



CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH, MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
CROWN COUNSEL POLICY MANUAL

PREFACE

The Crown Counsel Policy Manual is designed to assist Crown Counsel in the application of Criminal Justice Branch policy.

Branch Policies contain guidelines for the exercise of prosecutorial discretion. The words “Crown Counsel should” mean that Crown Counsel should ordinarily follow the policy guideline, but it is recognized that the public interest may require a decision to be made as an exception to such a policy guideline. This will occur only after discussion with Administrative Crown Counsel or Regional or Deputy Regional Crown Counsel, as circumstances dictate.

Some policy statements contain mandatory directions, for example those using the word “must”. They constitute directions of the Assistant Deputy Attorney General under section 4(3) of the *Crown Counsel Act*.

The words “Regional or Deputy Regional Crown Counsel” are deemed to include Directors and Deputy Directors of CASP and Directors of Headquarters, as appropriate in the context.

The Branch’s Statement of Purpose and Principles and Vision Statement are integral parts of the Policy Manual. Those statements should be regarded as the foundation documents which guide all members of the Criminal Justice Branch when carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

The Policy Manual does not have the status of law. It does not in any way override the *Criminal Code*, *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* or any other applicable legislation, and it is not intended to provide legal advice to members of the public or create any rights enforceable at law in any legal proceeding.