Fair and effective prosecutions are essential to the rule of law. The justice system is 
enhanced by well developed policy guidelines which assist Crown Counsel in the difficult 
decisions which they must make in the public interest. 

The Criminal Justice Branch Performance Plan 2002/03 – 2004/05 has an objective that 
policies should be “necessary, relevant and written in a consistent manner”. The policies in 
this manual have been updated and revised to include only necessary statements of policy, 
eliminate repetition and provide broader, less restrictive guidelines on the exercise of 
prosecutorial discretion where possible. The policies take into account the changing 
environment that renders prosecutorial duties increasingly complex and challenging. 

The Policies and Procedure Subcommittee of Branch Management Committee, consisting of 
a number of very experienced Crown Counsel, and also Branch Management Committee 
itself, have reviewed every revised policy in detail. This process has ensured that the Branch 
policies are as relevant as possible to the needs of Crown Counsel. 

I wish to thank all persons who assisted in the preparation of this manual. The number of 
policies has been reduced from 117 to 66, a sure indicator of a successful enterprise. As 
public documents, these concise, well written policies will assist not only Crown Counsel but 
also the public in understanding how prosecutorial services are provided in the public 
interest. 

I am pleased to present this revised policy manual in support of the vitally important work of 
Crown Counsel. 

November 18, 2005 

Robert W. G. Gillen, Q.C.