

Ministry of the Attorney General

Estimates Briefing Book 2017-18

Ministry of the Attorney General



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Ministry Overview

Mandate

The Ministry of the Attorney General (the ministry) administers the justice system to protect the public and ensure legality in government. To accomplish these objectives, the ministry works to foster an inclusive environment that values service excellence, access to justice, accountability, innovation, and responsiveness to the diverse needs of Ontarians.

Ministry Contribution to Priorities and Results

The ministry's [five-year strategic plan](#) sets out the goals and priorities that will guide the ministry's actions in 2017-18 and beyond as it works to deliver on its mandate. The strategic plan helps ensure that all staff are working towards common long-term goals, no matter what division they work in, where they are located, or what jobs they do.

In 2017-18, the ministry will continue to implement the goals set out in the strategic plan:

- Fostering a fair and accessible justice system;
- Becoming an employer of choice within the Ontario Public Service (OPS);
- Promoting accountability and value for money.



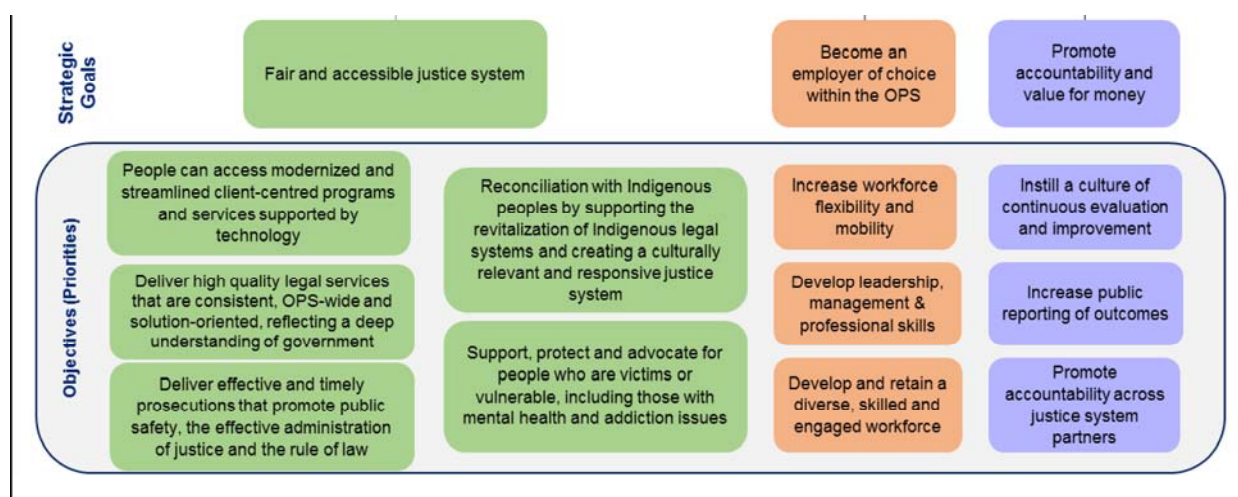


Figure 1: Outline of the Ministry of the Attorney General's 2014-19 Strategic Plan

Ministry of the Attorney General - by the numbers

- Approximately 8,700 personnel;
- Includes approximately 1,800 lawyers;
- Supports over 150,000 victims of crime and witnesses every year;
- Administers approximately 150 statutes;
- Operates 161 court locations with approximately 775 judicial hearing rooms;
- Responsible for oversight of six non-adjudicative agencies and 18 tribunals;
- Answers more than 3,000,000 phone calls per year.

Ministry Programs and Activities

In 2017-18, the ministry will move ahead with a number of initiatives that reflect its goals and help it deliver on its mandated commitments.

Fostering a Fair and Accessible Justice System

Digital Innovation

The ministry is transforming the justice system to make services simpler, faster and smarter. To achieve this goal, the ministry is moving forward with modernization projects that are incremental, targeted, and designed to make life easier for Ontarians.

Civil Claims Online Filing Service: Following the success of the small claims online service, the ministry is launching a new service to file civil claims online in the Superior Court of Justice (SCJ). The first phase of the service – which enables online filing of the documents required to initiate a civil action in the SCJ, auto-issuance of statements of claim and notices of action, and online payment – is being piloted in Brampton, London, Newmarket, Ottawa and Sudbury.

The SCOPE System (Scheduling Crown Operations Prepared Electronically): In 2013, a new Crown case management system, designed and built by Crowns, was launched in Toronto. SCOPE is now operating in 19 Crown offices across the province, and supports 53 per cent of the annual provincial criminal caseload. The ministry will continue to work with police and technology partners to establish more SCOPE locations. By the end of fiscal year 2017-18, SCOPE is projected to support 75 per cent of the annual criminal caseload.

Online Family Services: Improving access to justice for family court users is a priority for the Ontario government. The ministry is planning to introduce new online family services, and enhance existing technology services and supports for users engaged in the family justice system.

Modernization of the Provincial Offences Act: The ministry is exploring options to improve the existing court-based system for disputing and paying traffic tickets and other minor charges under the Provincial Offences Act.

Making the Criminal Justice System Faster and Fairer

Reducing Time-to-Trial and Improving the Bail System: The ministry is appointing 13 more judges to the Ontario Court of Justice, as well as adding 32 assistant Crown attorneys, 16 duty counsel, and 26 court staff to ensure faster justice. The ministry is also expanding and enhancing the province's existing Bail Verification and Supervision Program and launching a new bail beds pilot program to provide safe, supervised housing for low-risk individuals in five communities. The ministry has also appointed three prominent legal experts to provide advice on modernizing Crown policies and procedures on bail. Their advice will support the ministry's development of a new Crown policy on bail that will be released in 2017.

Justice Roundtables: The ministry is working with the federal government on Criminal Code reforms, including ways to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal court process, streamlining the criminal justice system and bail. This work

includes participation on the Federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General Wilson-Raybould's criminal justice roundtable.

Leading Ontario's Approach to the Legalization of Cannabis

In anticipation of the federal government's legalization of cannabis for recreational use, the ministry is leading the development of a regulatory framework that focuses on:

- The promotion of public health and safety, including road safety;
- The protection of youth and vulnerable people; and
- Prevention and harm reduction.

The framework will be developed in close collaboration with partner ministries, including the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

Ticket Speculation Reform

In February and March 2017, the ministry consulted with Ontarians and the entertainment industry to help find ways to ensure fans get a fair shot at buying tickets to see their favourite band, team or show. The ministry plans to introduce legislation in fall 2017 that would, if passed, include a number of measures aimed at making the process of buying and selling tickets fairer and more transparent.

Reforming the Ontario Municipal Board

The ministry has worked with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to recommend reforms to improve the Ontario Municipal Board's role within the broader land use planning system, and plans to introduce legislation in spring 2017 to effect this change. If passed, the proposed changes would give the public and elected officials a stronger voice in planning for growth and land use in their communities.

Improving Transparency and Accountability in Police Oversight

In 2016, the government appointed Justice Michael H. Tulloch to lead an independent review of Ontario's police oversight system to improve the transparency and accountability of the province's three police oversight bodies. Justice Tulloch's report was released in April 2017. The ministry immediately commenced work to implement the report's recommendations – including introducing new, stand-alone legislation – and

building a more transparent and accountable police oversight system to strengthen trust between police and the communities they serve.

Reforming the Family Justice System

The ministry continues to work to strengthen the family justice system and help make it easier to use, less confrontational and more affordable.

Family Legal Services Review: The ministry and the Law Society of Upper Canada are seeking public feedback on former Justice Annemarie E. Bonkalo's recommendations to expand the delivery of family legal services to include people who are not lawyers, such as paralegals, law clerks and law students. An action plan is expected to be released by fall 2017 to address these recommendations.

Unified Family Court: Working in partnership with the Superior Court of Justice and the Ontario Court of Justice, the ministry developed a proposal for the provincewide expansion of Unified Family Courts in Ontario, which has been submitted to the federal government. The first phase would involve expansion to Pembroke, Belleville, Picton, Kitchener, Cayuga, Simcoe, Welland and St. Thomas. Once the federal government approves the province's proposal and resource-related decisions are confirmed, implementation could begin quickly. The second phase would involve expansion to all remaining sites by 2025.

Strengthening the Relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Justice System

The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples: In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Calls to Action, the ministry will:

- Expand the Gladue Writer and Aftercare Program to increase the number of writers and aftercare workers across the province;
- Fund additional Indigenous community-based restorative justice programs;
- Establish pilot Indigenous Bail and Remand Programs across the province;
- Expand Indigenous-specific victims services;
- Fund additional Indigenous Legal Principles and Systems projects to support revitalization initiatives in Indigenous communities.

Debwewin Jury Review Implementation Committee: The committee is working toward addressing the recommendations included in the Honourable Frank Iacobucci's report, First Nations Representation on Ontario Juries. The committee is finalizing its remaining advice and a report is scheduled to be issued in 2017.

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: The ministry will continue to respond to requests from the Commissioners. The field offices for the Family Information Liaison Unit have been launched and are based in offices and in partnership with Shkagamik-Kwe Aboriginal Health Access Centre in Sudbury, Anishnawbe Mushkiki in Thunder Bay and Equay-wuk (Women's Group) in Sioux Lookout.

Better Support for Victims of Crime and Vulnerable People

Free Legal Advice for Survivors of Sexual Assault: The ministry is piloting a new program that gives survivors of sexual assault access to free legal advice, regardless of how much time has passed since the incident. The pilot program is expected to run until March 2018. At that time, the ministry will assess the effectiveness of the program and determine next steps.

Sustainable Justice Infrastructure

The ministry is working with Infrastructure Ontario on several key projects to ensure Ontario's justice infrastructure is modern and efficient.

Adjudicative Cluster Co-location Project: The ministry's Toronto-based tribunal and cluster offices are moving to a single location at 25 Grosvenor Street in Toronto. The first phase was completed in October/November 2016 and the Social Justice Tribunals Ontario, except for the Landlord and Tenant Board, has already moved to the new location. The first tenants of the Safety, Licensing Appeals and Standards Tribunals Ontario (SLASTO), moved into the new space in May 2017. The Landlord and Tenant Board and the rest of SLASTO will move into the new space in spring 2018. The hearing rooms and public spaces will also be occupied in the spring 2018.

Toronto Courthouse: The new Toronto courthouse project continues to move forward. Two pre-qualified project teams are now presenting designs as part of the Request for Proposals open stage of the project. The ministry and Infrastructure Ontario will evaluate these proposals, and expect to identify a preferred bidder in fall 2017.

Brampton Courthouse: Construction to expand the Brampton courthouse began in February 2017 and is expected to be completed in fall 2018. The work includes planning, design and construction of a six storey addition to the existing Brampton courthouse.

Other Initiatives

Modernizing the Construction Lien Act: The ministry plans to introduce legislation in spring 2017 to better support workers and the construction industry. Proposed changes will include modernizing the construction lien and holdback rules, introducing rules around prompt payment and creating a new process to speed up dispute resolution.

Far North Electoral Boundaries Commission: A Far North Electoral Boundaries Commission will be established to provide advice on the creation of up to two additional ridings in the province's far North to help improve representation of people living in Ontario's northernmost communities.

Legal Aid Ontario Review: The ministry, with the support of Legal Aid Ontario (LAO), initiated an independent review into the financial sustainability of LAO, so it can continue to deliver high quality services. The report was released in April 2017.

Becoming an Employer of Choice Within the OPS

In 2017-18 the ministry will continue to roll out its Talent Strategy. Under the strategy, the ministry will forecast work requirements and competencies needed to support employees in linking their career goals to workplace needs, and help managers identify positions that will require internal skills development.

The ministry is currently developing its second Human Capital Plan, which includes key components of assessing the workforce, identifying gaps, and developing strategies. A framework has been developed to guide the human capital planning process. In addition, the ministry will continue to explore and implement different strategies and initiatives to support its strategic priority to become an employer of choice within the OPS and the broader labour market.

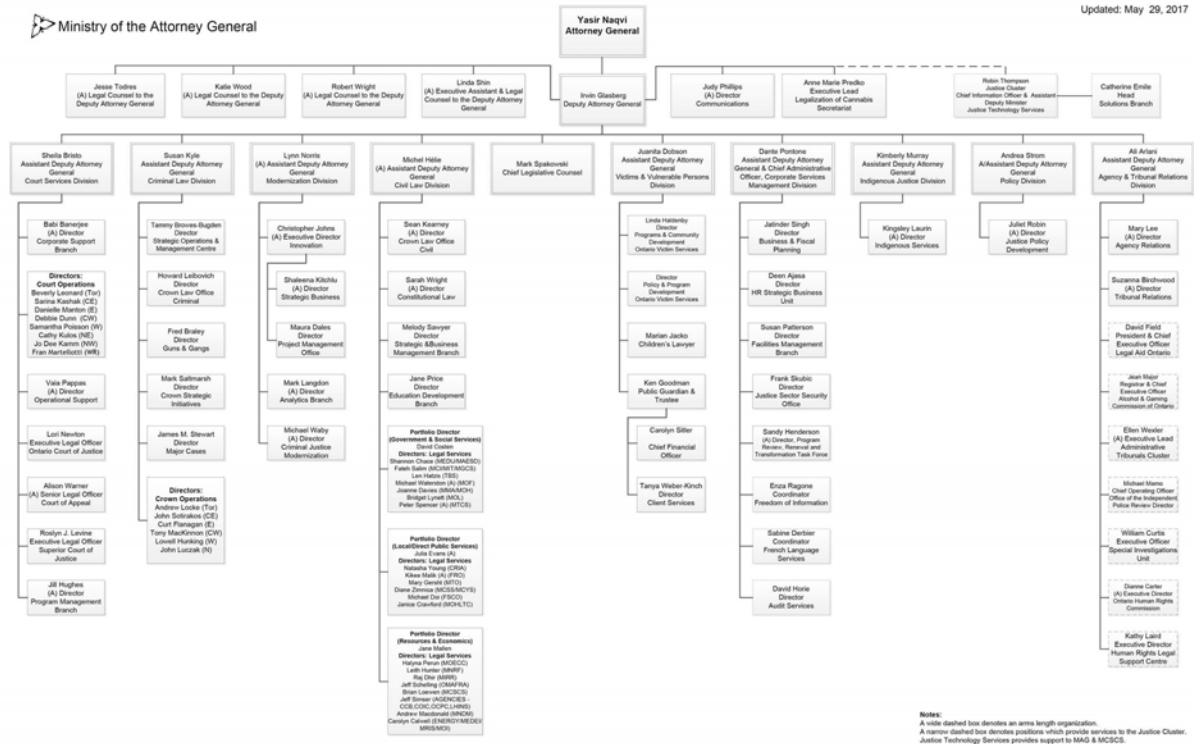
The ministry will also continue to focus on fostering employee career growth and developing talent and leaders, improving workplace culture and conditions, and taking a leadership role in advancing accessibility, inclusion, diversity, and anti-racism programming.

Promoting Accountability and Value for Money

In 2017-18, the ministry will continue to deepen its commitment to the Open Government initiative, as outlined in its 2015 action plan, Open Justice.

By fall 2017, the ministry will create a strategy and roadmap to align itself with current open government practices, making the justice system more responsive, transparent and accountable to the people of Ontario. The ministry will be exploring ways to bolster justice sector partnerships with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, as well as the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Organizational Chart



Ministry of the Attorney General Legislation

Administration Of Justice

- Administration of Justice Act
- Apology Act, 2009

- Arbitration Act, 1991
- Assessment Review Board Act
- Bail Act
- Blind Persons' Rights Act
- Child and Family Services Act (*sections pertaining to Child and Family Services Review Board, Custody Review Board*)
- Class Proceedings Act, 1992
- Commissioners for Taking Affidavits Act
- Compensation for Victims of Crime Act
- Courts of Justice Act
- Crown Witnesses Act
- Dog Owners' Liability Act
- Education Act (*sections pertaining to Special Education Tribunal- English & French*)
- Environmental Review Tribunal Act, 2000
- Evidence Act
- Execution Act
- Fines and Forfeitures Act
- Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (*sections pertaining to the Fire Safety Commission*)
- Habeas Corpus Act
- Hospitals and Charitable Institutions
- Human Rights Code
- Judicial Review Procedure Act
- Juries Act
- Justices of the Peace Act
- Legal Aid Services Act, 1998
- Legislation Act, 2006

- Licence Appeal Tribunal Act, 1999
- Limitations Act, 2002
- Ministry of Correctional Services Act, 1990 (*sections pertaining to the Ontario*)
- Parole Board)
- Negligence Act
- Notaries Act
- Ontario Heritage Act, Part III
- Ontario Municipal Board Act
- Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, R.S.O. 1990 (*sections pertaining to the Animal Care Review Board*)
- Ontario Works Act, 1997 (*section pertaining to Social Benefits Tribunal*)
- Police Services Act (*sections pertaining to Office of the Independent Police Review Director and the Ontario Civilian Police Commission and the Special Investigations Unit*)
- Parental Responsibility Act, 2000
- Provincial Offences Act
- Public Inquiries Act, 2009
- Real Property Limitations Act
- Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 (*sections pertaining to the Landlord and Tenant Board*)
- Safe Streets Act, 1999
- Statutory Powers Procedure Act
- Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act, 2009
- Victims' Bill of Rights, 1995

Family Law

- Children's Law Reform Act

- Family Law Act

Inter-Jurisdictional

- Enforcement of Judgments Conventions Act, 1999
- Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act, 2002
- International Commercial Arbitration Act, 1990
- International Interests in Mobile Equipment Act (Aircraft Equipment), 2002
- Interprovincial Summonses Act
- Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act
- Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments (UK) Act
- Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act, 1999
- Trans-boundary Pollution Reciprocal Access Act

Property Statutes

- Accumulations Act
- Aliens' Real Property Act
- Conveyancing and Law of Property Act
- Disorderly Houses Act
- Escheats Act
- Expropriations Act
- Fraudulent Conveyances Act
- Mortgages Act
- Occupiers' Liability Act
- Partition Act
- Property and Civil Rights Act
- Religious Organizations' Lands Act

- Short Forms of Leases Act
- Trespass to Property Act

Business Regulation

- Absconding Debtors Act
- Alcohol and Gaming Regulation and Public Protection Act, 1996 (*sections related to Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario*)
- Business Records Protection Act
- Charities Accounting Act
- Commercial Mediation Act, 2010
- Construction Lien Act
- Costs of Distress Act
- Creditors' Relief Act, 2010
- Electronic Commerce Act, 2000
- Employers and Employees Act
- Frustrated Contracts Act
- Gaming Control Act, 1992
- Horse Racing Licence Act, 2015
- International Sales Convention Act
- Liquor Licence Act
- Mercantile Law Amendment Act
- Pawnbrokers Act
- Sale of Goods Act
- Statute of Frauds
- Ticket Speculation Act
- Unconscionable Transactions Relief Act
- Vendors and Purchasers Act

- Wages Act
- Warehouse Receipts Act

Professional Regulation

- Architects Act
- Barristers Act
- Certified General Accountants Act, 2010
- Certified Management Accountants Act, 2010
- Chartered Accountants Act, 2010
- Law Society Act
- Professional Engineers Act
- Public Accounting Act, 2004
- Solicitors Act

Crown Duties/Immunity

- Crown Agency Act
- Crown Attorneys Act
- Ministry of the Attorney General Act
- Ombudsman Act
- Proceedings Against the Crown Act
- Public Authorities Protection Act
- Public Officers Act

Estates

- Absentees Act
- Crown Administration of Estates Act

- Declarations of Death Act, 2002
- Estates Act
- Estates Administration Act
- Perpetuities Act
- Powers of Attorney Act
- Public Guardian and Trustee Act
- Settled Estates Act
- Substitute Decisions Act, 1992
- Succession Law Reform Act
- Trustee Act
- Variation of Trusts Act

Other

- Age of Majority and Accountability Act
- Civil Remedies Act, 2001
- Donation of Food Act, 1994
- Executive Council Act
- Good Samaritan Act, 2001
- Libel and Slander Act
- Lieutenant Governor Act
- Members' Integrity Act, 1994
- Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians Act, 2000
- Prohibiting Profiting from Recounting Crimes Act, 2002
- Revised Statutes Confirmation and Corrections Act, 1993
- Religious Freedom Act
- Time Act

Democracy Statutes

- Election Act
- Election Finances Act
- Legislative Assembly Act
- Representation Act, 2015

Agencies Boards and Commissions Reporting to The Ministry

Description	Accrual 2017-18 Estimates		2016-17 Interim Actual	
	Expenditure \$	Revenue \$	Expenditure \$	Revenue \$
Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario	31,613,500	28,397,300	29,826,600	25,839,400
Environment and Land Tribunals of Ontario	17,018,600	1,968,800	16,827,000	6,032,500
Ontario Human Rights Commission	5,562,200		5,345,200	
Human Rights Legal Support Centre	5,936,200		5,936,200	
Public Inquiries	4,614,400		5,800,900	
Office of the Independent Police Review Director	6,957,400		7,132,000	
Legal Aid Ontario	413,035,800	50,800,000	407,492,700	60,938,600
Social Justice Tribunals of Ontario	75,565,000	13,105,900	81,745,800	11,757,500
Safety, Licensing Appeals and Standards Tribunals Ontario	21,455,500	21,249,500	6,884,400	10,650,700
Total	581,758,600	115,521,500	566,990,800	115,218,700

Ministry Financial Information

Table 1: Ministry Planned Expenditures 2017-18

OPERATING EXPENSE	1,800,360,414
CAPITAL EXPENSE	100,958,400
Total	1,901,318,814

Table 2: Operating and Capital Summary by Vote 2017-18

Vote	Estimates 2017-18	Change from 2016- 17 Estimates		Estimates 2016-17 *	Interim Actuals 2016-17 *	Actuals 2015- 16 *
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENSE						
Ministry Administration	263,532,500	1,973,200	0.8	261,559,300	261,362,200	227,471,376
Prosecuting Crime	275,953,000	6,442,100	2.4	269,510,900	269,271,600	259,467,422
Policy, Justice Programs and Agencies	648,674,900	55,115,400	9.3	593,559,500	610,515,500	577,769,702
Legal Services	37,598,500	4,916,900	15.0	32,681,600	34,608,100	33,752,570
Court Services	482,930,700	(2,457,100)	(0.5)	485,387,800	468,541,400	466,138,351
Victims and Vulnerable Persons	177,758,600	4,788,000	2.8	172,970,600	168,197,400	168,086,542
Political Contribution Tax Credit	8,632,100	2,979,700	52.7	5,652,400	6,038,400	3,564,300
Total Including Special Warrants	1,895,080,300	73,758,200	4.0	1,821,322,100	1,818,534,600	1,736,250,263
Less: Special Warrants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating and Capital	1,895,080,300	73,758,200	4.0	1,821,322,100	1,818,534,600	1,736,250,263

Vote	Estimates 2017-18	Change from 2016- 17 Estimates		Estimates 2016-17 *	Interim Actuals 2016-17 *	Actuals 2015- 16 *
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	\$
Expense to be Voted						
Special Warrants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Appropriations	6,238,514	46,400	0.7	6,192,114	55,900,900	66,407,978
Ministry Total Operating and Capital Expense	1,901,318,814	73,804,600	4.0	1,827,514,214	1,874,435,500	1,802,658,241
Consolidation & Other Adjustments	36,150,000	(4,100,000)	(10.2)	40,250,000	67,373,000	56,638,901
Total Including Consolidation & Other Adjustments	1,937,468,814	69,704,600	3.7	1,867,764,214	1,941,808,500	1,859,297,142
OPERATING AND CAPITAL ASSETS						
Ministry Administration	1,000	-	-	1,000	10,100	13,733
Prosecuting Crime	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,383,000	1,286,345
Policy, Justice Programs and Agencies	281,800	(3,993,100)	(93.4)	4,274,900	6,028,900	3,382,995
Legal Services	1,000	-	-	1,000	226,000	195,089
Court Services	59,775,600	52,304,400	700.1	7,471,200	7,549,200	7,709,710
Victims and Vulnerable Persons	1,000	-	-	1,000	88,000	87,906
	60,061,400	48,311,300	411.2	11,750,100	15,285,200	12,675,778

Vote	Estimates 2017-18	Change from 2016- 17 Estimates		Estimates 2016-17 *	Interim Actuals 2016-17 *	Actuals 2015- 16 *
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	\$
Total Including Special Warrants						
Less: Special Warrants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating and Capital Assets To be Voted	60,061,400	48,311,300	411.2	11,750,100	15,285,200	12,675,778
Special Warrants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry Total Operating and Capital Assets	60,061,400	48,311,300	411.2	11,750,100	15,285,200	12,675,778

* Estimates for the previous fiscal year are re-stated to reflect any changes in ministry organization and/or program structure. Interim actuals for Operating and Capital Expense reflect the numbers presented in the 2017 Ontario Budget.

Appendix: 2016-17 Annual Report

2016-17 Achievements

In 2016-17, the Ministry of the Attorney General (the ministry) made significant progress towards its goal of building an innovative, sustainable and responsive justice system that inspires public confidence and upholds the rule of law.

Fostering a Fair and Accessible Justice System

Building a More Accessible Justice System

Following through on its commitment to make justice services simpler, more affordable and convenient, the ministry pursued an ambitious modernization agenda in 2016-17.

Small Claims Court Online Service Expansion: In April 2016, following the success of the ministry's small claims court online service for fixed claims, the ministry expanded the service to include claims for amounts that are not definite or exact, such as an award for property damage or personal injury. Today, over 50 per cent of all small claims are filed online.

Criminal Justice Modernization: The ministry has been working with the Ontario Court of Justice to improve public reporting on all criminal justice matters. In 2016, this collaboration produced dashboards, which are statistical reports that provide criminal court information on the progress of all cases. Dashboards are available on the Ontario Court of Justice's website and will be updated quarterly.

Election Modernization: In December 2016, Ontario passed the Election Statute Law Amendment Act, which aims to better engage young people in the democratic process and make it easier to vote. To help improve representation of people living in Ontario's northernmost communities, including Indigenous people, a Far North Electoral Boundaries Commission was established to review Ontario's two northernmost ridings (Kenora-Rainy River and Timmins-James Bay) and make recommendations about the creation of either one or two new ridings in those areas.

Election Finances Statute Law Amendment Act: In December 2016, Ontario passed legislation that will make the province's election financing system among the strongest and most transparent in Canada. The Election Finances Statute Law Amendment Act, includes new rules about who can make contributions and how much they can donate, and creates restrictions on attendance at fundraisers for politicians and their staff.

Making the Criminal Justice System Faster and Fairer

Reducing Time-to-Trial and Improving the Bail System: In December 2016, Ontario launched a comprehensive plan to reduce time-to-trial and improve the bail system. The announcement included a plan to appoint 13 more judges, hire 32 assistant Crown attorneys, provide funding to Legal Aid Ontario for 16 duty counsel, and add 26 new court staff to speed up the resolution of criminal cases. Additionally, by expanding and enhancing the Bail Verification and Supervision Program provincewide, the ministry will be able to provide more community-based supports to vulnerable, low-risk people including racialized and Indigenous people, who come in contact with the law.

Reforming the Family Justice System

In 2016-17, the ministry worked to improve services for families and make the family justice system easier to navigate.

All Families are Equal Act: In 2016, Ontario passed ground-breaking legislation that updated Ontario's parentage and birth registration laws. The amendments came into force on January 1, 2017. The new legislation ensures that children of modern families are treated fairly by recognizing their parents at the earliest possible time, whether the parents are LGBTQ or straight, and whether the children were conceived with or without assistance.

Online Child Support Service: In April 2016, the ministry launched an online service that allows parents to set up and update child support arrangements without having to go to court.

Family Legal Services Review: The ministry, in partnership with the Law Society of Upper Canada, asked former Justice Annemarie E. Bonkalo of the Ontario Court of Justice to determine whether the delivery of family legal services should be expanded to include people who are not lawyers, such as paralegals, law clerks and law students. Justice Bonkalo submitted her report, with recommendations, to the ministry and the Law Society in December 2016.

Strengthening the Relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Justice System

Elders' Council: In November 2016, the ministry established a new Elders' Council that will provide advice to make the justice system more responsive to the needs of Indigenous people and support the reclamation of Indigenous legal systems. The council includes 13 respected Indigenous Elders from diverse communities across the province.

Walking Together: Strategy to End Violence against Indigenous Women: In 2016-17, the ministry continued to support this strategy by training crown attorneys, enhancing existing Indigenous victim services, and developing new Indigenous-specific programs for domestic violence offenders.

The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples: The ministry made significant progress in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Calls to Action, including holding the first ever Gladue Summit in November 2016 to gather input from Indigenous Elders, youth, communities, organizations and justice sector representatives, to determine service gaps and ensure effective, efficient and coordinated Gladue service delivery across the province.

Debwewin Jury Review Implementation Committee: The Committee has submitted some preliminary and final advice to the ministry. The following recommendations were implemented:

- The Indigenous Justice Advisory Group was reconstituted and will continue to provide advice directly to the Attorney General.
- Significant progress is being made on developing Bimickaway (formerly known as "Indigenous cultural competency training"). Initial sessions were delivered to more than 700 ministry staff since August 2016.
- The Aboriginal Court work program was expanded with additional funding from both the provincial and federal governments.
- The Summer Law Program has been fully implemented, with all seven law schools agreeing to co-fund up to two law students per summer to work in Indigenous communities and organizations.

- The pilot program to collect Indigenous volunteer jurors to supplement the source list for coroner's inquest juries was successful, surpassing its initial goal of 160 volunteers and gathering over 470 volunteers' names for the volunteer list.

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

(MMIWG): The ministry made significant progress in relation to the National Inquiry including:

- Supporting the issuance of an Order-in-Council appointing the Commissioners pursuant to the Public Inquiries Act in respect of the National Inquiry into MMIWG
- Establishing a Joint Inquiry Team to create processes to respond to inquiries from the Commissioners
- Hiring a special advisor to liaise with affected family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Better Support for Victims of Crime and Vulnerable People

In 2016-17, the ministry worked with justice sector partners to develop programs and initiatives to make Ontario's justice system more responsive to survivors and vulnerable people.

Strategy to End Human Trafficking: The ministry has made two regulatory changes to help survivors of human trafficking. One change allows survivors of human trafficking to sue those who have been convicted of trafficking them for emotional distress, and the other allows community organizations, including those that support survivors of trafficking, to apply for grant funding under Ontario's Civil Remedies Act.

Free Legal Advice for Survivors of Sexual Assault: The ministry launched a two-year pilot program that gives survivors of sexual assault access to free legal advice, regardless of how much time has passed since the incident. Starting in June 2016, survivors of sexual assault living in Toronto, Ottawa, and Thunder Bay can receive up to four hours of free, confidential advice from a lawyer.

Legal Aid Ontario Financial Eligibility Threshold Increase: As part of Ontario's 2014 commitment to expand access to legal aid services to an additional one million Ontarians in ten years, the ministry increased the financial eligibility threshold for legal aid by another six per cent. Effective April 1, 2017, about 140,000 more people will be eligible to receive the legal services they need, regardless of their ability to pay.

Civil Remedies Grant Program: Civil remedies grants have been used in Ontario since 2006 to support programs that help victims and prevent unlawful activities that result in victimization. Applications for 2016-17 grant funding were issued in November 2016. The program is open to designated institutions, such as police services and the RCMP.

Sustainable Justice Infrastructure

In 2016-17, the ministry continued efforts to make the justice system as effective and efficient as possible, while continuing to deliver high quality services to the public.

Adjudicative Cluster Co-location Project: In an effort to facilitate better, more streamlined client services and promote collaboration among its 18 tribunals, the ministry has been working towards moving its Toronto-based tribunal and cluster offices to one government-owned location at 25 Grosvenor Street in Toronto. The first phase of the project was completed in November 2016.

Building Up Courthouse Infrastructure: Construction began to expand the A. Grenville and William Davis Courthouse in Brampton. The new Toronto courthouse project continues to move forward with two pre-qualified project teams presenting designs as part of the Request for Proposals open stage of the project.

Other Initiatives

Cannabis Legalization: The ministry is taking the lead in developing a regulatory framework for the future legal sale of cannabis that protects youth and vulnerable people, promotes health and road safety and focuses on prevention and harm reduction.

Juror Support Program: Jury duty is an important civic responsibility, and trial before an impartial, independent jury is a constitutional right for people charged with serious crimes. Some trials and inquests can be very difficult for jurors, and it is important that jurors have access to support if they need it. In January 2017, the ministry established the Juror Support Program, a free, confidential, and professional counselling program available to jurors after they complete jury duty on a criminal trial, a civil trial or Coroner's inquest.

Ticket Speculation Reform: In February and March 2017, the ministry consulted with Ontarians to help develop new legislation that would make the process of buying and selling tickets fairer and more transparent.

Construction Lien Act Review: In 2015, in response to stakeholder concerns related to payment and dispute resolution in Ontario's construction industry, the ministry commissioned a review of the Construction Lien Act. In September 2016, the ministry released the report of its expert advisor and engaged with industry and stakeholder groups to gather feedback on the recommendations in the report. This input will support the development of legislation to better support workers and the construction industry.

Elliot Lake Inquiry: In 2012, the Elliot Lake Inquiry was set up to inquire into, and report on, events surrounding the collapse of the Algo Centre Mall in Elliot Lake. In October 2014, the final report was submitted and the ministry reported on actions taken to address the recommendations. In October 2016, the province released a second annual report-back on progress on recommendations, including increased training for building inspectors, professional engineers and first responders; conducting a comprehensive review of the emergency management system and establishing information sharing protocols between ministries. The ministry plans to introduce amendments to the Professional Engineers Act that would address the recommendations in the final report.

The Motherisk Commission: The Motherisk Commission has established a Review and Resource Centre that offers information, counselling, legal advice, alternative dispute resolution and other support to eligible individuals who may have been affected by a flawed Motherisk test.

Becoming an Employer of Choice Within the OPS

To support the ministry's strategic priority of growing a skilled and engaged workforce, the ministry worked to develop employee leadership, management and professional skills. In 2016, it continued to implement the MAG Talent Strategy to help address employee career growth, support groups that are under-represented in leadership positions and meet advancement needs at all levels in the organization. This objective was accomplished by enhancing the development of current incumbents and potential successors.

Promoting Accountability and Value for Money

Election Finances Statute Law Amendment Act: In December 2016, Ontario passed legislation that will make the province's election financing system among the strongest and most transparent in Canada. The Election Finances Statute Law Amendment Act includes new rules about who can make contributions and how much they can donate, and creates restrictions on attendance at fundraisers for politicians and their staff.

Improving Transparency and Accountability in Police Oversight: In April 2016, the government launched a review of police oversight agencies and appointed the Honourable Michael H. Tulloch to lead the independent review. Over the course of his review, Justice Tulloch hosted 17 public meetings and 130 private stakeholder meetings. His final report was received in March 2017.

Court Fee Increase: In November 2016, the ministry increased existing fees and added new fees for civil and small claims court, based on the Ontario Consumer Price Index, bringing fees to the same cost recovery rate as when they were originally set.

Open Government: To support the province's Open Government initiative, the ministry established a cross-divisional working group aimed at fostering a culture of openness and transparency within the ministry. By September 2016, the ministry contributed 435 datasets, including 109 from the ministry itself, and 326 from agencies and tribunals, to the Open Government Data Inventory.

Table 3: Ministry Expenditures 2016-17

Ministry Expenditures (\$) 2016-17	
Operating	1,786,117,171
Capital	88,318,300
Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2017) *	7,931.16

Interim Outlook 2016-17, The Ministry of the Attorney General (Excludes Consolidations) (Restated)

* Human Resources - MAG