

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Panel on Justice and the Media has made 17 recommendations to improve operations and understanding between the justice system and the media. It has based its recommendations on the following vision and principles:

Vision

Ontario's justice system and the media should set the standard for excellence and leadership, in both form and practice, for fair trials, open courts, respect for privacy, communications between the justice system and the media, informed reporting and public education.

Principles

*Openness
Access
Education
Equal yet independent players
Respect for privacy rights*

The Panel's recommendations address the following issues:

Openness:

- access to court records;
- use of tape recorders;
- cameras in the courtroom;
- media facilities at the courthouse;
- media lock-ups;
- affordable access to court records.

Education:

- increasing knowledge across the two professions;
- public education.

Electronic Age:

- notification of publication bans;
- electronic access to court records;
- online media guide;
- public justice-media website.

Ongoing Activities:

- justice-media liaison committee;
- press conferences/ public commentary;
- *sub judice* contempt rule and shield law.

The Panel believes that the implementation of these recommendations, individually and collectively, will promote further development of the justice-media working relationship and improve the quality of justice reporting to the public.