

VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Panel on Justice and the Media is encouraged by the journey it has taken. It has learned from the people it heard from and it has benefited from the enthusiastic desire of all parties to improve both operations and understanding.

The Panel thinks that positive change in the working relationship can be achieved through its recommendations:

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.

Through its deliberations, the Panel has sought to achieve a balanced approach to its recommendations. The media and justice systems are both complex and busy. The proposals made here are meant to promote increased effectiveness and efficiency.