

Business Plan

2023-24

JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL

Saskatchewan! 

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Justice and Attorney General*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Business Plan for 2023-24. This plan outlines how we will support the Growth Plan by building safer communities and a stronger Saskatchewan.

The 2023-24 budget will promote Saskatchewan's interests at national and international tables. We will continue to undertake the implementation of legislation such as *The Saskatchewan First Act*, which asserts Saskatchewan's autonomy and exclusive jurisdiction over its natural resources.

We will support a strong economy by modernizing business legislation and regulations to help support and grow the economy. To help citizens more easily navigate the justice system, we will continue to expand videoconferencing across our courts.

We will build stronger and safer communities by exploring more effective ways to hold criminals accountable and deter offenses. The Major Case Assistance unit in Public Prosecutions will continue to expand our capacity to prosecute serious crimes.

We are also providing a three-year commitment of \$876,000 to support second stage housing for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

The Ministry will continue to invest in necessary infrastructure to improve access to justice, such as reopening the Lloydminster Provincial Court Office and Weyburn Court of King's Bench. We will support community reintegration by continuing to explore options that help people navigate, and find pathways out of, the justice system. One of these is therapeutic courts, which address issues associated with criminal behaviour, and another is the Īkwēskīcik iskwēwak program, run by the Saskatoon Tribal Council, for women who are seeking to turn their lives around.

The Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) is now fully operational and will investigate serious incidents involving the police.

We will focus on better ways for families to resolve conflicts by implementing mandatory early dispute resolution for those going through separation and divorce and ensuring that child support orders are enforced across provincial and territorial boundaries.

This year, as part of the goal to strengthen our Ministry's foundation, we will also focus on increasing capacity by enhancing recruitment, retention, and succession planning, in order to ensure the ongoing, effective delivery of our government priorities.



2023-24 Budget Highlights

1	\$389K to re-establish the provincial courthouse in Lloydminster as a permanent court location.
2	\$302K to re-open the Court of King's Bench Judicial Centre and registry office in Weyburn.
3	\$198K increase to support the Child Support Calculation Service pilot project to enforce child support orders across provincial and territorial boundaries.
4	Increase of \$178K for a total of \$825K to support the civilian-led independent Serious Incident Response Team to investigate serious incidents involving police officers.

Government Vision and Goals

Saskatchewan's Vision

"...to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2023-24 annual reports.

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General Overview

Mandate

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General provides access to quality justice services that respect the rule of law and protect the rights of all individuals in Saskatchewan; promotes safe and secure communities; and provides legal and justice policy advice to government.

Mission

We contribute to strong communities and families in Saskatchewan by protecting rights and safety and ensuring fair, timely access to quality justice services.

Vision

All people in Saskatchewan live in safe and just communities.

Goal 1: Stand up for Saskatchewan

The Ministry is committed to standing up for a strong Saskatchewan. We will advocate for Saskatchewan's interests at national and international tables, providing legal support and advice, offering litigation expertise, and implementing key legislative commitments. The Ministry is also dedicated to promoting citizens' understanding of, and engagement with, the justice system through outreach and public awareness initiatives.

Strategy - *The approach we will take to achieve our goal:*

Advance Saskatchewan's interests through legislation and advocacy.

Key Actions - *What we will do to get there:*

- Draft the necessary regulations to support *The Saskatchewan First Act* to assert provincial autonomy over natural resources.
- Promote Saskatchewan's interests in the courts and at national and international tables.

Strategy - *The approach we will take to achieve our goal:*

Promote citizens' understanding of, and engagement in, the justice system.

Key Actions - *What we will do to get there:*

- Raise public awareness about the justice system and the role people in the community have in building a safe and secure Saskatchewan.
- Support legal information centers such as the Family Law information center to ensure Saskatchewan residents have access to legal information.

Performance Measures - *What success looks like:*

Measures under development.

Goal 2: Strong economy

Supporting a secure and efficient business environment is necessary for a strong economy. The Ministry will continue to modernize business legislation and regulation to facilitate economic growth. The Ministry will also enable citizens to navigate the justice system more easily. This will include expanding videoconferencing across courts and implementing online options for consumer disputes.

Strategy - *The approach we will take to achieve our goal:*

Enable citizens to better navigate the justice system.

Key Actions - *What we will do to get there:*

- Expand videoconferencing across courts.¹
- Modernize business legislation and regulations to streamline requirements and expand the use of simpler business processes.
- Continue to support the Aboriginal Court Worker Program to help people receive fair, just, equitable and culturally sensitive treatment before the courts.

Performance Measures - *What success looks like:*

Videoconferencing in court services

Increase in the percentage of appearances by videoconferencing.

¹ This key action is funded in Integrated Justice Services and advances the priorities of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

Goal 3: Safe communities

The Ministry is committed to supporting strong and safe communities by exploring more effective ways to hold criminals accountable. This includes ensuring deterrents are proportionate to offenses, helping people find pathways out of the justice system, and investing in needed infrastructure and capacity.

Strategy - *The approach we will take to achieve our goal:*

Explore new and effective ways to enhance accountability.

Key Actions - *What we will do to get there:*

- Continue the use of prosecutorial agents to enhance prosecution efforts and capacity.
- Continue a Major Case Assistance Unit to support complex prosecutions.
- Fully operationalize the Serious Incident Response Team to investigate serious incidents involving police officers.

Strategy - *The approach we will take to achieve our goal:*

Support community reintegration and prevention programs.

Key Actions - *What we will do to get there:*

- Support the Saskatoon Tribal Council to operationalize the Īkwēskīcik iskwēwak program that provides female offenders with safe and successful reintegration back into communities. Īkwēskīcik iskwēwak is Cree for “women turning their life around” and is pronounced ah-gwee-ski-chick Isk-way-wuk.²
- Continue to operate therapeutic courts to address domestic violence, addictions and mental health issues associated with criminal behaviour.

Strategy - *The approach we will take to achieve our goal:*

Create efficiencies by investing in needed infrastructure and capacity.

Key Actions - *What we will do to get there:*

- Re-establish the provincial courthouse in Lloydminster as a permanent court location.
- Re-open the Court of King's Bench Judicial Centre and registry office in Weyburn.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Measures under development.

² This key action is funded in Integrated Justice Services and advances the priorities of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

Goal 4: Strong families

Strong families are essential to building safe communities and a strong economy. The Ministry will support families by providing prevention and early intervention support during times of crisis and continue to strengthen resolution services for families going through conflict to ensure the safety and well-being of all those involved.

Strategy - *The approach we will take to achieve our goal:*

Strengthen resolution services for families in conflict.

Key Actions - *What we will do to get there:*

- Continue to support the Family Law Mandatory Early Dispute Resolution Program to provide families with services outside the court system.
- Support the Child Support Calculation Service pilot project to enforce child support orders across provincial and territorial boundaries.

Strategy - *The approach we will take to achieve our goal:*

Provide prevention and intervention support for communities and families.

Key Actions - *What we will do to get there:*

- Support community reintegration and crime prevention programs.
- Deliver collaborative and timely services to support families in crisis.³

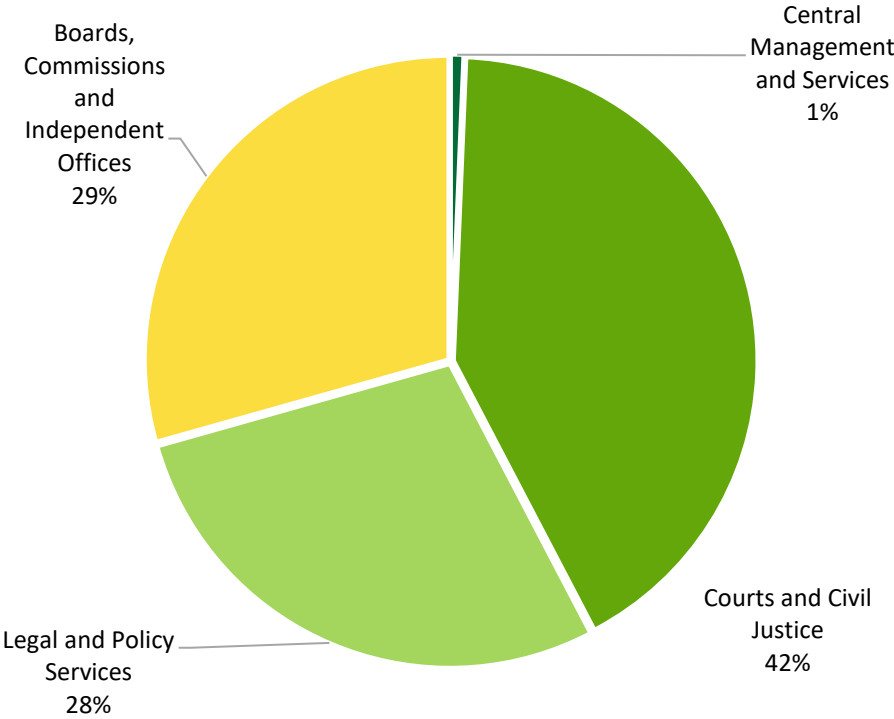
Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Measures under development.

³ This key action is funded in Integrated Justice Services and advances the priorities of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

Financial Summary

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General 2023 -24 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services (JU01)	\$1,121
Courts and Civil Justice (JU03)	\$71,087
Legal and Policy Services (JU04)	\$48,276
Boards, Commissions, and Independent Offices (JU08)	\$50,092
Total Appropriation/Expense	\$170,576



Links to More Information

- [Ministry of Justice and Attorney General](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning, and Reporting](#)