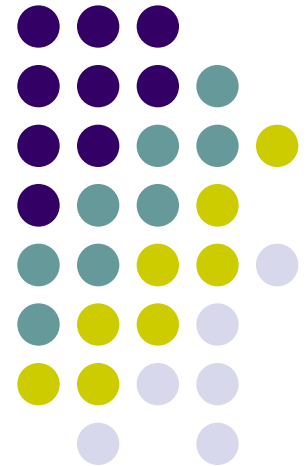# The Courts and Beyond: The Architecture of Justice in Transition – CIAJ Conference

Calgary, Alberta October 10 - 12, 2012

"Planning and Design: Renovate/Innovate"

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Safe Communities
Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

Alberta

Objectives of Presentation:

- Brief Background of the Safe Communities Initiative

- The Integrated Justice Services Project

- Lessons learned in innovation and systems change: Start big, finish small – build out.

Alberta

Safe Communities – an innovative approach to an old problem

- At the direction of the Premier, *Alberta's Task Force on Crime Reduction and Safe Communities* was established in March 2007

- Its mandate was to identify ways to reduce crime, improve community safety and improve public confidence in the criminal justice system.

- In fall 2007, the Task Force report "Keeping Communities Safe", set out 31 recommendations that ranged from prevention to treatment to enforcement.

- Government accepted 29 of the recommendations

SafeCom Governance Structure

- Minister of Justice (now Minister of Justice and Solicitor General)
- Deputy Minister Committee – core ministries
  - JASG, Human Services, Health, Aboriginal Relations
- ADM Operations Committee – core and satellite ministries
- SafeCom Secretariat – ADM reports to all DM's on issues of policy; performance managed by Justice DM (now Justice and SG DM's).

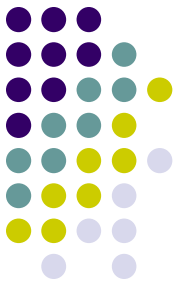Alberta

SafeCom accomplishments

- SafeCom implemented the recommendations (see Three Year Progress Report at http://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/safe/Documents/ThreeYearProgressReport-2008-2011.pdf
- Developed Alberta's Crime Prevention Framework
- Developed the Alberta Gang Reduction Strategy
- Three years of learning from the Safe Communities Innovation Fund (SCIF): 88 innovative crime prevention projects totaling $60 million funded
- Legislative Reform:
  - *Civil Forfeiture (Victims Restitution and Compensation Payment Act)*
  - *Body Armour Control Act,*
  - *Safe Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*
  - Amendments to the *Gaming and Liquor Act*
  - *Gunshot and Stab Wounds Mandatory Reporting Act*
  - *Witness Security Act*
  - *Missing Persons Act*
- Integrated Justice Services Project

Integrated Justice Services Project

- History: Justice Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC) meeting December 8, 2009

  - Presentations on:
    - Mental Health Diversion
    - Drug Courts
    - Community Courts
    - Therapeutic Courts
    - Pathways to Housing
    - Red Hook Community Court, Vancouver Community Court

- Task: break down specialty silos and treat people in the justice system in an integrated and comprehensive way with wrap around services//break the offending cycle

IJSP

Started nimble: Representation from:

- Crown
- Provincial Court
- Justice
- Solicitor General
- Health

Commissioned Report from Dr. Pam Thompson – Safe Communities Opportunity and Resource Centre (SORCe) / Centre for Justice Innovation

Expansion to include Calgary pilot stakeholders - consultations December 6 & 7

Redesign – return to nimble (April planning meeting)

Four notional phases to the project (start small):

- **Phase I** – In custody – in progress/complete: transfer of treatment from Corrections to Health Services
- **Phase II** – Post sentence offenders sentenced to community
- **Phase III** – Post charge; pre-conviction
- **Phase IV** – Pre charge

Phase II launch of Safe Communities Resource Centre (SCRC) in Calgary, February 24, 2012

Phase III – working with Drug Courts

Phase IV – Planning sessions

- Legacy Centre, Sobering Centre, REACH Edmonton 24/7 service delivery model
- Planning meetings with Chiefs of Police September 21, 2012

IJSP lessons

1) Top down vs. bottom up:
- Polarity management: Leadership from the top is key but solution lies with front line staff

2) Inclusive vs. nimble
- Polarity management: small core vs. engagement of all key players

3) Understanding system of systems theory
- Mandate encroachment and solutions

4) Big project vs. small pilots
- Polarity management: big vision vs. "getting something done."
- Danger without an overall plan is risk of more silos.
- Further integration is required