



February 2, 2023

BC Provincial Court Returns to its Vernon Courtroom After Holding Court in a Converted Storeroom

Chief Judge Melissa Gillespie announced today that the Provincial Court will open its renovated courtroom in Vernon on February 6, 2023. To mark the occasion, **Regional Administrative Judge Gregory Koturbash will speak at 12:45 on February 6. Accredited media are invited to attend and will be given an opportunity to take photographs in the courtroom.**

Background:

Opened in 1914 and constructed in the imposing Classical Revival style, the Vernon Law Courts is one of BC's older courthouses. Since 2019, it has been undergoing necessary renovation including repairing flood damage, remediating the structural foundation, upgrading the roof and electrical system, and rebuilding cells and courtrooms.

During the renovation Provincial Court judges have conducted court in a converted storeroom with basic furnishings, prompting at least one member of the public to ask if they were really in a courtroom.

The first court sitting in the renovated courtroom will be on February 7, 2023.

Quote:

Chief Judge Melissa Gillespie said,

"The Court appreciates the adaptability and patience of court users, court staff, sheriffs, and judges who have worked in challenging conditions while the government has repaired Vernon's historic courthouse and prepared it for its second century. We are pleased to welcome the public into our renovated courtroom."

Please join us:

**Monday February 6, 2023 - 12:45
Courtroom 201, Vernon Law Courts
3001- 27th Street, Vernon**