

Business Plan

2026-27

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Tim McLeod, K.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General*

As Minister of Justice and Attorney General, I am pleased to present the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Business Plan for 2026–27. This year's plan reaffirms our commitment to a fair, accessible and effective justice system, one that protects the rights of all individuals, strengthens public safety, holds offenders accountable for their crimes, and supports the well-being of families and communities across our province.

This year's budget strengthens the foundations of Saskatchewan's justice system, ensuring it remains responsive, resilient and equipped to serve a growing province. Our work directly supports the Saskatchewan Growth Plan and the government's priorities of strong families, strong communities and a strong economy. By improving access to justice, promoting fairness and safeguarding public safety, we are building a stable environment on which families, businesses and communities can rely.

Saskatchewan's population has grown significantly over the past decade. While this growth brings new opportunities for our province, we are also seeing rising caseloads, more complex family matters and increased demand for victim services and community support. The plan outlined in this document prioritizes maintaining timely access to justice, upholding public safety and supporting those affected by interpersonal violence and abuse.

Our 2026-27 budget includes strategic investment to strengthen capacity in the justice system by adding three new Provincial Court judges and four new associate judges in the Court of King's Bench. In addition to this, we are hiring two additional prosecutors to specialize in prosecuting complex provincial immigration and taxation offences. These investments will help ensure cases proceed efficiently and fairly, safeguarding both community safety and trust in our justice system.

Supporting families remains a central focus of our work. As part of this commitment, we are fully transitioning the Child Support Service to a provincially-funded model to support the continuous delivery of child support services. The ministry will also continue to invest in family law screening officers to help families navigate difficult circumstances with clarity and support.

We are also advancing our commitments under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, ensuring victims and survivors have access to the services and protections they need.

Additionally, we are strengthening public safety through ongoing support for the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) program, which plays a vital role in disrupting criminal activity and improving community well-being.

I look forward to working with our Indigenous and community partners, stakeholders, and dedicated ministry staff as we implement this plan. Together, we will continue to advance a justice system that reflects the values of Saskatchewan people and supports a safe, prosperous and confident future for our province.

2026-27 Budget Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>\$1.97 million to strengthen access to justice, ensure fairness and improve public safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$600,000 for the mid-year appointment of three new Provincial Court judges to strengthen court capacity and ensure cases are resolved in a fair, just and timely fashion; • \$390,000 for four new associate judges in the Court of King’s Bench. This added mid-year support will reduce judicial workload, improve access to justice and will ensure more timely resolution of cases; and • \$975,000 for six new justices of the peace to conduct independent adjudication of inmate discipline hearings in correctional centres. This includes mid-year appointment to ensure timely, charter-compliant adjudication across all provincial correctional facilities and address a recent Supreme Court ruling.
<p>2</p>	<p>\$400,000 to hire two Crown prosecutors to specialize in investigations conducted by the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training and the Ministry of Finance to prosecute offences contrary to provincial immigration and taxation law. By prosecuting serious immigration and tax offences, Crown prosecutors work to hold offenders properly accountable to protect the integrity and fairness of Saskatchewan’s regulatory systems.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>\$33.5 million to interpersonal violence programs and services through the justice system, including community-based organizations that provide supports and services to individuals and families impacted by interpersonal and gender-based violence and abuse, and increased funding for second-stage shelters.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>\$ 3.03 million to continue implementing the Court Modernization Project and maintain court facilities to strengthen access to justice, support effective service delivery and improve the public’s experience in Saskatchewan’s courts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.795 million for technological improvements for courts to improve timely access to justice for citizens, strengthen the overall performance of the justice system; and • \$1.235 million to maintain court facilities and enhance safety and security of court buildings.
<p>5</p>	<p>\$1.315 million to develop an information technology (IT) system through a phased approach that will make it easier to put forward appeals at the Highway Traffic Board.</p>

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 2026-27 Annual Reports.

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General Overview

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General is responsible for ensuring a fair justice system that upholds the law and protects the rights of all individuals in the province. It promotes safe and secure communities and provides legal and justice policy advice to the government.

Overview

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 their rights and safety and ensuring fair, timely access to quality justice services.

Vision

All people in Saskatchewan live in safe and just communities.

Community safety and well-being are realized through collaborative partnerships among communities, service delivery partners and governments. The aim is to achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging and the opportunity to participate, and where individuals and families can have the best quality of life with a focus on education, health, economic participation, and social and cultural expression.

Goal 1: Efficient and accessible justice system

The ministry is committed to establishing and maintaining an efficient justice system that ensures equal access to justice for all residents.

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*

- Hire two Crown prosecutors to increase capacity to specialize in investigations conducted by the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training and the Ministry of Finance to prosecute offences contrary to provincial immigration and taxation law. By prosecuting serious immigration and tax offences, Crown prosecutors work to hold offenders properly accountable to protect the integrity and fairness of Saskatchewan's regulatory legislation.
- Support community safety through the fine option, community service order and youth victim restitution programs. The ministry is working to enhance efficiency, standardize processes and reduce administrative burdens by streamlining program delivery and increasing coverage across Saskatchewan.
- Support the establishment of traffic safety courts and municipal bylaw court hubs in Fort Qu'Appelle and Rosthern. The addition of these courts will streamline and improve Traffic Safety Court and municipal bylaw court operations, alleviating court capacity pressures in larger municipalities such as Regina and Saskatoon.
- Streamline public access to filing and scheduling driving-related appeals through the Highway Traffic Board by developing an information technology (IT) system to create an online portal through a phased approach that will modernize operations, improve service delivery and increase efficiency.
- *The Defamation Act* modernizes Saskatchewan's defamation law by replacing *The Libel and Slander Act* and addressing online and digital communications. The Act helps Saskatchewan people protect their reputations in the digital age by modernizing outdated law, covering online harm and giving courts clear tools to address false and damaging content, while still protecting freedom of expression.

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

Address the impacts of increased demands for justice programs and services.

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

- Appoint an additional three new Provincial Court judges to address rising caseload demands and ensure timely access to justice for communities across Saskatchewan.
- Add four new associate judges in the Court of King's Bench. This added support will reduce judicial workload, improve access to justice and will ensure more timely resolution of cases.

- Appoint six new justices of the peace (JPs) to conduct independent adjudication of inmate discipline hearings in correctional centres. These positions will ensure timely, charter-compliant adjudication across all provincial correctional facilities and address a recent Supreme Court ruling.
- Continue the Court Modernization project, with a focus on maintaining court facilities. This project will:
 - enhance court facilities by improving accessibility in jury rooms and modernizing detention cells to ensure they are safe and secure;
 - improve security by installing standardized security and distress button systems in all courthouses across the province; and
 - support information technology system upgrades, security patches and improved technological performance in the courts.
 - advance work on the Judicial Scheduling, Tracking, and Amalgamated Reporting System (J-STAR) used in the Court of King’s Bench. This will enable an online portal for access to court documents and electronic filing capability.
- Provide an additional \$500,000 to address growing caseload at the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.
- Enhance capacity within the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) by investing in additional staff resources to address increased demands for PGT services for vulnerable adults.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Improve access to justice

- Number of new associate judges appointed to improve access to justice.

Enhance efficiency

- Number of communities and/or work placements transitioned into the new service delivery model for the fine option, community service order and youth victim restitution programs.

Goal 2: Safe communities

The ministry is committed to supporting strong and safe communities and neighborhoods.

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

Holding people accountable and supporting safer communities.

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

- *The Response to Illicit Drugs Act* will allow the province and victims to file civil lawsuits against traffickers of Schedule I substances to recover costs from illicit drug harms, while enabling the government to revoke provincial appointments, grants or agreements for those convicted of serious drug crimes.
- Support community safety through *The Saskatchewan Safe Public Spaces (Street Weapons) Act*. The Act allows earlier intervention to reduce the risk of violence before it happens.
- Continue to support the implementation of amendments to *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*, which will protect Saskatchewan gun owners from criminal liability resulting from federal firearm prohibitions.
- Support restorative justice programs that hold youth accountable for their actions while repairing harm to victims and communities through continued training and support throughout the province.

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

Creating pathways that promote safety and recovery for victims by connecting people to the right support.

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

- Ensure the federal National Actions Plan (NAP) to End Gender-Based Violence funding supports and strengthens victim services, expands housing supports, and improves access to legal and court-based resources. This funding supports the government's efforts to reduce gender-based violence in Saskatchewan.
- Continue to support human trafficking survivors with safe housing, counselling, and treatment services through the ministry's multi-year funding agreement with Hope Restored Canada (HRC) through 2027.
- Increase public awareness, training, and understanding of the issue of interpersonal violence and abuse and human trafficking in Saskatchewan.
- Continue to ensure Indigenous victims and survivors have access to culturally safe supports and trauma-informed services and pathways to safety and recovery. Through partnerships with Indigenous service providers and community organizations, we continue to strengthen resources that respond to violence, promote healing and improve long-term outcomes.
- Continue to operate therapeutic courts to address criminal behaviour involving domestic violence, addictions, and mental health issues.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Offenders are held accountable for the reparation of harms to victims and communities

- Percentage of alternative measures and extrajudicial sanctions agreements successfully completed.

Strengthen services for victims, expand housing supports under the National Action Plan (NAP) to End Gender-Based Violence

- Number of individuals who accessed NAP funded victim services and expanded housing support.

Goal 3: Strong families

The ministry will support families by providing prevention, early intervention and improving services to promote safety and well-being during times of crisis and conflict.

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

Strengthen prevention, intervention and resolution services for families in conflict.

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

- Ensure families continue to have access to the Child Support Service by transitioning from federal to provincial funding. This will help parents support their children without having to go through family court for child support amounts to be calculated or updated. Additionally, families will save time and money while ensuring children receive fair and timely financial support.
- Ensure the continuation of family law screening officers to support participation in judicial case conferences, provide screening for family violence and make referrals for support services, to help families resolve issues faster and more safely by reducing court appearances, minimizing conflict and lowering costs for both individuals and the justice system.
- Continue to support the Family Law Mandatory Early Dispute Resolution Program to provide families with dispute resolution services outside the court system.
- Support Saskatchewan's three child advocacy centers to support responses to child victims of violence through the Victim Services Responder program. These centres have multi-disciplinary teams that provide a trauma-informed, child-centered approach to cases of child physical and sexual violence.
- Continue to assist women and children leaving domestic violence through transition houses and second-stage housing.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Ensure children receive fair and timely financial support.

- Child Support Services will track the number of applications received for child support calculation and recalculation services.

Support families with dispute resolution services outside the court system.

- Percentage of families who resolve their matter without a contested application after completing the mandatory dispute resolution.

Goal 4: Strong Saskatchewan

The ministry is committed to standing up for a strong Saskatchewan to protect the interests of Saskatchewan people, communities, and businesses.

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

Support a strong Saskatchewan through robust legal infrastructure and effective implementation.

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

- Assist in the development of policies to remove inter-provincial barriers to trade and economy in Saskatchewan. This includes:
 - Supporting Canada’s internal (interprovincial) market with *The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act* to reduce interprovincial trade barriers and promote freer trade within Canada. The Act aims to make doing business across provincial borders faster, cheaper and simpler, making life more affordable for everyone.
- Promote business interests to support a strong Saskatchewan:
 - Implement *The Credit Union Act, 2025* to protect members through clearer rights and appeal processes, strengthened governance and transparency and enabling more responsive credit unions, delivering a safer, more competitive financial system for citizens. These changes will give credit unions the flexibility they need to respond to a changing economy, while maintaining a stable, competitive and truly consumer-focused financial system that works better for the people it serves.
 - Advance *The Co-operatives Act, 2025*, which modernizes Saskatchewan’s co-operative legislative framework to help co-operatives operate more effectively, strengthen member protections, and support local economies. The Act strengthens the co-operative sector by protecting access to essential community-based services, supporting jobs and economic activity, and ensuring co-operatives remain accountable, responsive and sustainable across Saskatchewan.
- Support the implementation of *The Compassionate Intervention Act* in partnership with the Ministry of Health to deliver safer, more effective care for adults facing severe addictions and protect Saskatchewan citizens. This includes ensuring legal and judicial safeguards.
- Improve enforcement of child support orders across national and international jurisdictions through *The Inter-Jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act*, which brings the Hague Maintenance Convention into effect. This will enable seamless cross-border enforcement, hearings-free centralized processes, stronger financial security for children and consistent enforcement standards.

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

Advance Saskatchewan's interests through advocacy.

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

- Conduct litigation and promote Saskatchewan's interests in the courts and provide legal support and advice at national and international forums.
- Continue to stand up for Saskatchewan by conducting litigation, providing advice on action to defend provincial interests and intervening in cases in other jurisdictions as appropriate.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Deliver legal infrastructure and implementation

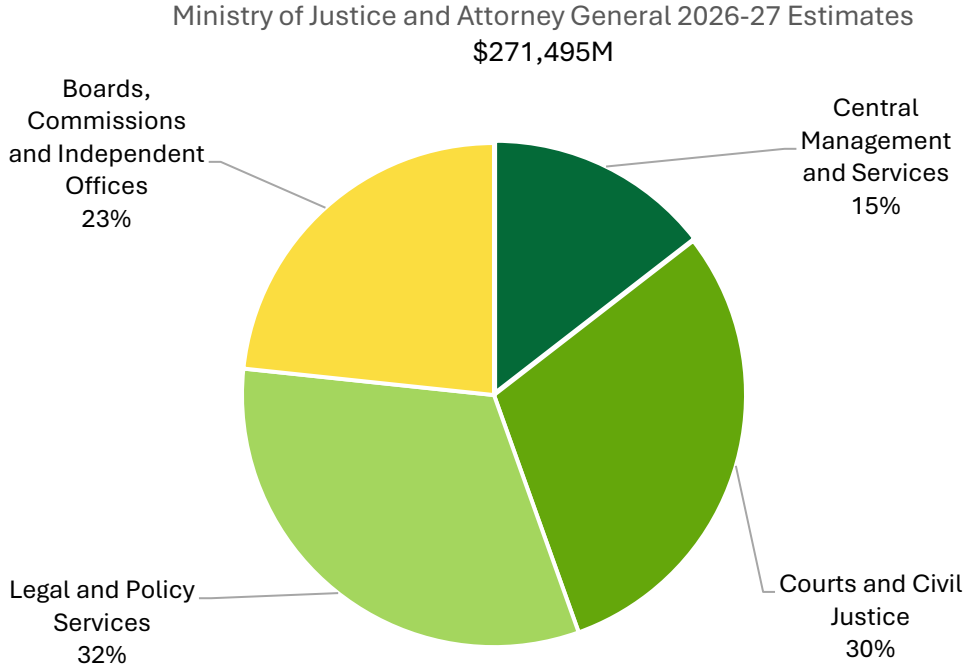
- The ministry will support a strong Saskatchewan through a robust legal framework and the delivery of effective legal and policy advice.

2026-27 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>Improve Access to Justice</p> <p>The ministry is strengthening access to justice by increasing judicial capacity to help reduce court delays, improve service delivery, and ensure timely resolution of legal matters for citizens across the province. Adding four associate judges to help address court backlogs, reduce wait times for hearings and trials, and improve access to justice, particularly in family, criminal and civil matters that have a direct impact on people’s safety, finances and well-being. This investment will support a justice system that is fair, efficient and accessible no matter where people live.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Modernize Highway Traffic Board (HTB) with an Online Portal to increase efficiency.</p> <p>The HTB will use a phased approach to create an online portal that will modernize operations, improve service delivery and increase efficiency.</p> <p>The creation of an online portal will ensure that citizens have timely and easy access to view penalty notices, schedule appeals, and make payments online, replacing a paper-based system that required multiple actions be taken by citizens.</p> <p>The HTB is an independent quasi-judicial administrative tribunal responsible for hearing appeals for a number of programs administered by Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI), as well as administering other transportation regulatory functions.</p>

Financial Summary

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General 2026-27 Estimates		(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services		\$39,493
Courts and Civil Justice		\$81,478
Legal and Policy Services		\$87,152
Boards, Commissions and Independent Offices		\$63,372
Total Appropriation		\$271,495
Less: Capital Acquisitions		\$6,570
Plus: Amortization		\$3,972
Total Expense		\$268,897



Links to more information

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