



**Manitoba
Department of Justice
Public Prosecutions**

Guideline No. 5:COM:1

Policy Directive

Subject: Community Access to Justice

Date: January 3, 1991

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the Department of Justice that the administration of justice will be accessible to the communities it serves, through the community leaders.

Crown Attorneys who are responsible for prosecutions at courts in rural municipalities will contact in person the band councils of reserves served by the Court, as well as elected municipal officials.

The Crown Attorney is responsible for ensuring that the community leaders understand that the Department of Justice is available to them to address justice related issues, and understand the role of the Crown Attorney in the justice system.

RATIONALE:

For a justice system to be effective it must have community support.

Accessibility to the justice system is essential to the maintenance of community support. It is therefore essential that there be available avenues of communication between the justice system and the community it serves.

This is particularly applicable to aboriginal communities which, of their cultural differences, may have justice related needs which are unique, yet which traditionally have not had direct access to the justice system.

Accessibility is important to foster a proper understanding of the role of the Crown Attorney in the administration of justice. Open communication will assist in ensuring the justice system is responsive to community needs, for example by developing community related programs, such as community based sentencing resources for probation, supervision, and community service.