



THE PROVINCIAL COURT  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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**May 13, 2003 – For immediate release**

**PROVINCIAL COURT HAS A NEW ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUDGE**

VANCOUVER – Chief Judge Carol Baird Ellan today announced that the Provincial Court of British Columbia has a new Associate Chief Judge.

Judge John James (Jim) Threlfall of Kelowna was appointed to the post May 1, 2003. Judge Threlfall has been Administrative Judge for the Okanagan judicial district since March 2000. A provincial court judge since 1991, he has also served as a president of the Provincial Court Judges Association and on the Judicial Council. He began practicing law in 1974.

Under the *Provincial Court Act*, associate chief judges are designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, usually for a term of three years, which may be renewed. Subject to the direction of the chief judge, an associate chief judge has the same powers and duties as the chief judge. Responsible for the judicial administration of BC's provincial court, duties of the chief judge and associates include supervising and assigning judges and judicial justices of the peace and examining complaints about judges and other officers of the Court.

Associate Chief Judge Threlfall's appointment fulfils the administrative model outlined in the Provincial Court's three year strategic plan. As Associate Chief Judge – External, he will have responsibility for liaison with government representatives, and matters relating to judicial administration. He will also serve as the primary contact on behalf of the Chief Judge for the interior of the province. The positions of Associate Chief Judge – Policy and Procedure and Associate Chief Judge – Operations, are held by Associate Chief Judges Anthony J. Spence and Ellen M. Burdett, respectively.

More information about the Provincial Court and the strategic plan may be found at [www.provincialcourt.bc.ca](http://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca).

Office of the Chief Judge  
501 – 700 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V7Y 1E8  
Tel: (604) 660-2864

Contact: Gene Jamieson, Legal Officer