

June 22, 2005

## **New judges appointed to the Provincial Court of Alberta in Fort McMurray and Peace River**

### **Northern Albertans benefit from additional court resources**

Fort McMurray... Mr. James R. Jacques and Mr. G. William Paul have been appointed to the Provincial Court of Alberta. Mr. Jacques will sit in Fort McMurray and Mr. Paul in Peace River, effective June 21.

"I am pleased we are able to appoint two new judges to meet the need in these communities," said Alberta Justice Minister and Attorney General Ron Stevens.

"Judge Jacques has been Chief Crown Prosecutor in Fort McMurray since 1989 and he will continue to be an asset to the justice system as he continues in his new role in this growing community. Judge Paul has long standing ties to the community in Peace River and his experience will be invaluable in his ongoing service to the people of northern Alberta."

The Alberta Judicial Council screens all candidates for Provincial Court appointments and advises the Minister of recommended applicants. The Judicial Council has representatives from the Alberta Provincial Court, Court of Queen's Bench, Court of Appeal and the Law Society of Alberta. It also includes two people appointed by the Minister of Justice.

A list of recommended applicants is provided to the Provincial Court Nominating Committee. The Committee then interviews a number of candidates from the list approved by the Judicial Council and provides the Minister of Justice with the names of those appointees felt to be of the highest calibre.

The Provincial Court Nominating Committee was established in 1999 and is made up of 11 members appointed by the Minister of Justice. It has representatives from the Alberta Provincial Court, the Law Society of Alberta, the Canadian Bar Association (Alberta Branch), other members from the legal profession, and the public.

Judicial appointments are approved by Order in Council.

### **James Rupert Jacques, QC,**

is appointed to Fort McMurray Provincial Court. He graduated law school from the University of Alberta in 1978. The focus of his practice has been criminal law and while serving as a Crown prosecutor he has participated on several committees working to improve the administration of justice in Alberta. He is active in the community and has spent time speaking to various groups about justice and law-related issues.

### **G. William (Bill) Paul**

is appointed to Peace River Provincial Court. He received his law degree from the University of Alberta in 1980. He has a broad range of experience, working in civil and criminal litigation as well as corporate and commercial law. He has participated in many community activities in and around Peace River and has been actively involved in the Alberta Winter Games and the executive of Fairview College.

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[Top of Page](#)

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Return to Government Home Page

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