

1.3 Justice Echo

As part of a comprehensive program evaluation of Departmental Legal Services and its desire to further enhance the level and quality of service to the clients, the Departmental Legal Services Senior Management Committee adopted, in 1988, its Client Relation Program. The Program includes initiatives such as Client Training & Development - Legal Awareness and Newsletters on Legal trends.

In December 1988, the first issue of Justice Echo was published and released to several departments to reach some 1500 senior public officials.

As clearly set out in the message of members of the Justice Departmental Legal Services Senior Committee accompanying the first issue:

"The aim of this publication is to complement the day-to-day work of our Departmental Legal Services Units by highlighting legal topics and emerging developments that are likely to have widespread impact across the government. The articles contained in **Justice Echo** are meant to provide an overview of trends, rather than specific legal advice. They are intended to stimulate discussion between you and your Departmental Legal services on points that are of particular interest to you."

The passage of time has proven the success of the decision and the desire of senior public managers to be well informed not only about modern management techniques but also about the current legal trends that often influence their management decisions. Justice Echo is now received by some 50 federal departments and agencies and some 3000 senior public officials as well as by provincial governments and private sector institutions. It was recently agreed that Justice Echo articles or extracts thereof would be put on the Senior Executive Network system which reaches over 800 senior managers with a capacity to extend to the regional offices of the public service.

1.4 Strategic Planning

Towards the end of 1990, the Executive Committee of the Department of Justice developed the Department's Strategic Directions and distributed them to all employees in January of 1991. These Strategic Directions reflect the three principal roles of the Department: as a service agency increasingly involving the Department by virtue of the litigation, legal services and counsel roles in all the business of the Government of Canada; as a central agency requiring high quality and expeditious advice to Cabinet; and as a policy Department where it has become one of the most active of all government policy departments.