

Justice and Public Safety Council Regular Meeting

January 8, 2019
10:30-12:00 PM
1001 Douglas Street, Victoria BC

Attendees:

Richard Fyfe, QC (Chair), Allison Bond, Peter Juk, QC, Lynda Cavanaugh, Taryn Walsh and Kurt Sandstrom, QC

Regrets:

Mark Sieben (Vice-Chair), Patti Boyle, Clayton Pecknold and Elenore Arend

Secretariat Support:

Allan Castle (Contractor), Tami Currie and Matthew Kinch

Meeting Minutes

Agenda and Meeting Minutes:

The agenda for January 8, 2019 and the meeting minutes from November 7, 2018 were adopted by consensus.

Proceedings Report from the Eleventh Justice Summit:

Allan Castle provided an update and overview of the process to seek feedback on the draft proceedings report from the eleventh Justice Summit in November 2018.

Direction on Justice Summits and the Sector Strategic Plan:

Tami Currie provided an overview of possible approaches to future Justice Summits and creating a stronger linkage between the Justice Summits and the Sector Strategic Plan beginning in 2019/20. This included a number of recommendations to improve the process, including:

- To modify the agenda format to allow for discussion on both specific subjects and the strategic direction of the sector
- To reposition the outcome of the Justice Summits to be consensus-based positions that all leaders of the sector commit to advance within respective accountabilities and authorities
- To provide more opportunity for engagement on proposals that require broad-based support to implement effectively
- To target invitations to ensure stakeholders are represented at the leadership level
- To define criteria for determining themes of the Justice Summits
- Strategic Plan for 2019/20 is developed as per normal process with the understanding that the Strategic Plan will be more closely aligned with sector engagement and strategic planning for 2020/21

Discussion:

- It was noted that the Justice Summits provide a mechanism to discuss coordination of approaches across the sector and to ensure accountability of government and non-government partners in the discussion.

- The Justice Summits provide a mechanism for regular reporting and transparency as a sector. In this context, the government can demonstrate how it has or has not implemented a recommendation and the rationale for the implementation approach.
- The JPSC was established as a mechanism to oversee sector performance through tracking and reporting on key performance measures with the intent that this informs sector change. Within this mandate, the JPSC should be more representative of the sector to ensure shared accountability for reporting on sector performance.
- The limitation of the Justice Summits is that the recommendations largely reflect the thinking in the room and do not account for the complexities of the challenges. It is preferred to transition to more consensus-based positions than concrete recommendations as an outcome of the Justice Summits.
- It was noted that more discussion on an evaluation or measurement methodology for sector performance may be required.
- The upcoming Justice Summit and Sector Strategic Plan can set the stage for resetting the process and reporting on past recommendations.
- Recommendation that there be a smaller-scale, more targeted audience for the Justice Summits with an emphasis on leadership-level participation and clear expectations.
- It will be important to consider how the JPSC can support engagement with sector stakeholders in advance of the Justice Summits to ensure participants are prepared to discuss or consider positions.
- There is no accountability across government to consider or act on recommendations that emerge through the Justice Summits. It will be important to develop an understanding with the social sector how to implement the recommendations.
- The *Justice Reform and Transparency Act* (2013) is clear that the Justice Summits are intended to inform the strategic vision of the justice and public safety sector and to assess progress on system reform. Currently, there is no linkage between the Justice Summits and the Sector Strategic Plan. The Justice Summits provide a mechanism for stakeholders to shape the strategic vision of the sector and provide advice to institutions who have an accountability to improve sector performance within their respective mandates and authorities.
- It will be important for government to be transparent about its capacity, authority or accountability to act on recommendations that emerge through the Justice Summits.
- The Justice Summits provide a mechanism to engage sector stakeholders and create opportunities for greater coordination and alignment among relevant stakeholders.
- It will be important to understand how the Justice Summits inform government decision-making or priority setting as the process evolves.
- Recommendation that the theme of the Spring Justice Summit be “to assess progress on justice system reform in BC” per the legislation.

Action – the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for the Spring Justice Summit with a focus on sector performance, shared accountability and reporting on past recommendations.

Action – the Secretariat to prepare recommendations regarding a targeted number of leaders from the justice and public safety sector that will be invited to the Spring Justice Summit.

Action – Allan Castle to prepare analysis of the Justice Reform and Transparency Act (2013) with the intent to inform more discussion on membership, mandate and functions of the Justice and Public Safety Council.

Status Update on Inter-Ministry Information Sharing Initiative:

Lynda Cavanaugh and Kurt Sandstrom provided an update and overview of how the Ministry of Attorney General, in collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Ministry of Solicitor General and Public Safety, have explored recommendations that emerged through the fifth Justice Summit in 2015 relating to the issue of information sharing across family justice, criminal justice, and child protection proceedings.

Decision – the Justice and Public Safety Council approves Options 1 and 3 as recommended in the discussion paper prepared by the Inter-Ministry Steering Committee.

- Option 1 – The official Inter-Ministry Steering Committee and Working Group on this issue be discontinued in favour of developing a repository for projects and programs addressing this issue and regular proactive report outs being made available to the working group members, executive, and others who opt in to a distribution list.
- Option 2 – Incorporate this issue and the challenges the group faced into a future Summit to report out on the happenings and see if the previous recommendations remain relevant and appropriate given the current context.

Action – the Secretariat to invite Charmaine Lowe to make a presentation on the Digital Strategy