



**CANADIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE JUSTICE PÉNALE**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

MISSION

The Canadian Criminal Justice Association is composed of professionals and interested citizens who work together as a strong and credible force to encourage rational, informed and responsible research, study and the sharing of information in order to enhance the development of a humane, equitable and effective criminal justice system in Canada.

GOALS

1. Fostering Communication Within and About the Criminal Justice Field

It has been our usual practice to present a national congress every two years. Coming off the challenges of our 39th, Congress 2024, we approached our 40th event with some prudence. While most congresses in the past were partnered with one of our affiliates, none were in a position to share the burden in 2025 or 2026. The only outside organization that presented itself and appeared to be a strong potential partner was the law student association at Laval University. In time, the Faculty of Law replaced them as our partner but, for an event that will be significantly smaller than we had expected and cannot be perceived as our 40th Congress. As we indicated in our previous annual report, going forward in our planning for such a 40th Congress, we needed to consider the manner in which we present the event, the costs and now most importantly, the kind of partnership we enter into. Conversations have commenced regarding a return to CCJA-Affiliate congresses as a likely model possibly with a third partner. This will continue to be a challenge.

2. Public Education/Partnerships

While we were not able to broadcast public education widely through our typical congress, the CCJA continues to disseminate knowledge through its various

publications on a regular schedule. The Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice is currently in its 68th year of publication. The Justice Report, under the editorship of Nancy Wright, is in the midst of its 41st year. In fact, the first two issues will be open-access on our website to all, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the abolition of the death penalty in Canada.

For economic reasons we discontinued the print publication of the Justice Report in late 2025. This mirrored the approach we took some years ago with the Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice, as did many other print media. Given the importance of the noted commemoration however, we will be printing a limited number of copies of 41.1–41.2 for limited distribution.

The CCJA News & Policy Update under the editorship of Howard Bebbington and ably assisted by Olivia Ungar, continues to provide news every week to a readership of about 300. The curated information received every week from legal and justice-related sources is well received and continues to increase its readership.

We have begun expanding our social media presence and hope to make further inroads going forward.

3. Research/Policy Development

The Policy Review Committee (PRC) under the chairmanship of Dr. Myles McLellan, meets monthly, except in the summer, to discuss on-going legislative developments. While it has traditionally been focused on federal legislation and criminal justice issues, it has recently also reviewed Ontario Government legislation, including the draft bill on Cash Bail. Our brief was forwarded to the Ontario Legislature however, we were not called to provide testimony this time. It can be expected that more provincial matters of interest will become part of its purview this coming year.

4. Governance and Organizational Development

The strategic planning process continued to occupy a great deal of the Board's agenda during the year. This included the development of terms of reference for newly revamped committees. It is hoped that additional CCJA members will join the work of these committees, leading to a number of new and enhanced initiatives.

5. Resource Development

The CCJA is greatly dependent on a sustaining grant from Public Safety Canada. Indeed, close to 60% of the operating budget comes from this source. The recently announced small financial increase for the next five years is welcome news however, it remains far less in both constant and nominal terms than the contributions of decades ago. In order to manage within our budgetary means we have cut costs wherever we could. This will not be sustainable forever, given ever-rising costs.

Over the course of the new year it will be necessary to increase the staff complement, at least temporarily, as we transition to new leadership. We may discover needs that were overlooked till now or find new areas for involvement. The laws of nature however do not often support more work with fewer resources.

While we have begun research into additional financial support, we must also recognize that we are not the only NGO facing these challenges. The current Board will need to be fully engaged in this task and efforts should be made to attract representatives of the business community. Criminal justice is not only for its practitioners and theoreticians.

Irving Kulik

Executive Director