



March 29th, 2022

Mayor Caul and Council:

I began employment in this position in July of 2021 after a month of job shadowing with the retiring Prosecutor Gary Beck. I retired from the OPP last year after 27 years as a Detective, all in Fort Frances. I wish to thank the Town of Fort Frances for this opportunity and challenge.

For the months of July through December of 2021 I conducted prosecutions of 51 incidents. Forty (40) of these matters were dealt with through early resolution pleas, and ten (10) were resolved by the defendant agreeing to remit the monies for the original Provincial Offences Notice. One matter was decided at trial, after which a finding of guilt was registered by the Justice of the Peace. There have been no appeals filed, and two cases were referred to the Municipal Prosecutor in Kenora due to a conflict of interest for this Prosecutor.

COVID-19 has played a large role in how the court proceedings have functioned since Provincial Offences Act Court has been back in session. Zoom Court has been in place since the court re-opened in June of 2021 and we recently were approved to return to some in-person to allow proper access to the Justice system. Zoom Court will continue as an option over the foreseeable future, in-person will become more accessible as health concerns abate. A return to our satellite courts in Rainy River and Atikokan will be occurring in the spring of 2022.

The transfer of Part III/IV charges to the Municipality is in the process. I am scheduled for training in April through the Ministry in partnership with the Prosecutors Association of Ontario. The transfer will result in a substantial increase of workload to this position. I anticipate the transfer to occur towards the Fall as there are details that must be ironed out in the legal agreement.

I am available to answer any questions for Mayor and Council regarding this report.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline J. Spencer".

Caroline J Spencer
POA Prosecutor
Town of Fort Frances/District of Rainy River.