb.ca/uploads/volume_section_translations/77/file/Chap5e.pdf	6
COVID-19 Pandemic Response: Oversight Executive Council Office (2023) https://www.agnb-vgnb.ca/uploads/volume_section_translations/63/file/Chap2e.pdf	2 (that pertain to Justice and Public Safety)

IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN
Child Death Investigation, Inquest and Review Process – Department of Justice and Public Safety We recommend the Department of Justice and Public Safety:	
2.33: ensure a statement disclosing any actual or potential conflicts of interest is obtained from the qualified person before they are appointed by the Chief Coroner as a member of the Child Death Review Committee.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety confirms that all current Child Death Review Committee (CDRC) members have a signed conflict of interest disclosure on file. All potential new appointees must submit such a disclosure before their appointment.

IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN
Child Death Investigation, Inquest and Review Process – Department of Justice and Public Safety We recommend the Department of Justice and Public Safety:	
2.37: ensure that mechanisms are in place to assess and disclose potential conflict of interest for each review started by the Child Death Review Committee.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has established a mechanism to assess and disclose potential conflicts of interest for each CDRC review.
2.41: ensure the Child Death Review Committee appoint a member of the committee to be the Vice-Chair so that a vacancy on the Child Death Review Committee does not impair the committee's capacity to act.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has appointed a Vice-Chair of the CDRC.
2.49: monitor outstanding death investigation case files and ensure timely completion in accordance with service level agreements.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has a Service Level Agreement in place with each coroner specifying a 30-day standard for completion of death investigations after receipt of all reports. This standard is used as a Key Performance Indicator for the department.
2.58: develop service level standards for pathology services with roles and responsibilities and expected turnaround times for completed reports.	Underway: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has engaged with stakeholders. Discussions are ongoing.
2.59: ensure forensic type 2 autopsies are performed by certified forensic pathologists as per the training manual. If this is no longer deemed practical and/or necessary, the training manual should be updated accordingly.	Complete: The Department adjusted its process to ensure that all type 2 autopsies will be conducted by certified forensic pathologists.
2.64: ensure that coroner death investigation policies and training materials are reviewed and updated to ensure clarity and consistent application.	Underway: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has begun updating its policies and training materials in accordance with the current legislation and practices. This item will be completed in September 2025.

IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN
Child Death Investigation, Inquest and Review Process – Department of Justice and Public Safety We recommend the Department of Justice and Public Safety:	
2.70: ensure that inquest files contain all required documentation.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has consistently retained all required documentation for inquest files; however, some were retained electronically while others were retained as paper files. However, during the review, one file was missing a document. Storage and filing standards have since been reviewed and improved to ensure information is accessible and organized. Records management practices for Coroner Services have been updated and improved.
2.73: ensure the rationale to hold or not hold an inquest is documented.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety tracks and documents rationale on whether to hold or not hold an inquest. This information can be found in investigative reports, Coroner's Declaration, and inquest tracking documents.
2.78: establish timelines for when an inquest has been ordered to when the inquest is held.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has adopted standard timelines based on analysis of the process and comparable systems in other jurisdictions.
2.82: ensure that the Chief Coroner reports monthly all child deaths to the Child Death Review Committee as required by the Coroners Act.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has implemented a revised process wherein the Chief Coroner reports all child deaths monthly to the CDRC as required by legislation.
2.83: ensure that the Chief Coroner provides written approval to the Child Death Review Committee to conduct a review as required by the Coroners Act.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has implemented a revised process wherein the Chief Coroner provides written approval to the CDRC to conduct a review as required by legislation.

IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN
Child Death Investigation, Inquest and Review Process – Department of Justice and Public Safety We recommend the Department of Justice and Public Safety:	
2.87: ensure the Child Death Review Committee prepares a report for each child death reviewed as required by legislation.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has implemented a system to ensure the CDRC prepares a report for all child deaths reviewed, as required by legislation.
2.91: ensure that Child Death Review Committee member roles and responsibilities are documented.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has reviewed and enhanced the CDRC Terms of Reference as well as clarified the roles and responsibilities of committee members.
2.92: develop detailed child death review procedures.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has reviewed and updated existing procedures.
2.101: ensure that the Child Death Review Committee meets as often as necessary to meet Terms of Reference and Legislative requirements.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has adjusted the committee Terms of Reference timelines to adhere to legislative requirements.
2.106: ensure criminal record checks are obtained for all coroners and retained in personnel files.	Complete: All personnel files have been reviewed and updated to ensure all employees have valid criminal record checks.
2.107: ensure adequate documentation of coroner qualifications are obtained and retained in all personnel files.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has updated and improved its records management practices, and all documentation of existing coroner qualifications has been organized in a consistent location.
2.109: document the mandatory training requirements in policy for all coroners.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has documented mandatory training requirements in policies and procedures.

IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN
Child Death Investigation, Inquest and Review Process – Department of Justice and Public Safety We recommend the Department of Justice and Public Safety:	
2.113: ensure coroners complete all required training before undertaking their first death investigation.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has established and documented detailed training requirements for coroners.
2.115: JPS will establish and document detailed training requirements for coroners and add to policies and procedures.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has established detailed training requirements for coroners, and this was added to policies and procedures.
2.122: develop guidance for the peer review process to ensure consistent application and independence.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has developed guidance for the peer review process, and this has been incorporated into policies and procedures.
2.140: provide recommendations made by the Child Death Review Committee to relevant departments and agencies in writing and in accordance with the timelines set in the Terms of Reference.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has ensured that all CDRC recommendations are provided to relevant departments and agencies in writing within a timeline to be established upon review of CDRC policies and procedures.
2.141: track recommendations made by the Child Death Review Committee to ensure completeness of reporting.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has reviewed and adjusted practices where needed to ensure effective documentation and tracking of CDRC recommendations.
2.142: monitor responses to the recommendations and request updates as required to ensure accountability.	Complete: While the department agrees in principle that updates on the implementation of CDRC recommendations would be desirable, it lacks legislative authority to compel other departments to act.

IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN
Child Death Investigation, Inquest and Review Process – Department of Justice and Public Safety We recommend the Department of Justice and Public Safety:	
2.147: improve transparency of the work of the Child Death Review Committee, and as a minimum, publicly report recommendations made by the Child Death Review Committee within 30 days as stated in the Terms of Reference.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has updated the Terms of Reference and other policies and procedures to ensure timelines are aligned with the Coroners Act and will ensure that committee recommendations are made public.
2.151: ensure that recommendations made in Child Death Review Committee reports are provided to the Minister of Public Safety within six months of the Chief Coroner receiving a report and tabled in the Legislature as soon as possible.	Complete: The Department of Justice and Public Safety will ensure that CDRC reports are provided to the Minister of Public Safety within six months as specified in the <i>Coroners Act</i> .
2.156: ensure that Coroner Services is managing records in accordance with government policy and legislation.	Complete: The Coroner Services Branch has updated and improved records management practices consistent with government policy and legislation.
Pandemic Preparedness and Response – Department of Justice and Public Safety The Office of the Auditor General recommends Justice and Public Safety:	
5.34: implement the outstanding recommendations from the privacy impact assessments related to formalizing a departmental privacy policy and complaint-management process.	Underway: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has committed to a review of policy and process.
5.37: evaluate the efficacy of the hotel isolation program to determine if it contributed to a reduction in non-essential travel or the spread of COVID-19. Lessons learned should be considered in future emergency planning and preparedness.	Underway: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has coordinated a review of the New Brunswick response to the COVID-19 virus, including measures to control the spread of disease. Recommendations to government will follow for decision.

IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN
Pandemic Preparedness and Response – Department of Justice and Public Safety The Office of the Auditor General recommends Justice and Public Safety:	
5.46: publicly report on the outcomes of its responsibilities pertaining to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency planning for municipalities • emergency and business continuity planning for departments and agencies 	Underway: The Department of Justice and Public Safety is taking will take steps so that enhanced reporting to the public is put in place by the New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization.
Pandemic Preparedness and Response – Department of Justice and Public Safety The Office of the Auditor General recommends the New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization:	
5.42: in conjunction with provincial departments, ensure departments and agencies have up to date business continuity plans at all times.	Underway: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has reviewed the current hazards and risks with GNB departments and agencies. As part of the review of the response to COVID-19, Justice and Public Safety will coordinate recommendations for action to government. Work is underway to implement decisions by government for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to enhance emergency management training, exercises and 24/7 operations.
5.44: in conjunction with provincial departments, ensure departments and agencies have up to date emergency plans at all times.	Underway: The Department of Justice and Public Safety has reviewed the current hazards and risks with GNB departments and agencies and will bring forward recommendations for action to government.
5.49: ensure the Province of New Brunswick Emergency Measures Plan is up to date at all times.	Ongoing: The Department of Justice and Public Safety continuously reviews and improves the plan and its appendices based on the hazard and risk environment

IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN
COVID-19 Pandemic Response: Oversight Executive Council Office The Office of the Auditor General Recommends:	
<p>2.94: Executive Council Office, in collaboration with the New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization, undertake a post-operation review and incorporate communication lessons learned into an updated New Brunswick Emergency Public Information Plan.</p>	<p>Underway: A COVID-19 after-action review has been completed, and recommendations to government will be brought forward. In the interim, current crisis communications training, processes, and procedures were reviewed. Improvements include development of deployable kits for staff, crisis communications training and exercises, creation of standardized messaging templates, and establishment of a Crisis Communications Response Team.</p>
<p>2.100: Executive Council Office ensure the Department of Justice and Public Safety, in collaboration the Department of Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake an after-action review to evaluate the provincial response to the COVID-19 pandemic; • incorporate lessons learned into an updated provincial pandemic emergency plan; and • create and implement a schedule to regularly test and update the provincial pandemic emergency plan 	<p>Underway: A COVID-19 after-action review has been completed, and recommendations to government will be brought forward.</p>

Section 2 – The Department of Justice and Public Safety did not receive any recommendations from the Auditor General’s reports for 2021 or 2022.

REPORT ON THE *PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE ACT*

As provided under section 18(1) of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, the chief executive shall prepare a report of any disclosures of wrongdoing that have been made to a supervisor or designated officer of the portion of the public service for which the chief executive officer is responsible. The Department of Justice and Public Safety did not receive any disclosure(s) of wrongdoing in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

APPENDIX A: STATISTICAL INFORMATION

TECHNICAL SAFETY AND CORPORATE SERVICES	2023-2024	2024-2025
GAMING, LIQUOR AND SECURITY LICENSING		
Liquor licences	2,323	2,309
Liquor permits	1,012	987
Charitable gaming licences	1,718	883
Film and video licences	184	114
Private investigator and security guard licences	2,752	2,744
Salvage dealer licences	89	73
Manufacturer licences	133	137
Registration of employees and suppliers in the gaming industry	640	710
Registration of video lottery site holders	177	167
MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES		
Driver's licences (initial or renewal)	175,928	181,686
Helmets to Hardhats driver's licence exchanges	25	20
Identity cards (non-driving)	10,974	10,852
Vehicle registration	835,841	854,272
Motorcycle veteran plate	111	121
Vehicle registration reminder opt-out	23,889	23,424
Interlock clients	838	1,230
Dealers and inspection stations	1,758	1,781
Passenger vehicle driving schools	33	32
Commercial vehicle driving schools	6	6
Passenger vehicle driver instructor permit	124	125
Commercial vehicle driver instructor permit	32	6
Motorcycle driving schools	8	7
Motorcycle driver instructor permit	82	76
International Registration Plan audits completed	33	33
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL		
Fires reported	2,957	4,252
Non-fire related responses	20,023	21,258
Fires investigated by regional fire marshals	109	124
Buildings inspected:		
By regional fire inspectors	3,174	2,994
By local assistants	5,539	5,402
Total of inspections	8,713	8,396
Building plans reviewed	555	501
Sprinkler system installations reviewed	92	71
Participants in provincially funded firefighter training courses	861	648
Provincial firefighter examinations	2,027	1,246
Volunteer firefighters	5,000	3,980
Emergency inspections during spring flood by regional fire inspectors	283	0
Incident reports recorded for analysis	22,980	25,510
Participants that have trained in the Mobile Burn Unit	-	482
K-9 deployment for fire investigations	-	128
TECHNICAL INSPECTION SERVICES		
Inspections completed	25,848	27,214
Plans reviewed and/or registered	1,584	1,796
Installation permits issued	28,856	30,102

TECHNICAL SAFETY AND CORPORATE SERVICES	2023-2024	2024-2025
TECHNICAL INSPECTION SERVICES		
Licences issued or renewed	13,859	14,173
Operating permits	19,670	20,023
Exams administered	2,276	2,387

COMMUNITY SAFETY	2023-2024	2024-2025
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES		
ADULT CUSTODY SERVICES		
Provincial correctional institutions - Admissions		
Adult custody	3,143	3,144
Sentenced to custody	1,027	895
Pre-trial detention - remands	2,453	2,534
Adult Custody Programs		
Electronic Monitoring program		
Bail release on Electronic Monitoring program	196	1,325
Temporary Absence program on Electronic Monitoring	191	225
Temporary Absence program without Electronic Monitoring	284	302
Provincial Correctional Institutions - total count		
Saint John Regional Correctional Centre	153.0	150.1
Southeast Regional Correctional Centre	171.2	180.0
Dalhousie Regional Correctional Centre	77.0	87.6
Madawaska Regional Correctional Centre	63.0	65.4
New Brunswick Women's Correctional Centre	55.3	58.8
Total count*	519.5	541.4
Island View Community Residential Centre	49	

*Total count includes remanded, sentenced, and intermittent individuals, those in hospital, temporary release and unlawfully at large.

COMMUNITY AND YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES		
Adult Community Services		
Average yearly adult community caseload	2,020	2,485
Court-ordered pre-sentence reports	2,116	2,158
Number of referrals:		
Alternative Measures Program	654	742
Alternative Measures referrals to Adult Restorative Justice Program	11	15
Fine Option Program	39	35
Community Services Work Program	53	73
Number of admissions:		
Probation	1,391	1,199
Conditional sentence	543	521
Youth Justice Services		
Average yearly - Youth Justice Services caseload	269	291
Court-ordered pre-sentence reports	125	149
Number of referrals:		
Extrajudicial Sanctions Program	464	456
Extrajudicial Sanctions referrals to Youth Restorative Justice Program	2	13
Community Services Work Program	42	13
Portage Substance Abuse Treatment Program	25	14

COMMUNITY SAFETY	2023-2024	2024-2025
COMMUNITY AND YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES		
Intensive Support Program participation	2	1
Integrated Service Delivery Program participation	12	25
Number of admissions:		
Probation	114	97
Deferred custody and supervision	11	14
Youth in Custody		
Sentenced open admissions	7	5
Average yearly total count – open	1.4	1.7
Sentenced secure admissions	12	12
Remand secure admissions	84	95
Average yearly total count – Miramichi Youth Centre – secure	6.6	9.6
Victims of Crime		
Referrals to the Victim Services Program	6,246	6,940
Victim Impact Statements requested by Court	2,764	3,130
Victims receiving counselling	934	878
Victims receiving court preparation and support	304	445
Victims receiving compensation	882	889
SHERIFF SERVICES		
Persons transported	13,432	13,073
Persons in custody	7,400	7,706
Orders for execution		
Evictions / orders for possession	491	531
Order for seizure and sale	357	303
Intimate partner violation interventions	36	23
INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT		
Highway Safety Enforcement		
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement		
Commercial vehicles checked or weighed	253,922	332,254
Inspections conducted	11,143	15,312
Charges laid	4,849	4,108
Warnings given	3,168	4,665
Annual Roadcheck – trucks inspected (includes motorcoach)	389	433
Operation Air Brake – vehicles inspected	81	127
Speed enforcement on provincial highways – charges	1,359	294
Speed enforcement on provincial highways – warnings	133	208
Motor vehicle inspections		
Inspections concluded	1,050	607
National Safety Code		
Carrier contacts	1,910	1,564
Off-road Vehicle Enforcement		
Off-road vehicles checked	16,442	22,837
Calls for service	1,307	1,207
Trail kilometres	21,768	29,223
Charges laid	256	341
Warnings given	147	159
Checkpoints	1,157	1,625

COMMUNITY SAFETY		2023-2024	2024-2025
INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT			
Safer Communities Section			
Regulatory inspections			
Liquor / Smoke-free places		530	237
Lotteries		252	57
Tobacco sales to minors		725	631
Salvage dealers		281	15
Private investigators		18	11
Gaming equipment		1,554	1,444
Audits on gaming equipment		48	38
Tobacco tax		444	24
Casino operational inspections		247	24
Casino operational audits		65	71
Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods			
Investigations (Civil)		174	198
Properties vacated due to illegal activity		25	44
Investigations with informal resolution		65	74
Successful resolutions			
Investigations based on illegal drug activity		141	183
Environment (investigations)			
Files received		57	65
Files concluded (without court action)		10	17
Files under investigation or before the courts		26	37
Files concluded in court		21	31
Tobacco			
Contraband tobacco investigations		46	19
Contraband tobacco seized		3,460,434	2,103,733
Cannabis			
Illicit cannabis dispensaries and investigations		21	41
Illicit cannabis dispensaries and investigations closed		23	37
Illicit dried cannabis seized (grams)		27,252	580,987
Various vapes seized (cannabis flavoured and non-licenced)		1,479	5,715
Currency seized (Cannabis/Tobacco investigations)		\$41,209	\$307,789
Conservation Enforcement			
Apprehensions for illegal activity			
Fish and wildlife		689	857
Watercourse and fish habitat		37	31
Illegal timber harvest		114	116
Other		2,723	3,012
Health Protection Services Section			
Public Health Inspection			
Food Safety			
Number of food service establishment inspections (by risk level)			
High		433	412
Medium		3,346	3,327
Low		1,392	1,285
Total food service establishments inspected		5,171	5,024

COMMUNITY SAFETY		2023-2024	2024-2025	
INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT				
Health Protection Services Section				
Number of food service establishment inspections (by risk level)				
Licences issued		4,675	5,281	
Licences revoked		6	16	
Food handlers trained		179	40	
Inspections of unlicensed, temporary or special event food vendors		99	74	
Agri-Food Services				
Raw Milk Quality Program				
Number of raw milk samples tested		7,045	7,160	
Dairy farm inspections				
Number of routine dairy farm inspections		137	134	
Number of follow-up, quality, and other inspections		106	68	
Number of bulk tank milk graders inspections		4	29	
Number of bulk milk tank truck inspections		6	32	
Water Quality				
Public drinking water supplies				
Boil orders issued		140	161	
Private drinking water supplies				
Private well owners contacted		230	352	
Recreational water quality				
Number of sites monitored		35	35	
Number of beaches closed		8	18	
Environmental Health and Community Sanitation				
On-site sewage disposal system				
Application assessments		197	369	
Inspections		178	157	
Air quality				
Indoor air quality investigations		21	13	
Housing complaint investigations		60	69	
Institutional health				
Special care home inspections		500	489	
Daycare inspections		813	786	
Smoke-free Places Act				
Complaints investigated		35	24	
POLICING, FIREARMS AND CORONER SERVICES				
FIREARMS				
Range site visits		9*	44	
Shooting ranges approvals (met standards)		5*	26	
Firearm safety training		4,599	5,253	
Firearm transfers reviewed		47	42	
Firearms licence applications approved		3,669	4,282	
Reviews of law enforcement incidents linked to firearms licence holders		2,993	3,483	
CORONER SERVICES		CALENDAR YEAR	2023	2024
Sudden and unexpected death investigations initiated			1,837	1,564

*2023-2024 values for range site visits and shooting range approvals adjusted to reflect change in reporting period.

JUSTICE SERVICES	2023-2024	2024-2025
COURT SERVICES		
Court Activity		
Court of Appeal		
Civil matters	97	96
Criminal cases	50	43
Court of King's Bench, Trial Division and Probate		
Causes filed	2,383	2,708
Matters filed	1,024	1,108
Criminal matters filed	95	124
Probate filed	1,828	1,928
Court of King's Bench, Family Division		
Trial records for divorce	1,300	2,933
Motions	1,237	1,181
Private family matter applications	1,128	1,167
Child protection applications	607	528
Interjurisdictional support orders	108	134
Small Claims Court		
Claims filed	1,892	1,742
Small claims hearings held	602	271
Provincial Court - Adults only		
Charges disposed of (excluding municipal by-laws)	26,843	15,952
Youth Justice Court		
Charges disposed of	1,568	1,167
Child-Centered Family Justice Initiatives		
Court-Ordered Evaluations Support Program		
Applications received	71	78
Approved for help with cost of evaluation	64	66
Online Parent Information Program		
Certificates of completion sent	228	148
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR		
Adoption files processed	114	139
Bankruptcies filed	192	311
Commencement of divorce proceedings	1,465	1,303
Filing of decrees absolute and divorce judgments	1,274	1,208
Interjurisdictional Support Orders files received	233	299
OFFICE OF SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT		
Total caseload	9,050	8,664
Average caseload per enforcement officer	452	578
Payment transactions processed	\$52,693,000	\$51,753,000
Payments toward support accounts	\$51,965,000	\$51,102,000
Payments toward Minister of Finance (social assistance client)	\$728,000	\$651,000
Total obligations due	\$55,793,000	\$54,434,000
Collection rate	95%	95%

SECURITY AND EMERGENCIES	2023-2024	2024-2025
EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION		
Emergency plans registered with NB EMO (of 77 municipalities)	103*	75
Planning assistance provided to communities	310	81
Exercises conducted involving communities, institutions, industry, and agencies	7	13
Internal exercises	8	2
Participants in emergency management training courses	1,002	713
Provincial Emergency Operation Centre activated (significant events)	7	6
Property owners reported damage	1,029	0
Property owners applied for Disaster Financial Assistance	180	0
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL SECURITY ADVISOR		
Team activations and support during emergency and security events	12	5
Support during smaller scale incidents (not requiring formal activation)	18	20
Security threats assessed	103	124
Open-Source Information Notices issued to partners	158	93
Foreign Direct Investment files reviewed	52	25
Security clearances completed	62	73
Critical infrastructure advisories and alerts	22	10
NB 9-1-1		
Volume for 911 calls	273,128	263,497
Number of requests for 911 call investigations	73	91
Number of new civic addresses assigned in unincorporated areas of the province	1,109	689

*In January 2023, Local Governance Reform reduced the number of local/municipal governments in New Brunswick from 104 to 77.

CRIME STATISTICS ⁽¹⁾

	2023	2024	% CHANGE
Crime rate	6,680	6,138	-8.1%
Percentage of crimes solved (clearance rate)	25%	25%	0.0%
Crime Severity Index ⁽²⁾	88	85	-3.4%
Adult crime rate	1,349	1,274	-5.6%
Youth crime rate	2,658	2,379	-10.5%
Violent crime rate	1,827	1,757	-3.8%
Percentage of violent crimes solved (clearance rate)	38%	37%	-2.6%
Property crime rate	3,757	3,310	-11.9%
Percentage of property crimes solved (clearance rate)	12%	12%	0.0%
Motor vehicle theft rate	276	237	-14.1%
Break and enter rate	445	398	-10.6%
Homicide rate	1.1	2.1	90.9%
Sexual assault rate	104	90	-13.5%
Percentage of sexual assault crimes solved (clearance rate)	45%	43%	-4.4%
Luring a child via a computer rate	5.1	9.5	86.3%
Robbery rate	21	23	9.5%
Impaired driving rate	258	248	-3.9%

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

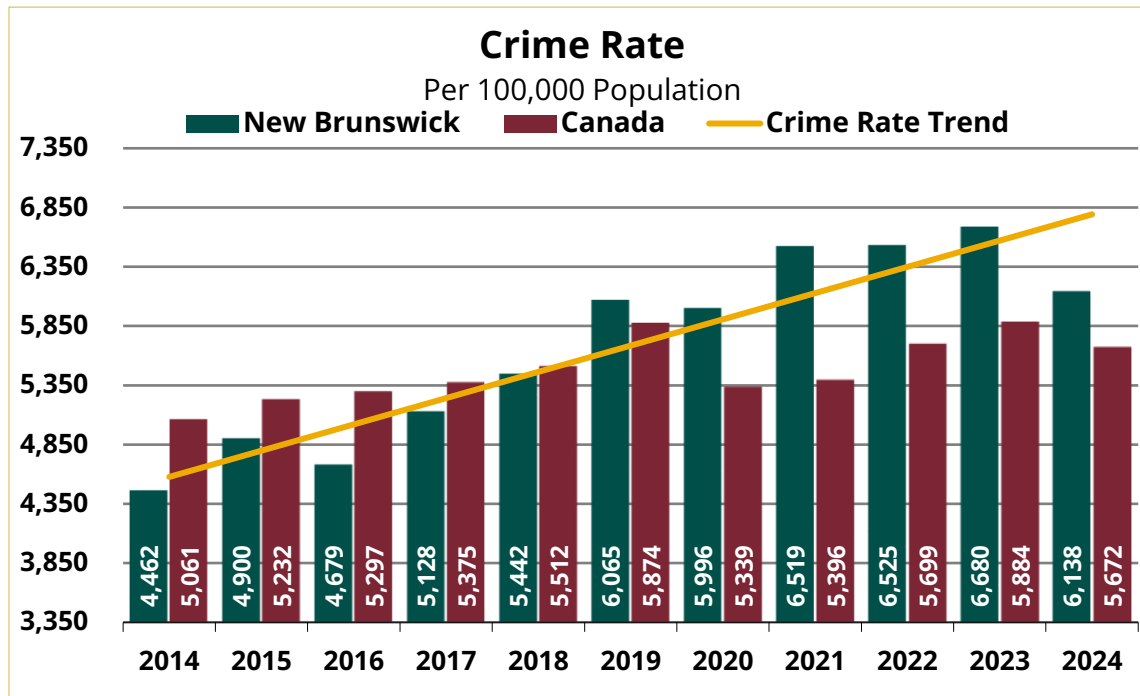
⁽¹⁾ Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations.

⁽²⁾ Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0026-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates.

CRIME RATE

New Brunswick ranking: fifth lowest in Canada

Why it matters: Crime rates affect the sense of security that people have about their communities. These rates can also influence business investment and residential development.



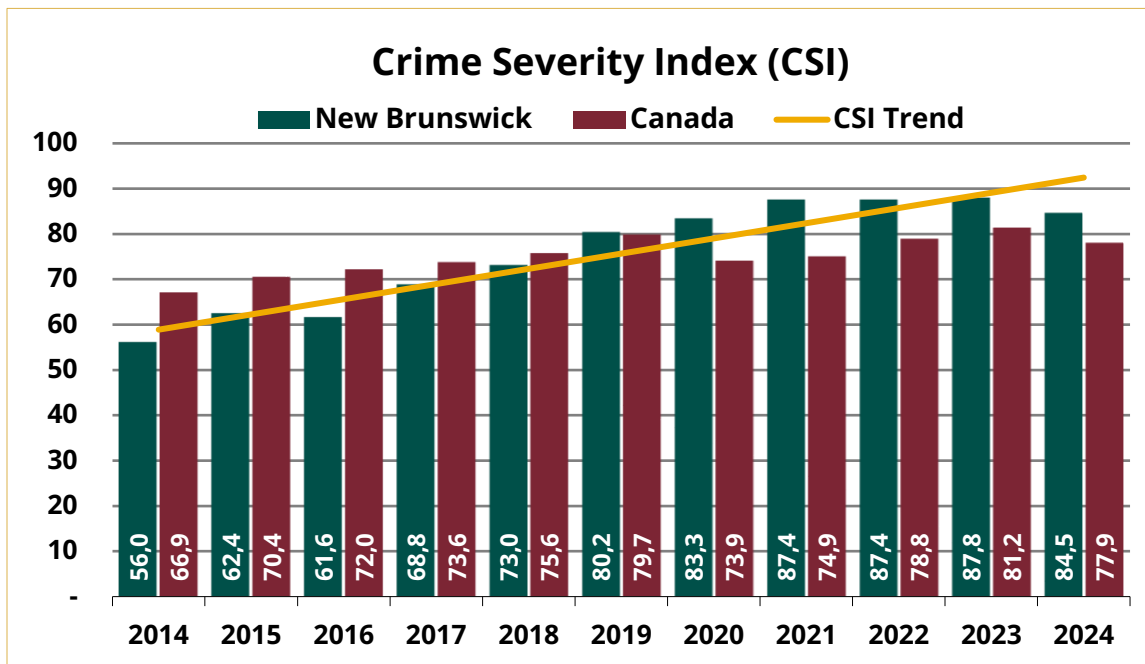
In 2024, the New Brunswick crime rate was 6,138 per 100,000 population. New Brunswick was fifth among the provinces for lowest rates of crime.

To be understood fully, crime rates need to be looked at during a period of years. Several factors can influence the crime rate, including whether crime is reported to police, police enforcement practices, changes to legislation and actual (real) reductions in crime.

CRIME SEVERITY INDEX

New Brunswick ranking: fifth lowest in Canada

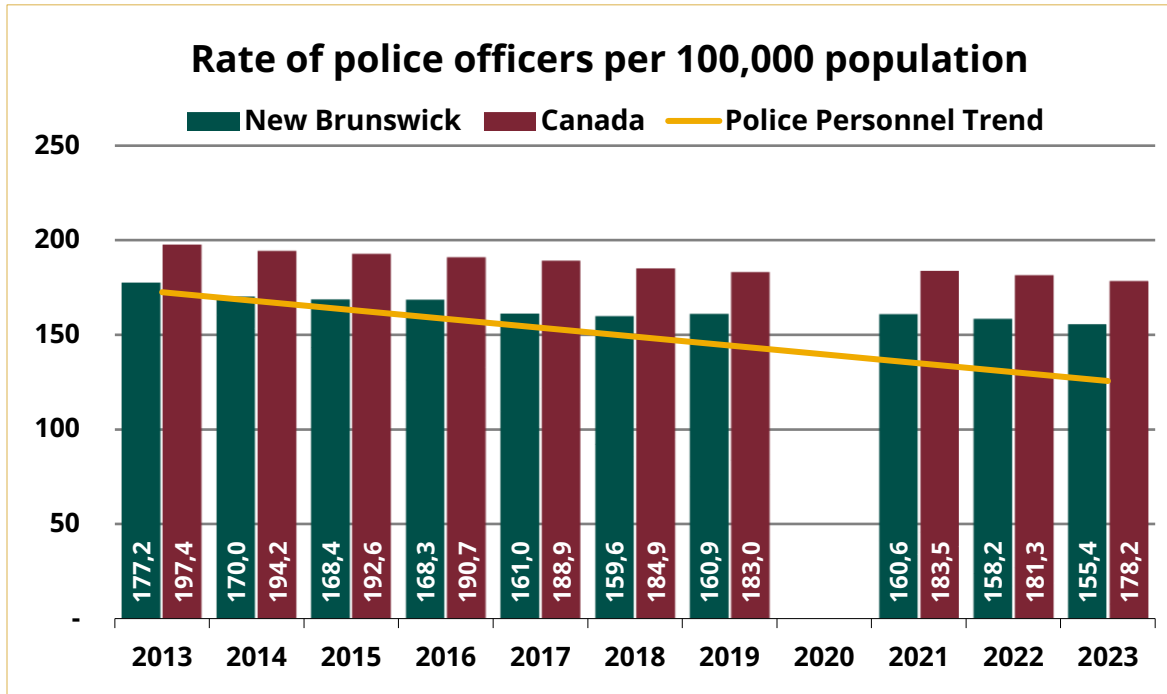
Why it matters: The Crime Severity Index track changes in the severity of police-reported crime from year to year. It does so by taking into account not only the change in volume of a particular crime, but also the relative seriousness of that crime in comparison to other crimes. The Crime Severity Index helps answer such questions as: is the crime coming to the attention of police more or less serious than before; and is police-reported crime in a given city or province more or less serious than in Canada overall?



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0026-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates.

TRENDS IN POLICE PERSONNEL

New Brunswick ranking: second lowest in Canada



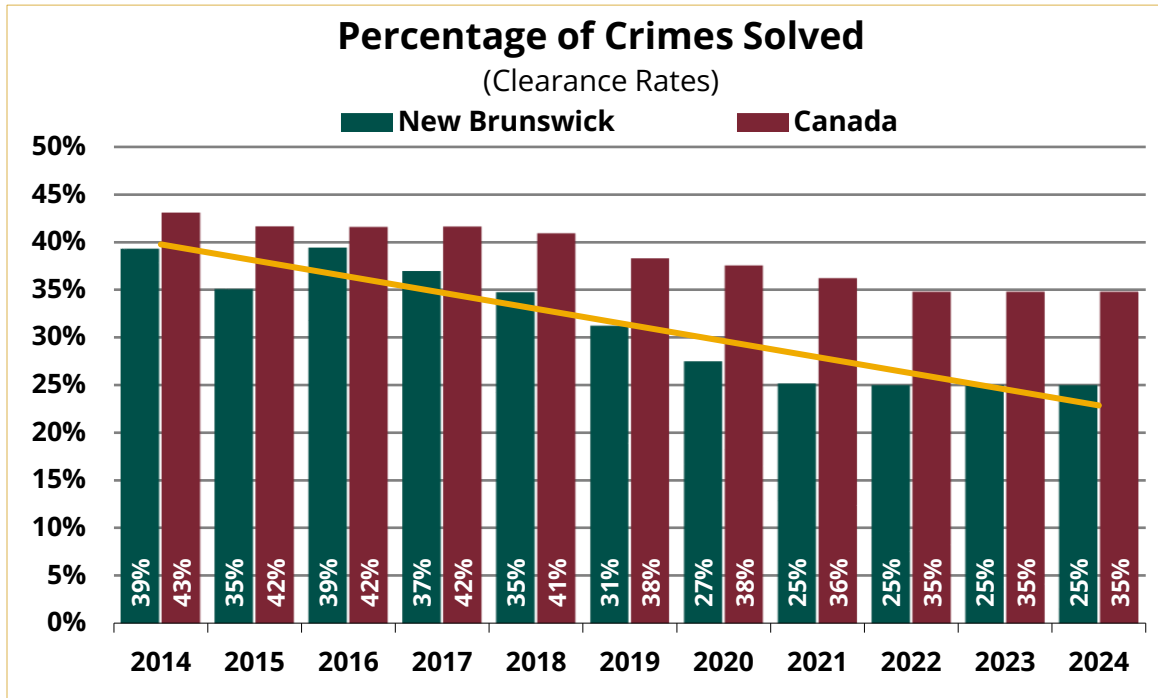
The Police Administration Survey was not conducted in 2020 or in 2024.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0076-01 Police personnel and selected crime statistics.

PERCENTAGE OF CRIMES SOLVED (CLEARANCE RATES)

New Brunswick ranking: second lowest in Canada

Why it matters: Clearance rates are a measure of crimes solved by the police. A high clearance rate means that police are finding and arresting people who commit crimes.



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations.