
FACTSHEET

February 1, 2010

Ministry of Attorney General
Government of British Columbia

Vancouver's Downtown Community Court

Vancouver's Downtown Community Court brings together justice, health and social service agencies to help change criminal behaviour among offenders and improve public safety in Vancouver's downtown core. Since embarking on the new problem-solving approach in September 2008, the Province and judiciary have gained valuable insights into dealing with offenders.

The court has timely access to social, health and corrections services to help change criminal behaviour, with solutions to help offenders deal with their problems in a meaningful way and reduce re-offending. The court hears about 50 cases a day – on average, 15 are new. When required, offenders receive support and services, such as health care, housing or help with obtaining income assistance.

Between Sept. 10, 2008 and Sept. 30, 2009:

- 2,111 accused went through the court and 1,304 concluded their cases.
- A total of 674 individuals attended social, mental health and health programming at community court. The court can facilitate referrals to addiction and mental health programs.
- Accused contributed 7,664 hours of work to community service programs. Community service includes projects like assisting in a community kitchen or cleaning roadways and sidewalks.

The community court is located at 211 Gore Ave. Provincial Court of B.C., Ministry of Attorney General, community court and government partners jointly developed the pilot. Information on the community court is available at: www.communitycourt.bc.ca

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VISUAL RESOURCES

- Photos from the community court's first anniversary event Sept. 25, 2009, attended by the court's friends and community partners:
http://www.criminaljusticereform.gov.bc.ca/en/justice_reform_projects/community_court/gallery/index.html
- Video about the community court produced for the Premier's Innovation and Excellence Awards by the BC Public Service Agency. Included are comments by Judge Thomas Gove explaining the court's use of collaborative case management to help offenders make long-term changes to their criminal behaviour:
http://www.criminaljusticereform.gov.bc.ca/en/justice_reform_projects/community_court/gallery/index.html

WEB RESOURCES

- Community court website – the community court story, frequently asked questions, court statistics:
http://www.criminaljusticereform.gov.bc.ca/en/justice_reform_projects/community_court/index.html

MEDIA COVERAGE

- *New Community Court Making Steady Strides*, Province, Sept. 18, 2009
(<http://www.theprovince.com/health/community+court+making+steady+strides/2006783/story.html>)
- *Cautious Optimism*, Province, Sept. 18, 2009
(<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Cautious+optimism+community+court/2006830/story.html>)

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