



[Databases selected:](#) Canadian Newsstand

Law firms scooping Crown bucks; [Final Edition]

John Bermingham. **The Province**. Vancouver, B.C.: Jun 9, 1994. pg. A.20

Abstract (Summary)

"Over the years it has grown and grown," said [Ray Enright], a 34-year-old lawyer who started working for the Crown in 1989.

The B.C. director of the justice department, Jim Bissell, says hiring private firms is unavoidable, even though he's got 91 lawyers on the public payroll.

"We have a tremendously large workload," said Bissell. "If we do not have the (lawyer) here we have to make sure somebody is hired to represent the Crown."

Full Text (262 words)

(Copyright The Province (Vancouver) 1994)

Vancouver law firms earned at least \$2 million in fees and expenses from the federal justice department last year.

In 1993, Ottawa spent a total of \$44.7 million on private lawyers, slightly down from \$45.1 million the previous fiscal year. The work wasn't open to bidding.

Ray Enright and Associates of Vancouver earned \$1.15 million in federal billings, mainly for drug prosecutions, according to figures released on Monday.

"Over the years it has grown and grown," said Enright, a 34-year-old lawyer who started working for the Crown in 1989.

"We don't handle any of the large, important cases. We get left with the very bottom end."

The major cases are handled by the justice department's lawyers.

Also among the top billers was Connell Lightbody, which earned \$848,000 for prosecutions of tax fraud, drug offences and delinquent student loans.

The B.C. director of the justice department, Jim Bissell, says hiring private firms is unavoidable, even though he's got 91 lawyers on the public payroll.

"We have a tremendously large workload," said Bissell. "If we do not have the (lawyer) here we have to make sure somebody is hired to represent the Crown."

Bissell said at least 4,500 new cases land on his desk every year.

And he said cases are getting more and more complex, and often need outside expertise.

"We do not have the bodies to take on that workload," he said. "Our staff are terribly over-worked. Lawyers do not charge overtime."

Despite Bissell's complaint, the department says it is planning to halve its outside work and do the work in-house.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): John Bermingham

Document types: NEWS; STATISTICS
Section: *News*
Publication title: The Province. Vancouver, B.C.: Jun 9, 1994. pg. A.20
Source type: Newspaper
ProQuest document ID: 231788121
Text Word Count 262
Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=231788121&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=1525&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Copyright © 2008 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

