



THE HONOURABLE ROBERT W. METZGER
CHIEF JUDGE

SUITE 501, 700 W. GEORGIA STREET
BOX 10287 PACIFIC CENTRE
VANCOUVER, B.C. V7Y 1E8
(604) 660-2864
FAX: (604) 660-1108

THE PROVINCIAL COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

NOTICE FROM CHIEF JUDGE R.W. METZGER CHANGES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CRIMINAL PROCESS IN PROVINCIAL COURT

This is notice of a significant change in the *implementation schedule* for the new process for criminal practice in the Provincial Court ("criminal caseflow management").

The changes follow from Assistant Deputy Attorney General Ernie Quantz recently informing me that "the Criminal Justice Branch does not have the capacity to support the Court in the successful implementation of criminal caseflow management if it is implemented simultaneously in all locations across the province". He went on to say, however, that senior Crown "... remain firmly committed and supportive of this important initiative..."

Because I was not prepared to see the process compromised, I met with senior Crown to explore whether any variation in the existing plan could be identified which would address the Crown concerns while ensuring the reforms proceed.

Following from those discussions, it is understood that staged implementation of the new process on the schedule set out below will be by way of a single Order in Council.

Staged implementation will permit a specialized Crown team to assist each location in implementing consistent "best practices". Consistent specialized planning assistance to local Crown offices will contribute significantly to successful implementation.

While implementation of the whole process will occur later in most Districts, the 30 day interim remand practice will continue throughout the province, and JP/Trial Coordinator initial appearances will begin where presently we have Sitting JP Remand Court and in any other locations approved by the local Administrative Judge.

The staged implementation schedule is as follows:

October 4, 1999	Okanagan District
November 1, 1999	North Fraser District
January 31, 2000	Victoria, Colwood, and Kootenay District
May 1, 2000	North Island District, Duncan, and Coast District
June 12, 2000	Vancouver Youth, Kamloops, Prince George, Cariboo, and Northwest Districts
November 6, 2000	Vancouver and South Fraser Districts