



Provincial Court of British Columbia

STATEMENT of the Honourable Chief Judge T. J. Crabtree regarding Provincial Court Judge appointments announced December 4, 2012

I am encouraged by today's announcement regarding the appointment of nine new Provincial Court Judges. As Chief Judge, my focus is on identifying and meeting the ongoing needs of the Court, including increasing accessibility to the Court.

The early replacement of several Judges scheduled to retire or join the senior program in 2013 will provide some capacity to assist in reducing the case backlog.

I look forward to our continued work with government in establishing a method to determine an appropriate judicial complement and to address the case backlog. I believe that a mutually respectful and collaborative approach, while maintaining the independence of the Judiciary as the third branch of government, is an integral component that will allow us to move forward in these important areas.

It is a priority for the Court to reduce the current backlog of cases. I believe that we have several key initiatives that will support our efforts in this area. Today's announcement helps move us towards that goal.

We look forward to the new Judges joining the Court over the next eight weeks.