

THE NUNAVUT COURT OF JUSTICE



# Ingiravugut Suli Our Journey Continues:

A Statistical and Comparative Review of  
Court Operations in Nunavut 2013

2/24/2014

## **DISCLAIMER**

The Judiciary makes every effort to ensure that the data published in its Annual Report is accurate. However, in preparing this report, the Judiciary must rely on data summaries that are created by a contractor external to Court Services. The Judiciary in Nunavut has no direct data management capability and is unable to directly access the statistical data tables buried in the Court's Information System. Problems arise when lay (non-legal) data technicians attempt to interpret the Judiciary's requests for specific types of legal information.

The Judiciary in Nunavut is working with Court Services to develop a modern Court Information System. Such a system will include in-house data management capability. Performance measurement tools are needed to better assist the Senior Judge and the Director of Court Services to allocate limited financial and human resources and so improve service delivery to all Nunavummiut.

Data in Graph 3.4 and 3.5 of this report were amended as of July 6, 2015 when it was discovered the data had been collated incorrectly by the contractor. The amended information is accurate subject to the above disclaimer.

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## INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the Nunavut Court of Justice's operating environment and court operations. Part 1 examines the nature and extent of violent crime in Nunavut. A substantial proportion of the Court's time and resources is consumed by the criminal, as opposed to the civil or family docket. Thus, Parts 2 and 3 deal with the Court's case-processing time and use of remand and custodial sentences. Part 4 examines the nature and extent of the family files that come before the Court. Parts 5 through 7 outline the Court's operational activity in the face of the current demands upon the Court's resources, such as the number of scheduled sittings, the number of judges serving the Territory, and other measures the Court has taken to improve access to justice and case processing time for Nunavummiut.

This report is the Court's Second Annual Report. For a more in-depth historical review of crime and the court's operations in Nunavut, See: Nunavut Court of Justice, *Ingirranivut Our Journey: A statistical comparative review of crime and court operations in Nunavut 2000-2012* (Iqaluit: Nunavut Court of Justice, 2013). A full text of this report is available for viewing on the Court's website at [www.nucj.ca](http://www.nucj.ca).

## PART 1

### 1. Criminal Charge Volumes in Nunavut, 2000-2013

The following three graphs represent charge volumes in Nunavut in the years specified. These statistics only capture charges laid under the *Criminal Code*, *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. They do not capture all matters dealt with by the Court. The number of youth charges laid in Nunavut in the 2013 calendar year increased from the previous year, while the number of adult charges laid decreased (Graph 1.2). The number of charges laid in a given year is generally lower than the number of reported incidents of crimes in the same year, as reporting of crime does not always lead to charges being laid.

Furthermore, the number of charges laid in a given year does not reflect the total volume of charges that are being processed by the Court in the same year. For instance, in 2013 a total of 6,854 charges were laid in Nunavut (Graph 1.1). However, the Court closed a total of 8,356 criminal cases (Graphs 2.1 and 2.3). Thus, while the total number of charges laid in 2013 declined from 2012, the number of cases closed by the court in 2013 increased from the previous year.

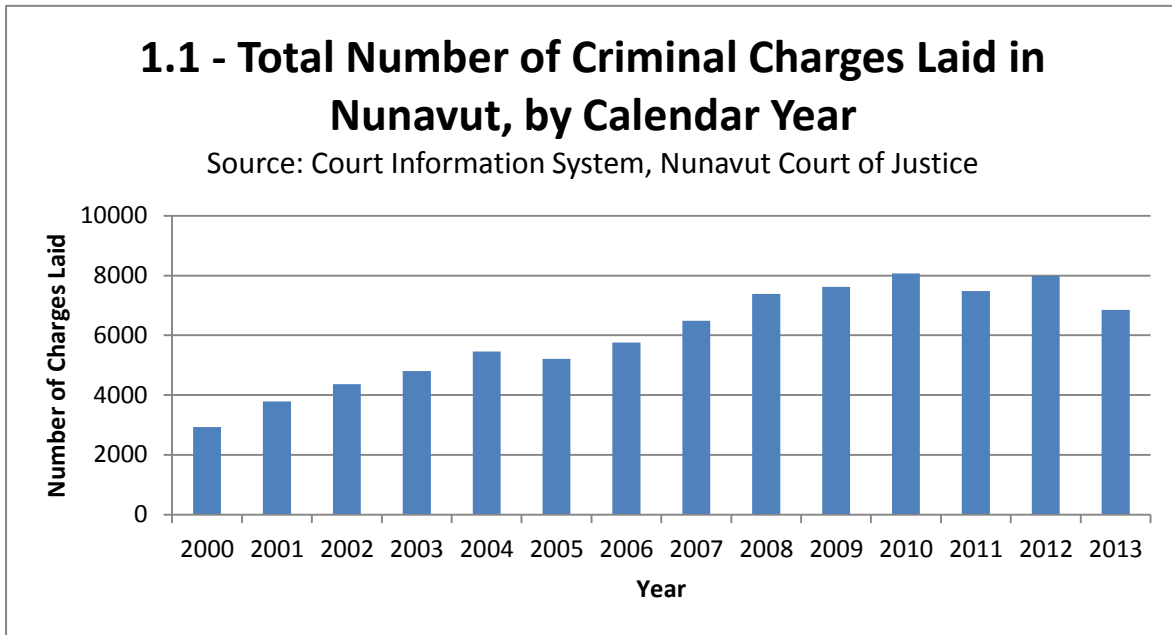
One reason for this is that many serious charges, such as homicide, can be expected to take several years to work their way through the Court. In 2011 there were 7 homicide charges laid in Nunavut. In 2012 there were an additional 5 homicide charges laid.<sup>1</sup> The Court, at the beginning of 2013, had 14 homicide charges before it in various states of completion. Eleven homicide files were completed in the 2012 and 2013 calendar years.<sup>2</sup>

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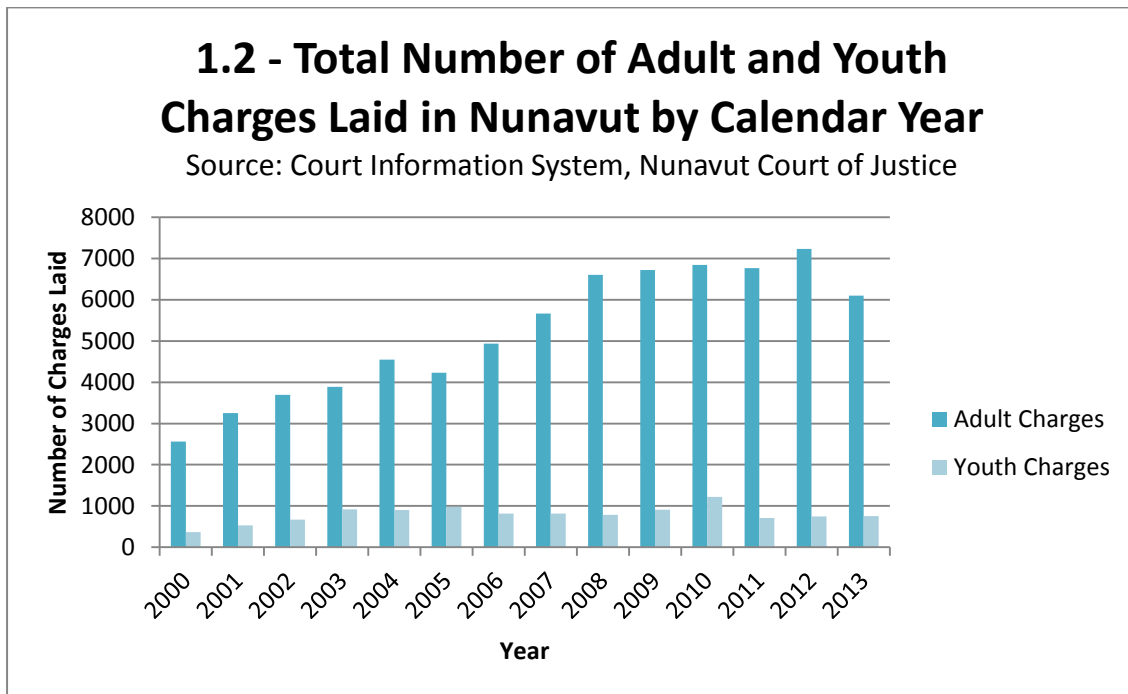
<sup>1</sup> Data available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/131219/t131219b001-eng.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Court Information, Criminal Registry, Nunavut Court of Justice

**1.1 – Total Number of Criminal Charges Laid in Nunavut, by Calendar Years 2000-2013**



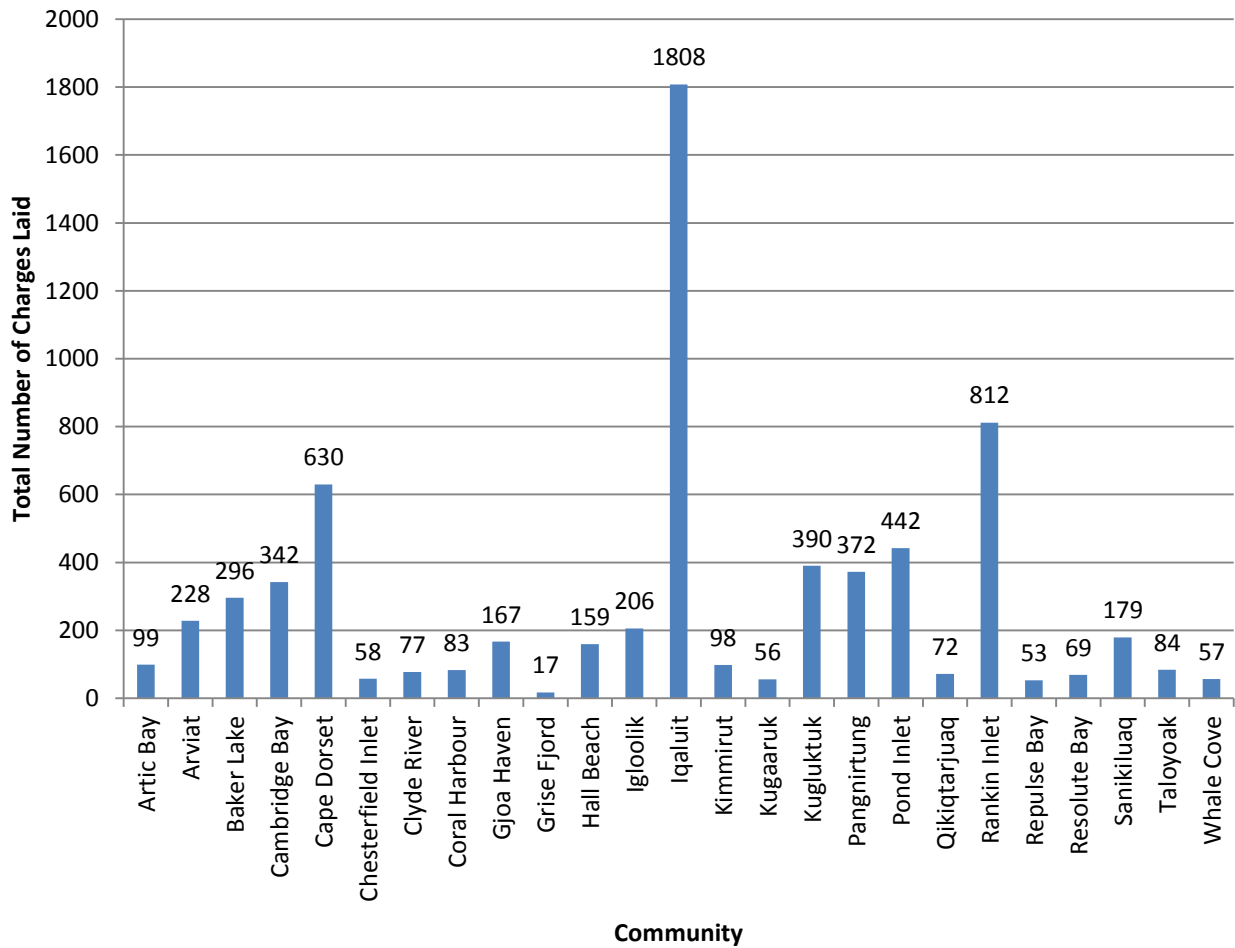
**1.2 – Total Adult and Youth Charges Laid in Nunavut, by Calendar Years 2000-2013**



### 1.3 – Total Charges Laid, by Community, 2013 Calendar Year

## 1.3 - Total Criminal Charges Laid in Nunavut, by Community, 2013

Source: Court Information System, Nunavut Court of Justice





## PART 2

### **2. Processing of Criminal Cases in Nunavut, by Calendar Years 2000-2013**

This section details the annual volumes of adult and youth criminal cases that the Court concluded (Graphs 2.1 and 2.3), and fluctuations in the length of time required to complete adult and youth criminal cases (Graphs 2.2 and 2.4). Graphs 2.2 and 2.4 provide a comparison of the median and mean time required to conclude criminal cases in the Territory.

Graphs 2.1 only reflects the number of adult criminal cases that concluded in the year specified, not the total caseload of the Nunavut Court of Justice for the year. Similarly, Graph 2.3 displays the number of youth criminal cases concluded in the year specified and not the total caseload of the Nunavut Youth Justice Court for that year.

The Court concluded more adult criminal cases in the 2013 calendar year than any previous calendar year (Graph 2.1). There were more youth criminal cases concluded in the 2013 calendar year than in any other calendar year, except for 2005 and 2010 when the court concluded 1014 and 1075 youth criminal cases respectively (Graph 2.3).

For the purposes of Graphs 2.2 and 2.4, the mean elapsed time is the average number of days from first to last court appearance, while the median elapsed time is the mid-point of the number of days between the first and the last court appearance. Where a case was opened and closed on the same day, this has been counted as a single day as opposed to zero.

The median is a better indicator of the central tendency because the data in Graphs 2.2 and 2.4 have a large variance. This means some cases take much longer than normal from start to finish than the majority of the cases in the data set. Faster case-processing will result in lower mean and median elapsed times.

The mean for adult criminal cases declined in 2013 from the previous calendar year, while the median elapsed time increased in 2013 from 2012 (Graph 2.2). This means that on average adults had their criminal cases resolved faster; however, some adult criminal cases before the Court were open for long periods of time in 2013 before they were resolved. Both the mean and median elapsed times for youth criminal cases have increased in the 2013 calendar year from the previous year (Graph 2.4). This indicates that youth criminal cases are taking longer for the court to process than in the previous year.

The increase in processing time for youth criminal cases is partially explained by the increasing number of youth criminal charges laid in the last three calendar years (Graph 1.2). The increase is also partially a result of pre-sentence reports being mandatory in cases where the accused young person is facing a period of incarceration. In Nunavut, because of a lack of capacity, it can take a very long time for a pre-sentence report to be furnished to the Court which lengthens processing times. Similarly, youth involved in community justice diversion programs may take longer to see their case resolved, as the case cannot be closed until the youth has completed the requirements of the diversion program. In 2014 the Court plans to double the frequency of youth court sittings in Iqaluit in an effort to shorten the

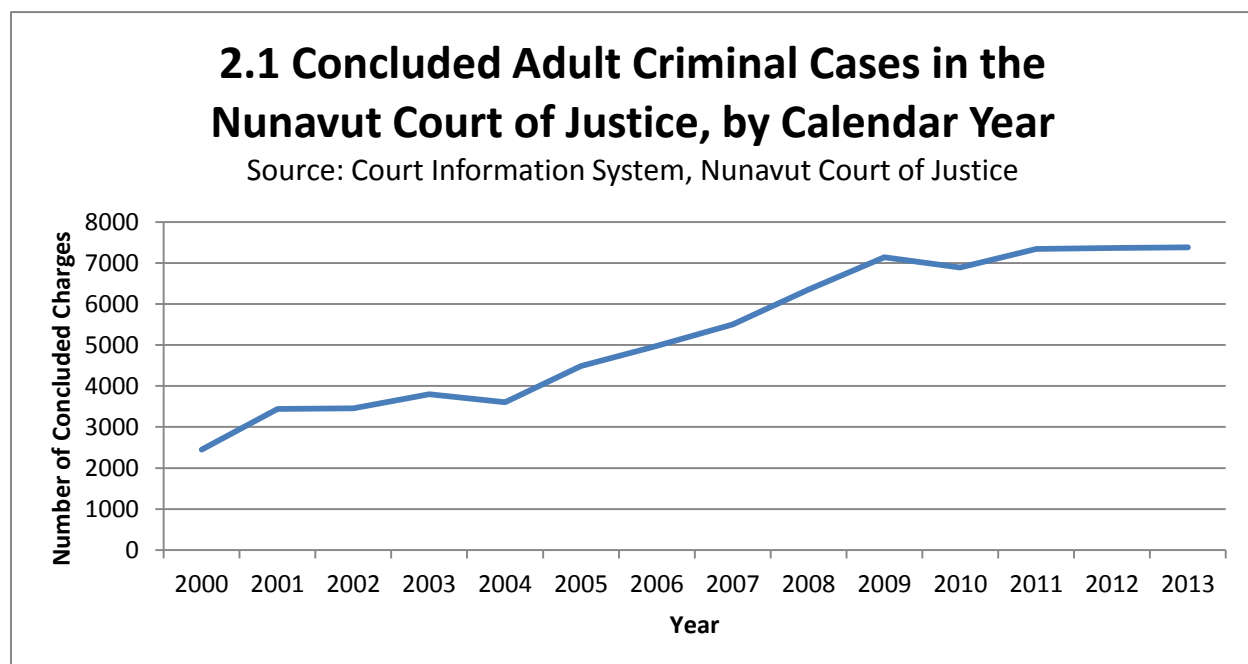
case processing time for citizens accused of crimes as a youth. The Senior Judge is also striking a special committee with representatives from Corrections, Legal Aid, and the Public Prosecution Service to further look into the issues that are leading to the increased processing times, and to develop an action plan designed to reduce the processing times for youth criminal cases before the Court.

In 2013, the judiciary implemented a rigorous case management system for all cases, both criminal and civil, requiring an estimated full day of court time. Case management is required to enhance trial certainty and better manage the Court’s sitting schedule. Criminal case management is a form of pre-trial conferencing facilitated by a judge under the provisions of Practice Directive 41. Well in advance of a trial, preliminary inquiry, *voir dire*, or *Charter* application the case management process is initiated. Parties may meet for a number of case management conferences for more complex matters. Often complex matters originating in the communities that require a preliminary inquiry, *voir dire*, or *Charter* application will have these hearing scheduled for Iqaluit sitting dates well in advance of the scheduling a trial date in the community where the crime originates.

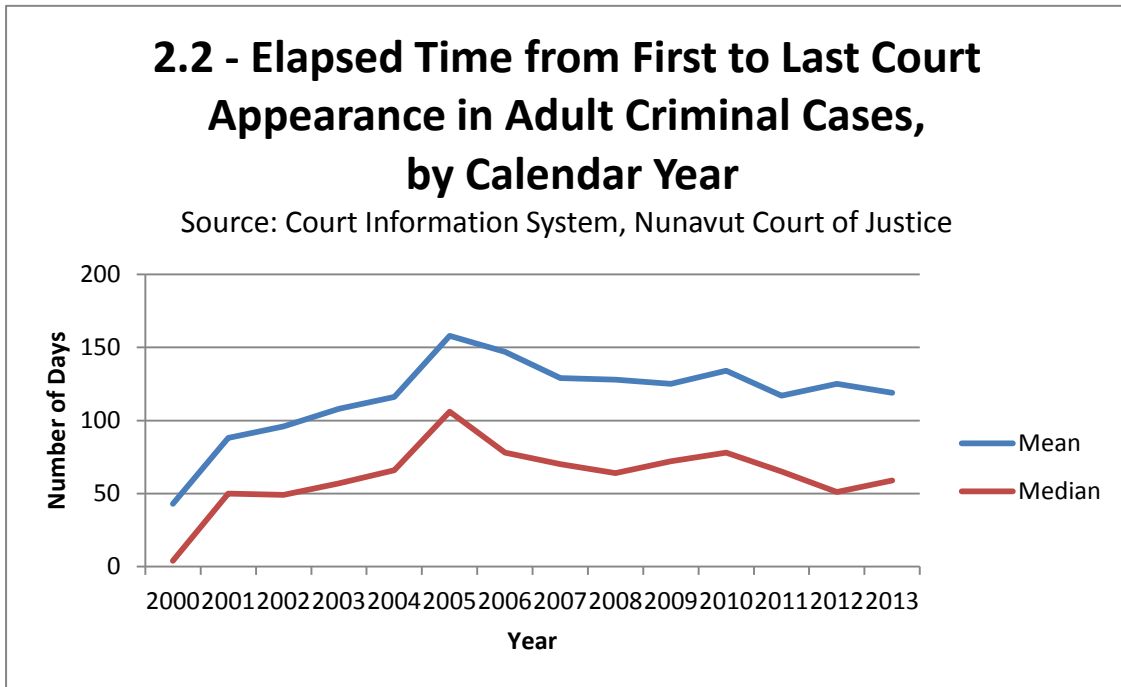
A Practice Directive was implemented in 2013 to better manage the growing number and complexity of applications made under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. These applications continue to consume a significant amount of Court’s sitting time.

In 2013, the Judiciary introduced Practice Directive 44 to govern the Court’s involvement in alternative judicial dispute resolution processes and case management for civil and family files.

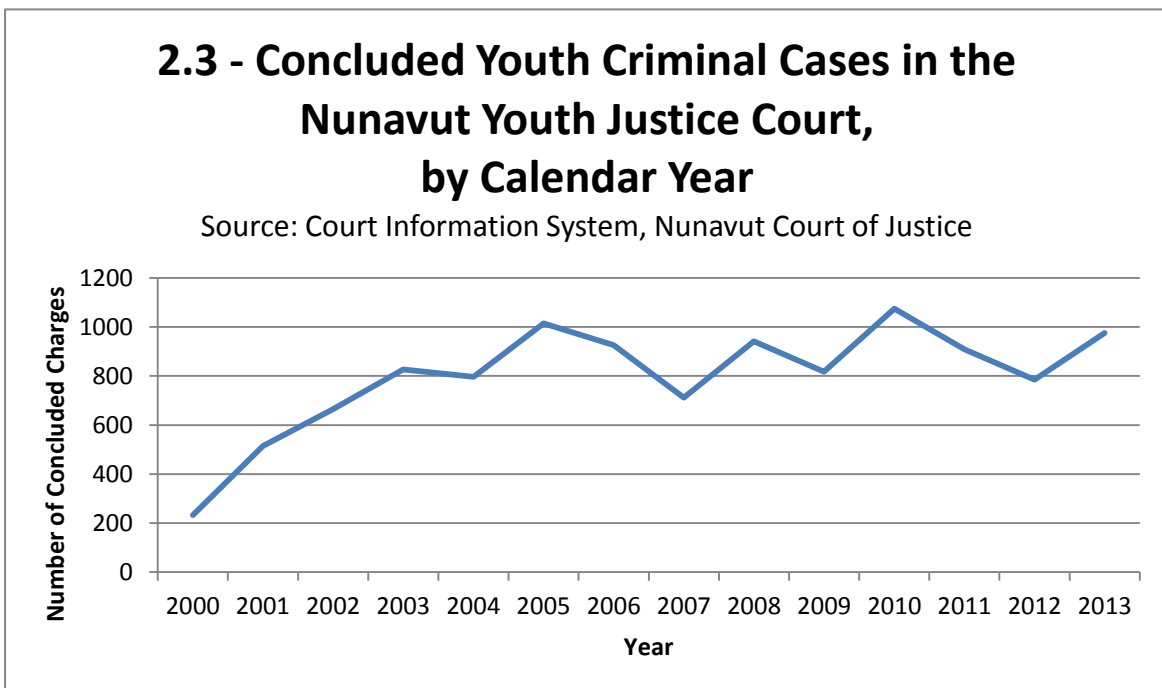
## 2.1 – Concluded Adult Criminal Cases in the Nunavut Court of Justice



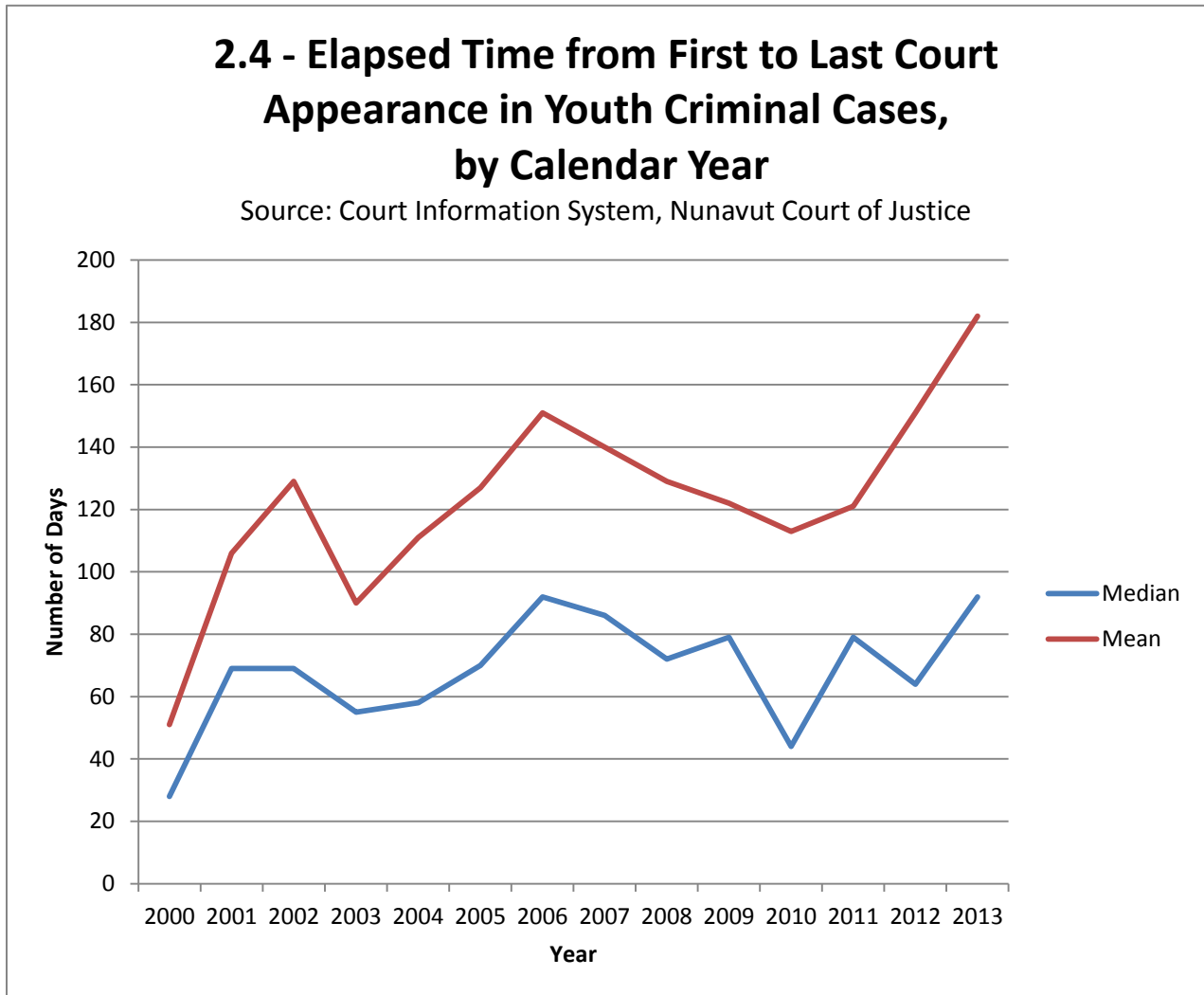
## 2.2 – Elapsed Time from First to Last Court Appearance in Adult Criminal Cases



## 2.3 – Concluded Youth Criminal Cases in the Nunavut Youth Justice Court



## 2.4 – Elapsed Time from First to Last Court Appearance in Youth Criminal Cases



## **PART 3**

### **3. Use of Custodial Remand, Community Diversion and Sentencing in Nunavut**

Remand is the temporary detention of a person while they are awaiting trial or a sentencing hearing. Remanded citizens are usually charged with either more serious, or a greater volume of offences, which generally take longer to resolve. The accused's choice of mode of trial has a bearing on the time it takes to clear charges. An accused's request for a preliminary inquiry and/or a trial by jury may extend the time to process charges by two to three times the length of time required to process a trial by a judge alone without a preliminary inquiry. Many citizens facing serious charges elect to have a preliminary hearing, and some elect to have a trial by jury. This directly impacts the length of time they spend in remand awaiting trial.

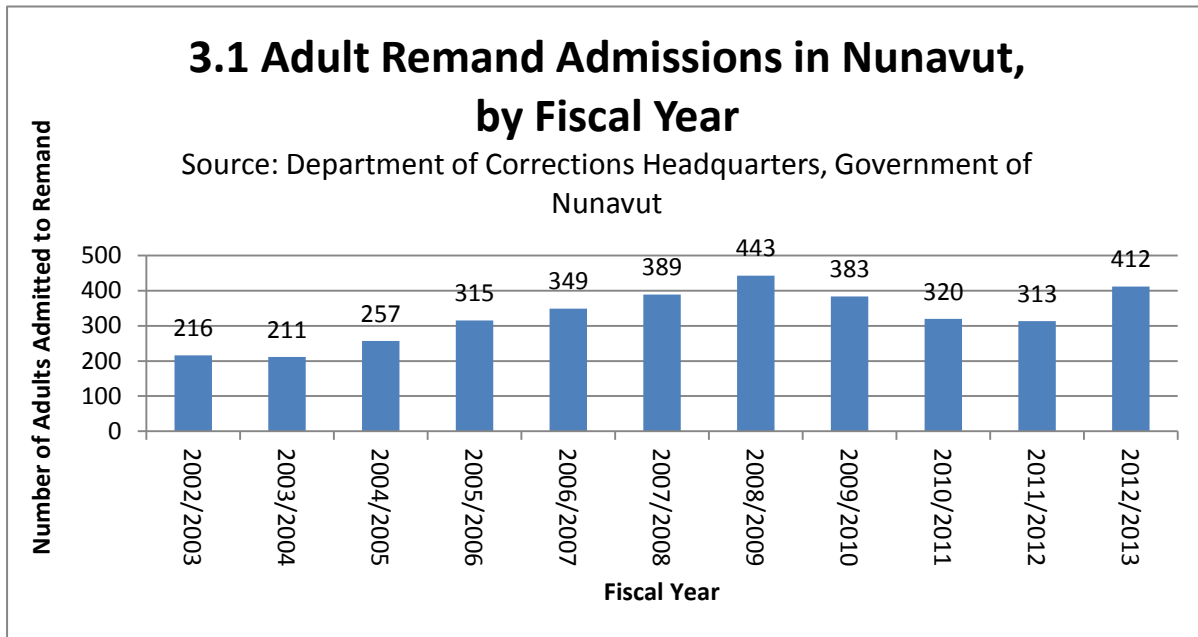
As a result of the decline in the average time taken by the Court to process adult criminal cases (Graph 2.2) and the decline in the number of charges laid (Graph 1.1) in 2013, among other factors, the average length of time adults spent in remand also declined in the 2012/2013 fiscal year from the previous fiscal year (Graph 3.2). Unfortunately the Department of Corrections was unable to provide statistics on youth remand admissions in Nunavut at the time of compiling this report. The Department of Corrections hopes to have them available to include in the 2014 annual report.

Community Justice Diversion is a program designed to divert and resolve cases by focusing on reconciliation between the accused, victims of the crime committed, and the community in which the crime occurred. Generally low-level violence cases and low-level crimes like property offences will be diverted, and the law obliges the prosecutor to divert youth cases whenever possible.

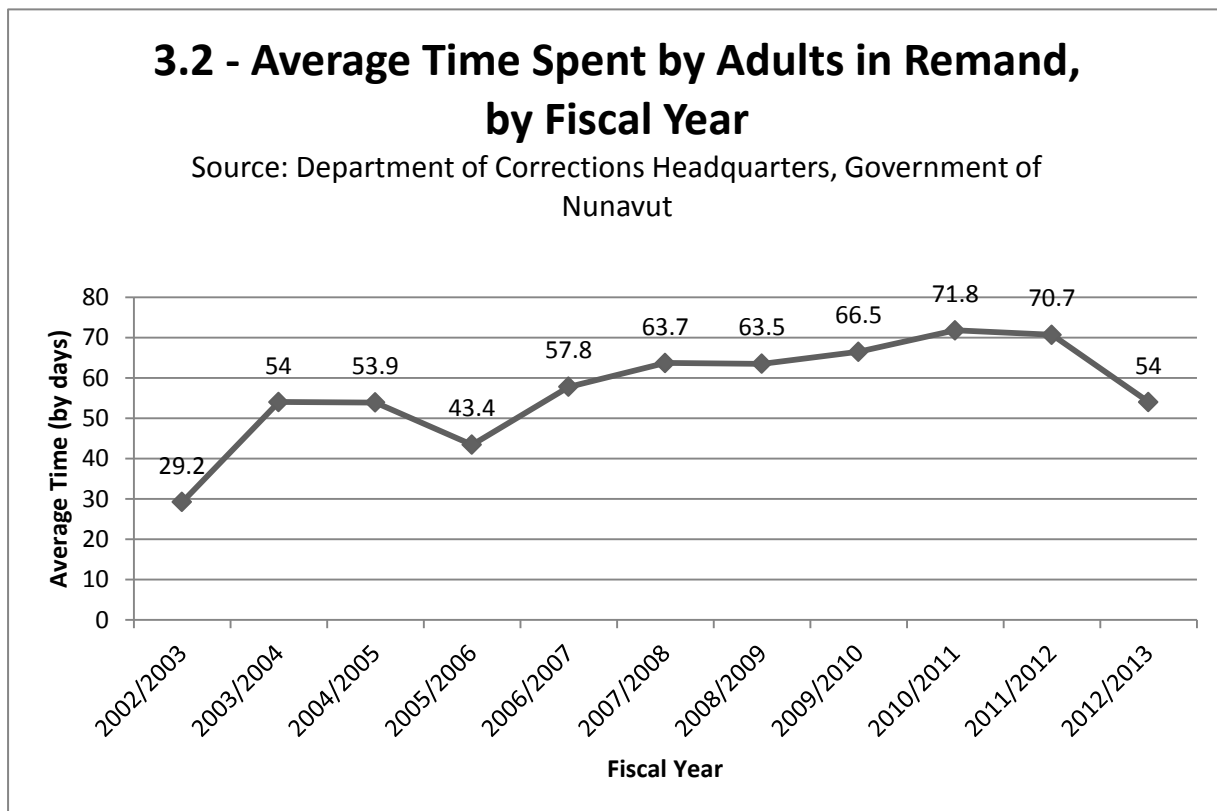
Citizens can be referred to the Community Justice Diversion program by the police before a charge is laid; this is the most efficient form of diversion because these cases do not come before the Court unless the diversion has been unsuccessful. The prosecution can refer an accused to the program after a charge is laid and the accused has appeared in Court. The program has been more successful in some communities than in others, and not every community in Nunavut offers Community Justice Diversion at this time (Graph 3.3- note statistics were unavailable from Pangnirtung). In the 2012/2013 fiscal year no community justice diversion options were available in Iqaluit, where the most criminal charges are laid (Graph 1.3). Iqaluit anticipates having community justice diversion programs established by the spring of 2014.

In the 2013 calendar year, probation was the most frequently imposed sentence by on both adults and youth in Nunavut (Graphs 3.4 and 3.5).

### 3.1 – Adult Remand Admissions in Nunavut, by Fiscal Year



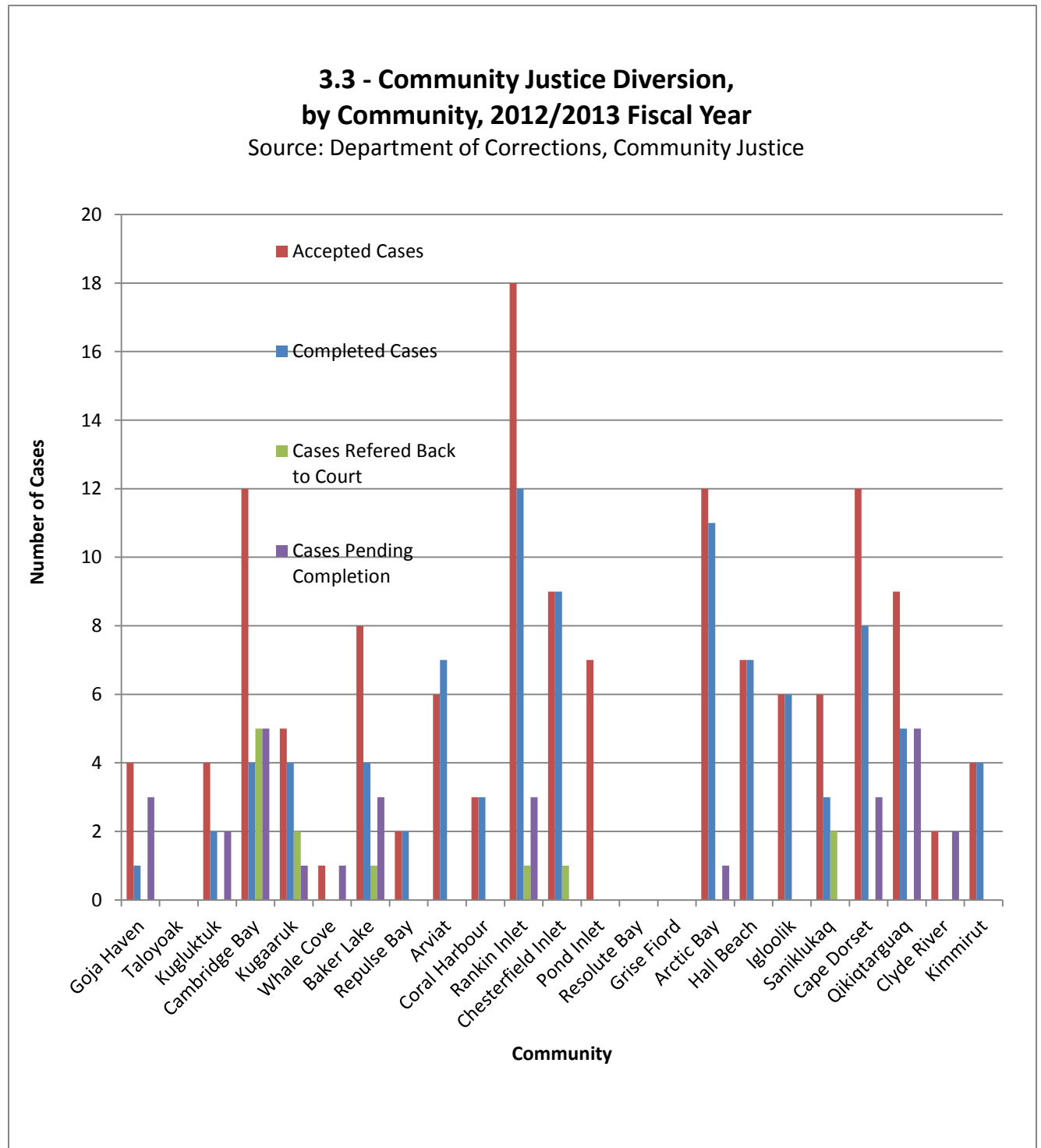
### 3.2 – Average Time Spent by Adults in Remand, by Fiscal Year



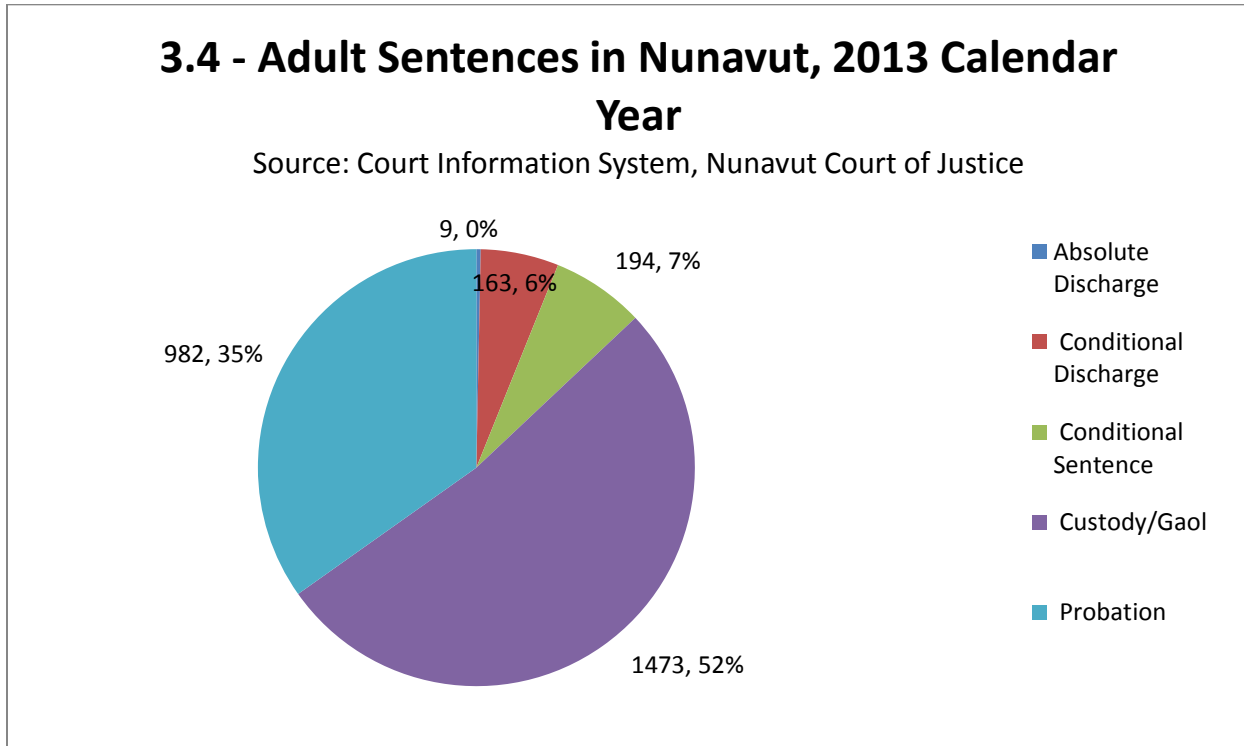
### 3.3 – Community Justice Diversion in Nunavut, by Community, 2012/2013 Fiscal Year

#### 3.3 - Community Justice Diversion, by Community, 2012/2013 Fiscal Year

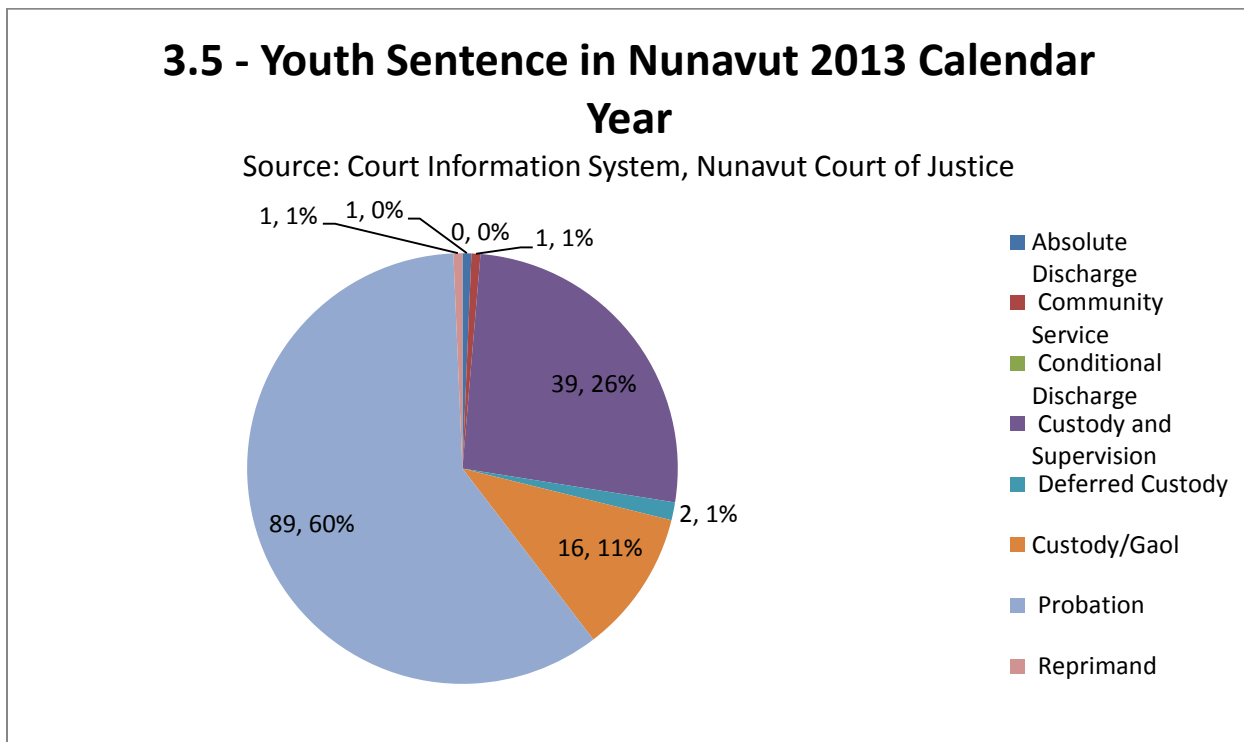
Source: Department of Corrections, Community Justice



### 3.4 - Adult Sentencing Statistics in Nunavut 2013 Calendar Year



### 3.5 - Youth Sentencing Statistics in Nunavut 2013 Calendar Year





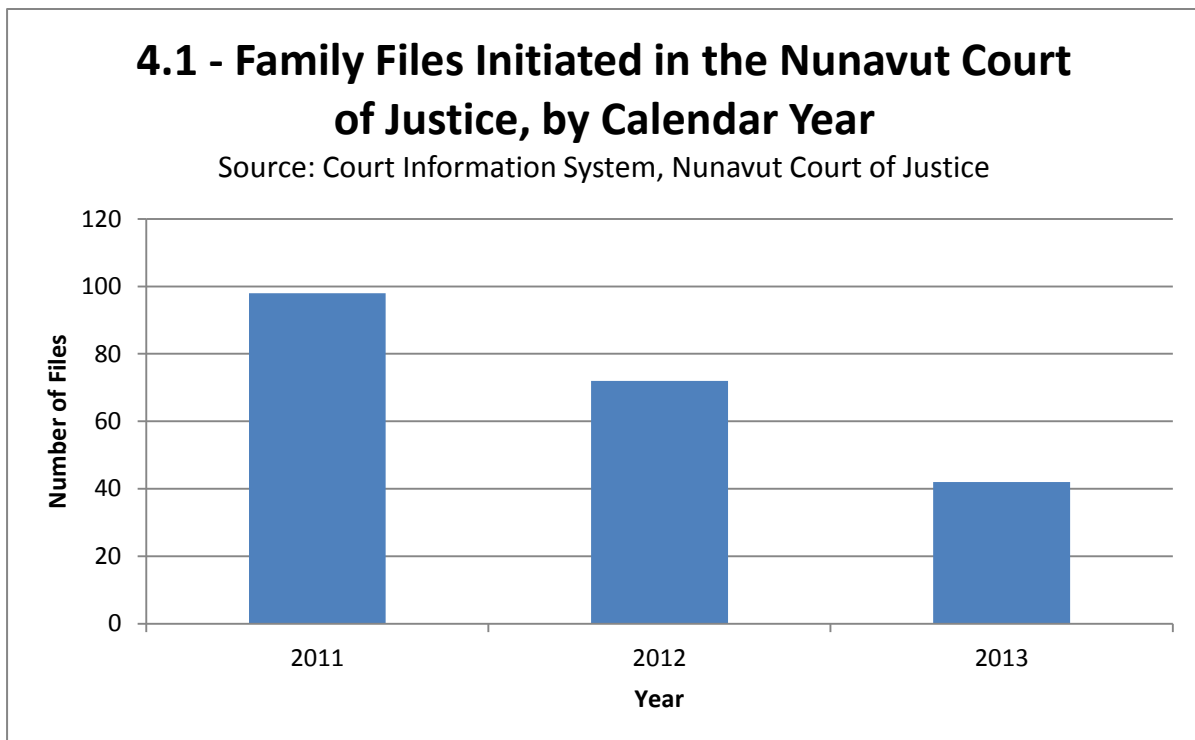
## PART 4

### 4. Family Files

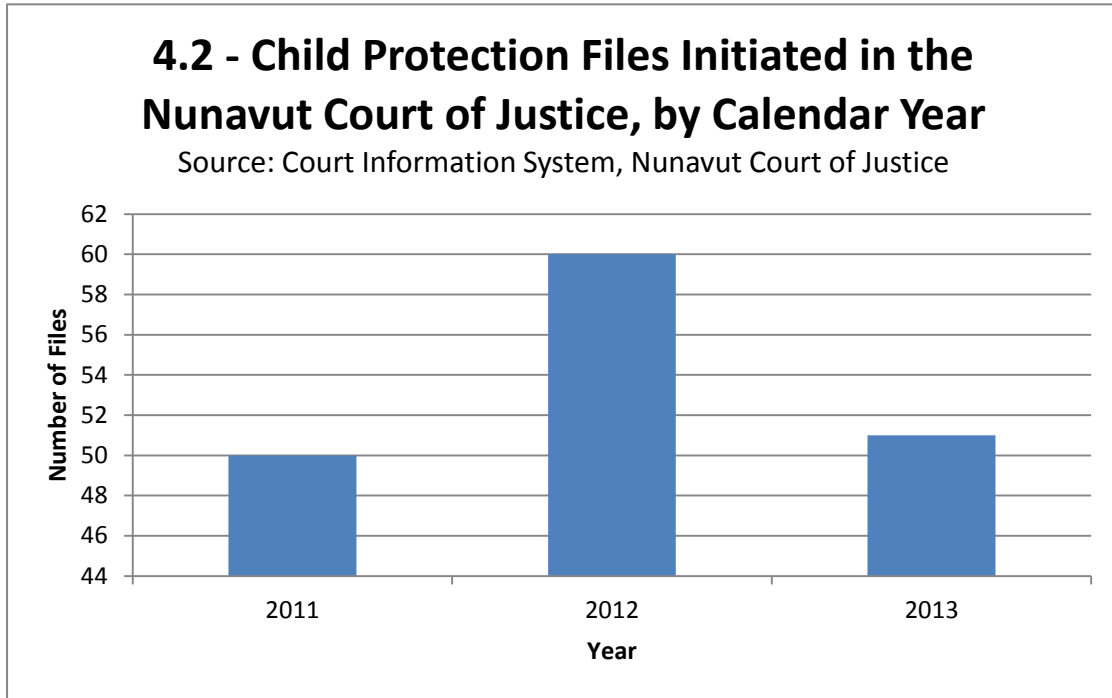
The graphs in this section represent different categories of family court files that were opened in each of the last three calendar years (2011-2013). The first graph, Graph 4.1 concerns family litigation files. This category includes all the files opened in the Nunavut Court of Justice in each year regarding: child custody and access, child and/or spousal support, division of matrimonial property, inter-jurisdictional support and maintenance enforcement. Graph 4.2 concerns child protection files. It sets out the number of child welfare cases initiated in the Nunavut Court of Justice under the *Child and Family Services Act*. Graph 4.3 deals with applications related to emergency protection orders made in the Nunavut Court of Justice under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Finally, Graph 4.4 shows the number of adoptions registered in the Nunavut Court of Justice. The Graph compares the number of custom adoptions to the number of other types of statutory adoptions for each given year.

None of the graphs in this section depict the total volume of family matters being processed by the Court in a given year. While the goal is always to resolve family files quickly, particularly where children are involved as a timely resolution is in children's best interests, it is not always possible to conclude matters within the same year the file is opened.

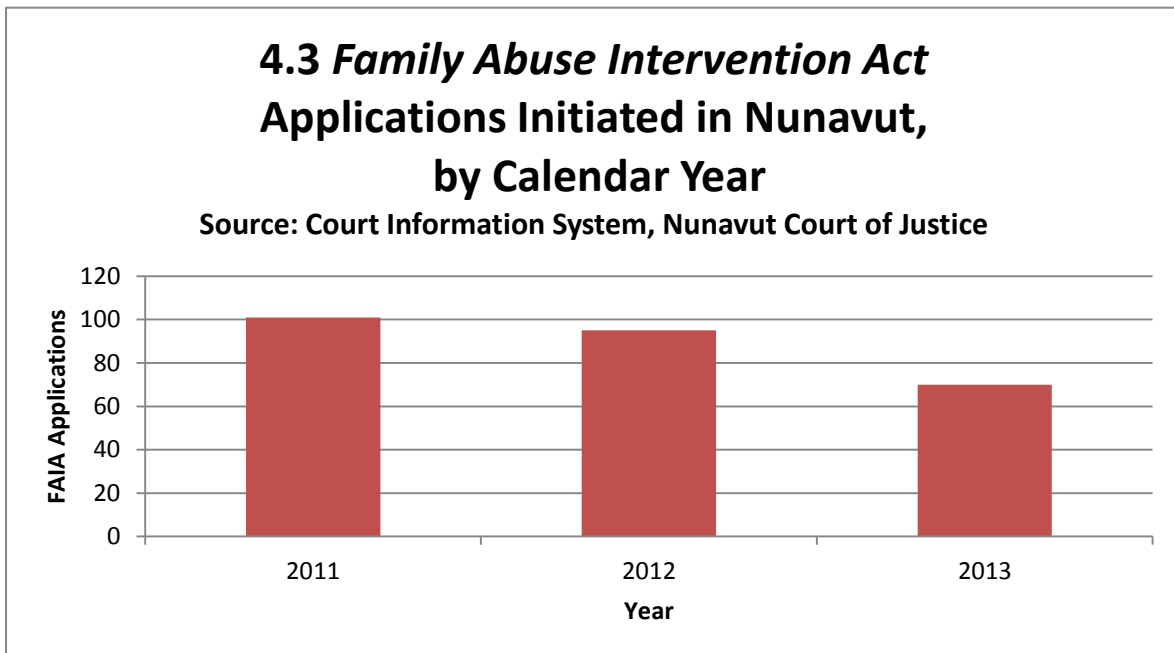
#### 4.1 – Family Files Initiated in the Nunavut Court of Justice, by Calendar Year



#### 4.2– Child Protection Files Initiated in the Nunavut Court of Justice, by Calendar Year



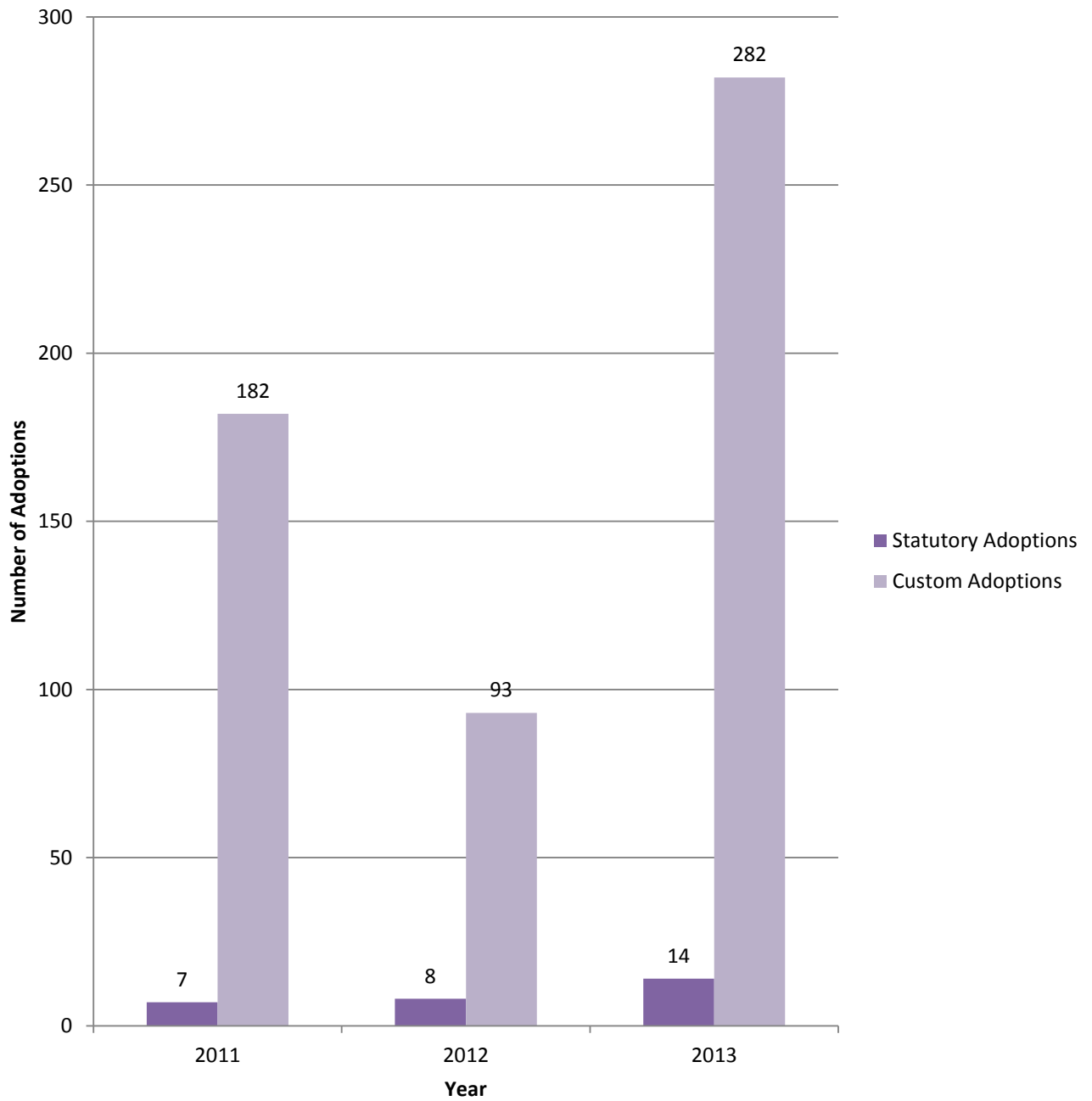
#### 4.3 – Family Abuse Intervention Act Applications Initiated in the Nunavut Court



#### 4.4 – Adoptions in Nunavut, by Calendar Year

## 4.4 Adoptions in Nunavut by Calendar Year

Source: Court Information System, Nunavut Court of Justice



## PART 5

### 5. Frequency of Court Sitzings in Nunavut, 2012-2013

The following four graphs depict the number of weeks for which the Court held various types of sittings in the year specified.

The judicial centre of Nunavut is located in Iqaluit. Nunavut is divided into three regions, Qikiqtaalug (Baffin Region) where Iqaluit is located, Kitikmeot (western Nunavut), and Kivalliq (central Nunavut). The Circuit Court travels to 24 communities throughout Nunavut. The court will visit a community anywhere from two to seven times a year depending on a number of factors, such as charge volumes in the community and size of the community. A maximum of five Court sittings can be scheduled across the Territory in a given week; a maximum of three sittings in Iqaluit (including Justice of the Peace Court) and two sittings in other communities.

Iqaluit continues to generate the highest per capita volume of charges in Nunavut (Graphs 1.3 and 5.1).

Three weeks of each month in Iqaluit are dedicated to criminal matters. In the past, one of these weeks was dedicated as the docket week. In September, 2013 a new criminal court scheduling format was introduced for Iqaluit's non-jury sitting weeks.

The first two days of each criminal week are now used to go through the court docket in the morning, with any sentencing hearings held over to the afternoon. The last three days of the week are used to schedule trials.

Nunavut Youth Justice Court, Special Criminal Chambers, Assignment Court, the Kivalliq docket, and Kitikmeot dockets were scheduled to sit once a month in Iqaluit in 2013. In 2014 the Nunavut Youth Justice Court will be scheduled to sit twice as often.

These changes were made in an effort to reduce the growing backlog of cases involving citizens held in remand and to improve case processing times.

The presence of the Baffin Correctional Center (BCC) in Iqaluit results in many cases from the Kivalliq region being processed by the Court in Iqaluit when a citizen is in custody at BCC. This has placed additional demands upon the Court's sitting time in Iqaluit.

The 2012 introduction of dedicated monthly video court (Kitikmeot docket) held in Iqaluit for Kitikmeot prisoners housed in the North Slave Correctional Center in the Northwest Territories has also increased the demand for Court sitting time in Iqaluit, but decreased the sitting time previously used for these appearances in the communities. The video court is used for procedural appearances such as appearances for the purpose of entering an election or plea. Where not guilty pleas are entered, the trial is usually booked for the Court's next appearance in the community. The video court is also used for sentencing hearings of Kitikmeot prisoners where the prosecution and defence anticipate the accused will be sentenced to additional time in custody. Where there is a public interest in a sentencing

proceeding in the community of origin, the Court retains the option of remanding the citizen to his/her home community for sentence.

The video court has substantially reduced the time necessary to process charges from this region, the time accused citizens are held in remand custody, and the public expense associated with court circuit days and transport to and from the community for these appearances. The Court is working toward implementing video court for the Kivalliq docket, and plans to have it running in 2014.

One week a month is dedicated to civil and family matters in Iqaluit. Where civil and family matters originate in communities outside of Iqaluit they are heard during the Circuit Court in that community.

French trial week/Conflict week is scheduled in Iqaluit three times a year, to hear all matters involving French-speaking citizens of Nunavut. These weeks are also used to deal with matters that create conflict for the local bar or judiciary, as a deputy judge and a visiting prosecutor come to Iqaluit for these weeks.

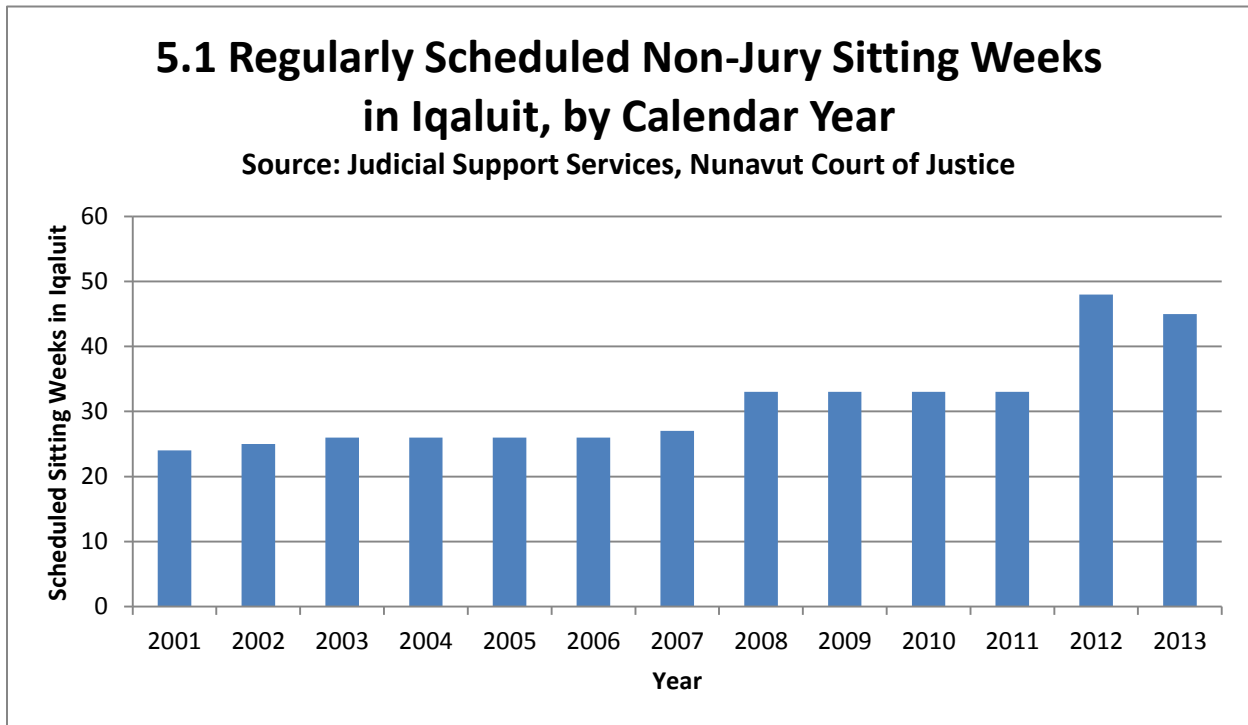
In 2013 the number of regularly scheduled non-jury sitting weeks in Iqaluit was reduced by 3 weeks. The Court reduced the scheduled sittings to accommodate the crown and defence training schedules.

In 2013 the court established a Trial Certainty Committee (see Part 7). This committee tracked information associated with all scheduled non-jury trials in Iqaluit in an effort to better understand why scheduled trials do not go ahead, and to plan for more efficient use of court time.

The following statistics were compiled from the tracking sheets created in consultation with the Trial Certainty Committee and maintained by the Nunavut Court of Justice Trial Scheduling Coordinator; as such these numbers are approximations:

- A total of 284 non-jury trials were scheduled in Iqaluit in 2013, and 67 trials proceeded as scheduled.
- 22.07% is the mean (average) percentage of hours for scheduled matters that proceeded in a given Iqaluit non-jury trial week in 2013. [Note that 13 hours per day are scheduled to account for shrinkage and ensure the Court's time is well used];
- 92 scheduled matters were adjourned, primarily due to the non-attendance of a witness, lawyer requests, and clerical errors among other reasons;
- 69 scheduled trials were resolved by way of guilty pleas;
- 55 scheduled trials did not proceed as the Crown stayed or withdrew the charges; and
- 26 scheduled matters did not proceed because the accused failed to appear in court.

## 5.1 – Regularly Scheduled Non-Jury Sitting Weeks in Iqaluit, by Calendar Year



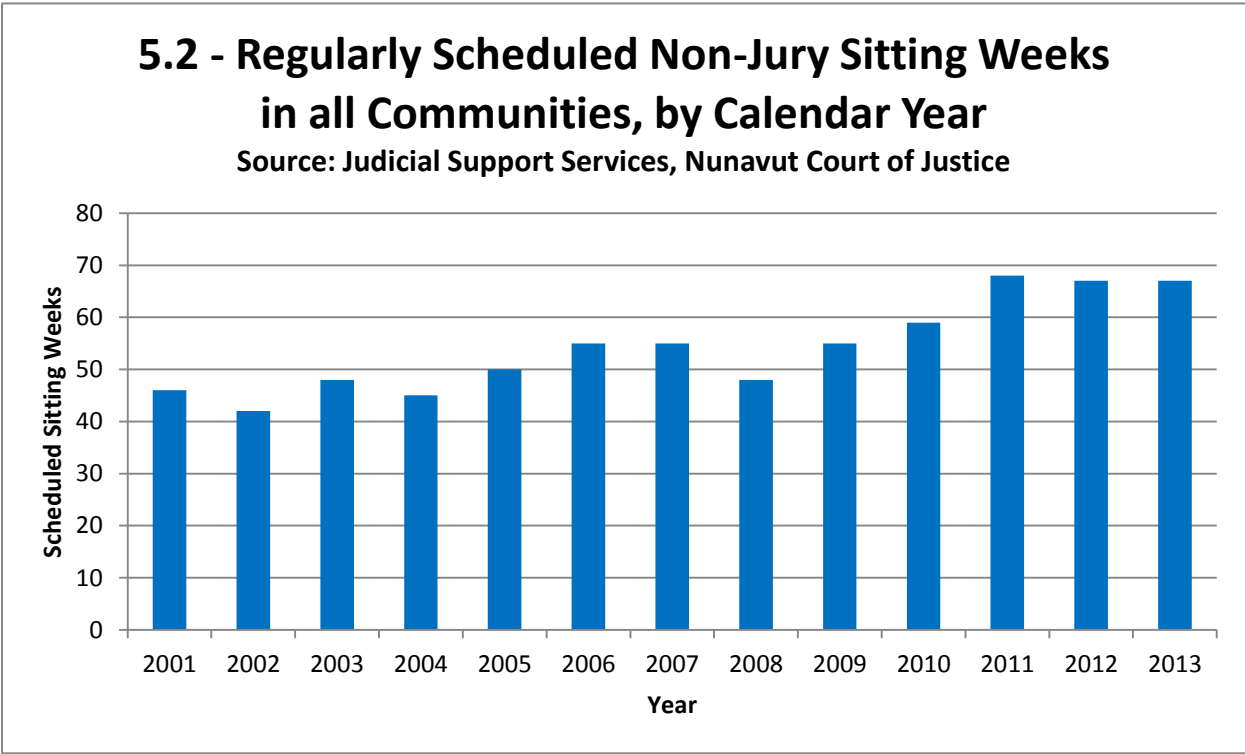
Graph 5.2 depicts the annual number of regular circuits into the communities of Nunavut over the past 13 calendar years. Graph 5.3 shows the total number of scheduled circuits (in weeks) held in each community of Nunavut in the 2013 calendar year.

The Court adjusts the frequency of its circuits into the communities annually to address the needs of individual communities. The frequency of circuits is increased or decreased to reflect changes in charge volume and/or severity. The dates for scheduled circuits are finalized a year in advance to assist other stakeholders in planning for the year ahead. The Director of Court Services and other Justice stakeholders are consulted and have input into this planning process.

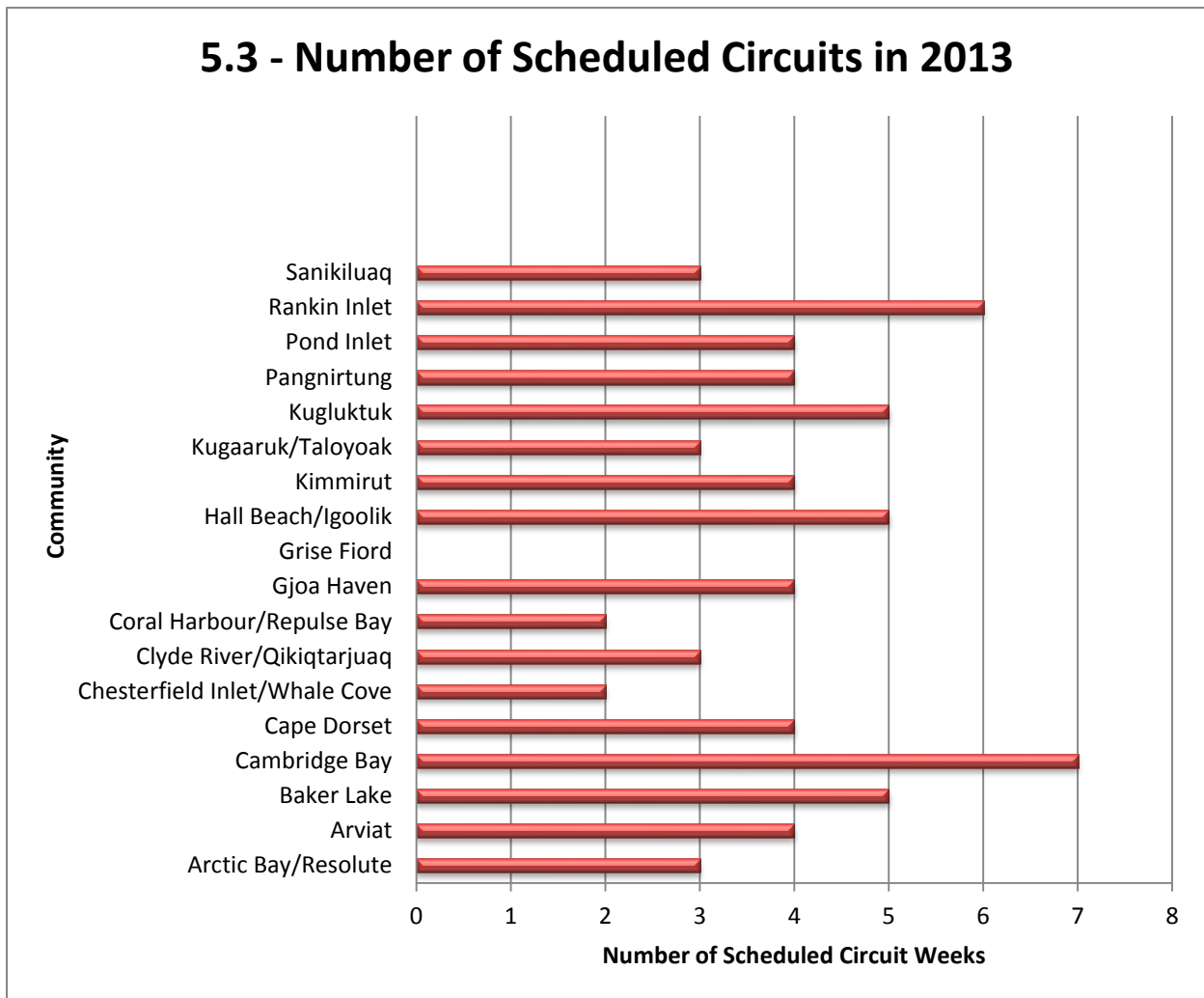
In 2013 circuits to Taloyoak, Whale Cove, and Igloolik were cancelled due to bad weather. The Court cancelled two circuits in Arctic Bay and Resolute Bay because of the small case load from those communities, while the Court added a circuit to Rankin Inlet to accommodate a larger case load in that community.

In 2014, the Court plans to reduce the number of circuits to Cambridge Bay by two and increase the circuits in Rankin Inlet by the same number. These changes are made to reflect the charge volumes in each community.

5.2 - Regularly Scheduled Non-Jury Sitting Weeks in all Communities, by Calendar Year



### 5.3 – Number of Scheduled Circuits in 2013, by Community

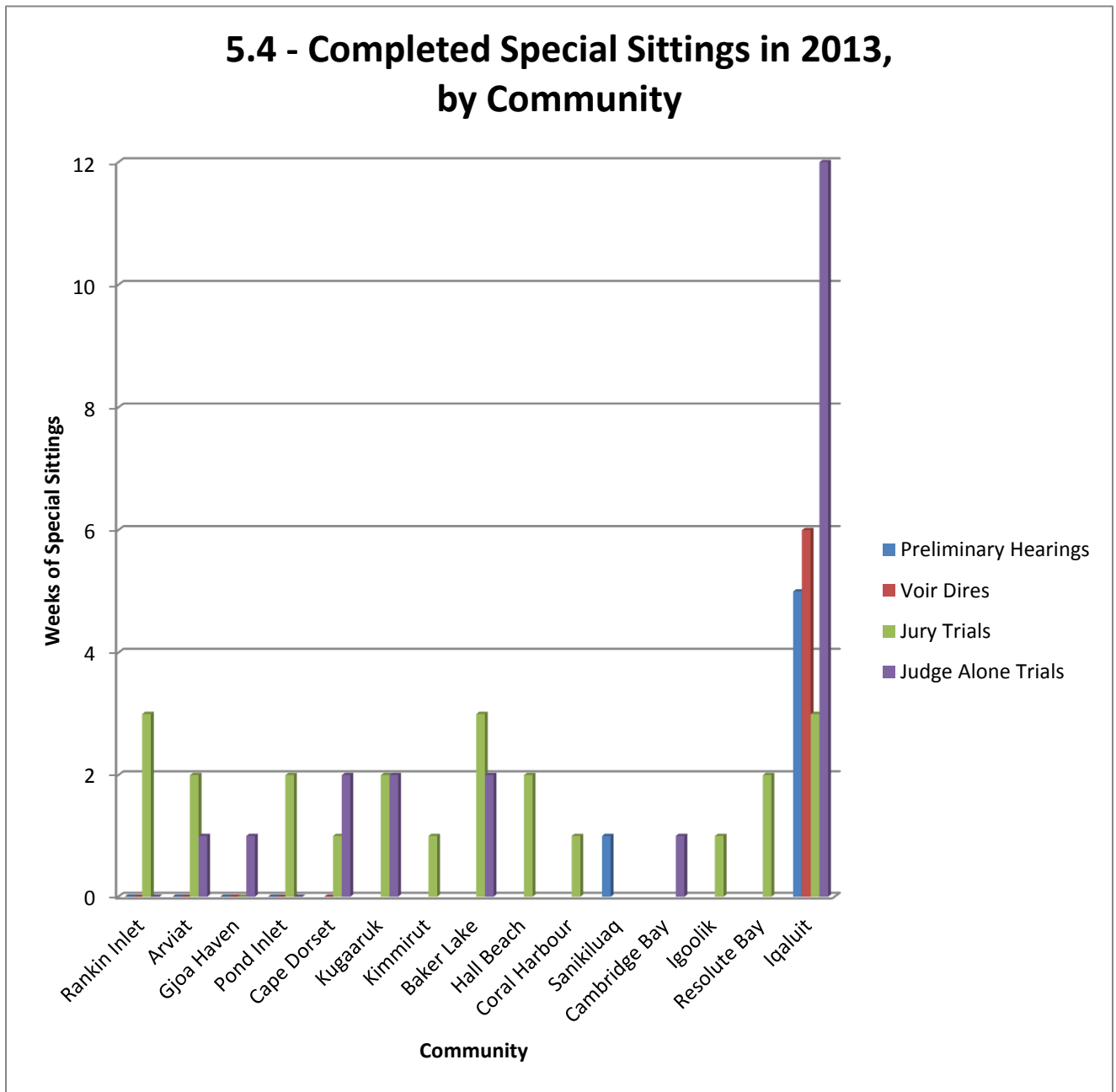


Special sittings for longer matters that will be heard in the communities are scheduled by a judge presiding in Assignment Court, which sits once a month in Iqaluit. Special sittings are necessary to accommodate the larger cases that cannot be accommodated in the regular sittings of the Court for a particular community. Lengthy preliminary hearings requiring three or more days of hearing time, such as preliminary hearings for homicides, are therefore scheduled separately. Longer judge-alone trials and trials by jury are also booked separately. Graph 5.4 reflects the total number of weeks spent on special sittings in each community in 2013.

Twenty-five jury trials were set for 2013, and nine actually proceeded to trial before a jury. The balance of these matters did not require a jury as a result of a defence re-election to trial by judge alone, a defence decision to enter a guilty plea, a Crown decision to stay proceedings, or a necessary adjournment.



5.4 – Completed Special Sittings in 2013, by Community



## PART 6

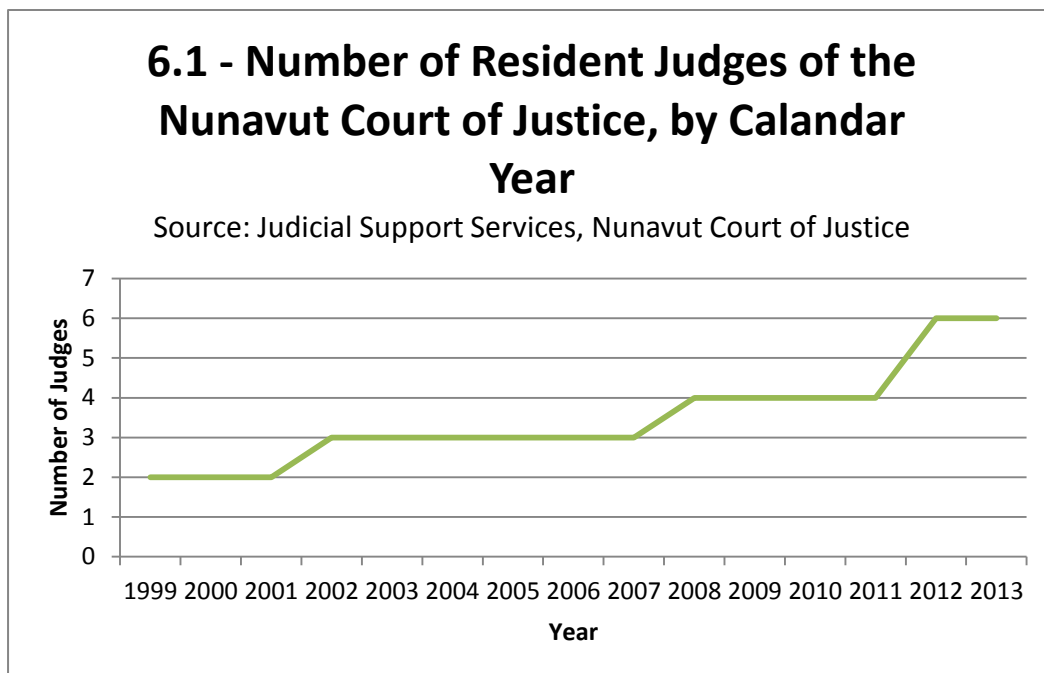
### 6. Judges of the Nunavut Court of Justice

When Nunavut was created in 1999, the Nunavut Court of Justice was assigned the jurisdictional responsibilities of both a provincial and superior court by the federal *Nunavut Act*. Nunavut's Court of Justice is the only unified court, single-level trial court, in the country.

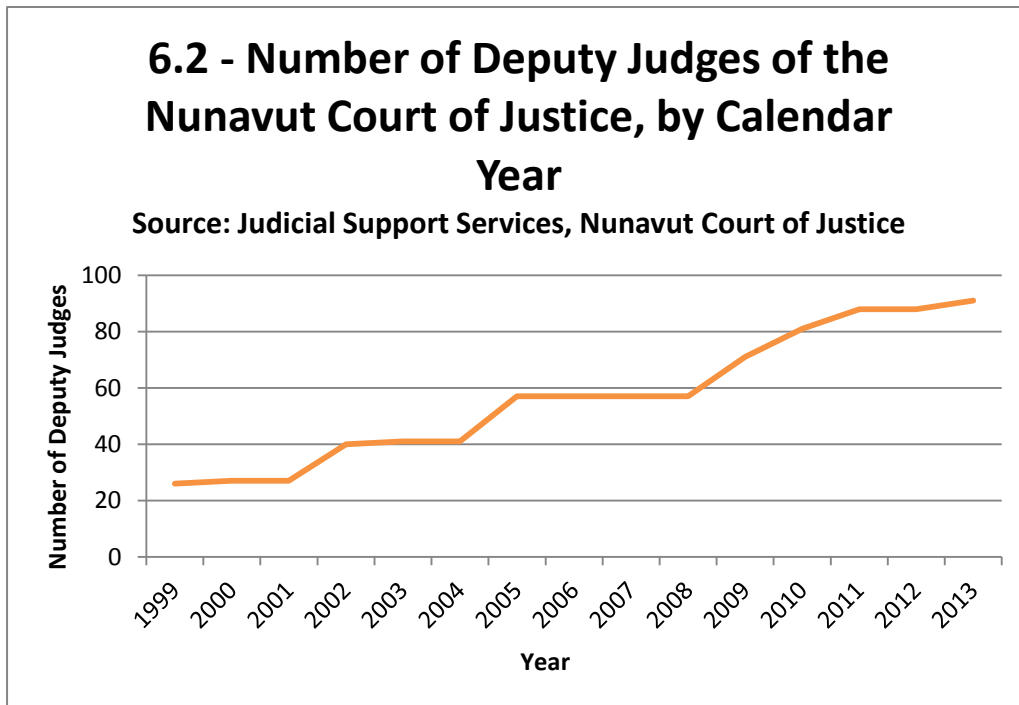
There are currently six resident judges of the Nunavut Court of Justice. Five of the resident judges travel with the Circuit Court. Ninety-one deputy judges from southern Superior Courts may be called upon to assist the Court in meeting its core responsibilities (Graph 6.1). The judges of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories Superior Court and Supreme Court of Yukon are *ex-officio* judges of the Nunavut Court of Justice.

In the 2013 calendar year 22 deputy judges assisted the Court; this number is down from 2012 when 49 deputy judges were used (Graph 6.2). The need for deputy judges has declined significantly as a result of the Nunavut Court of Justice being at full operational strength after the appointment and training of two additional resident judges in 2012, but deputy judges continue to be called upon in order to cover gaps in the Court schedule.

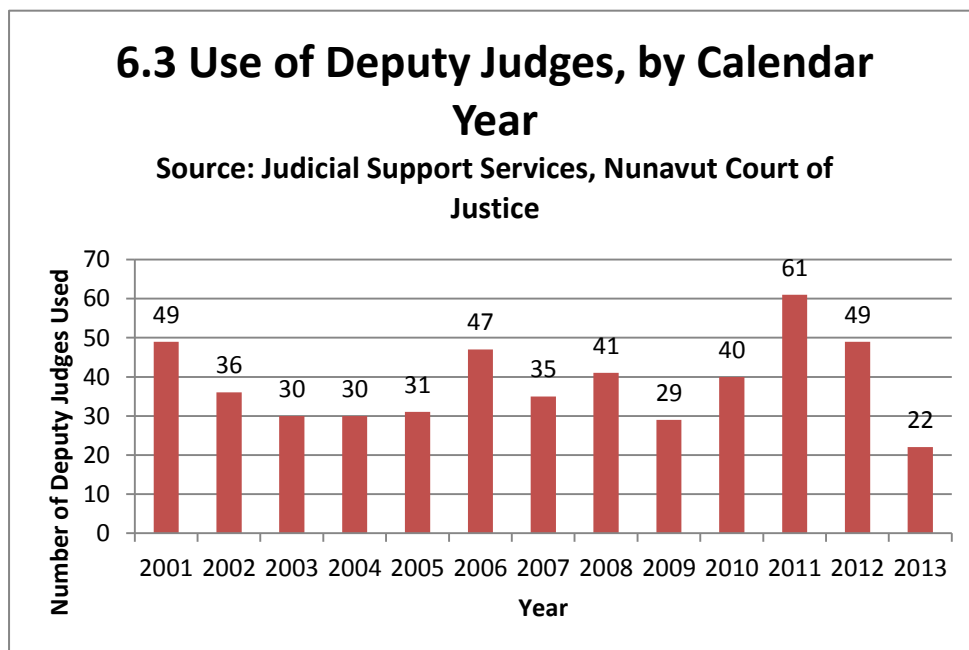
#### 6.1 – Number of Resident Judges of the Nunavut Court of Justice, by Calendar Year



## 6.2 – Number of Deputy Judges of the Nunavut Court of Justice, by Calendar Year



## 6.3 – Use of Deputy Judges, by Calendar Year



## **PART 7**

### **7. Outreach**

The Senior Judge has organized a number of committees to discuss aspects of the Court's operations with community stakeholders. Representatives from Court Services, RCMP, Law Society, Media, Corrections, Community Justice, and the Departments of Health, Social Services, and Justice all participate on the various committees. The goal of these committees is to improve access to justice for Nunavummiut.

The following committees met regularly in 2013 to develop new policies and practices for the Court designed to improve the Court's efficiency, honour the open court principle, and enhance principles of fundamental justice through bettering of the Court processes and procedures:

#### **The Court Users Committee**

The purpose of this committee is to bring a broad cross-section of Court stakeholders together to exchange information and discuss issues relating to the Court's operations. It provides a forum for networking, where stakeholders discuss concerns and problem solve to resolve issues arising with the Court's processes and procedures arising in civil, family, youth and adult criminal matters in both the Nunavut Court of Justice and the Justice of the Peace Court.

#### **The Access to Court Records Committee**

This committee was established in 2013 and met twice. The committee's feedback was instrumental in revising the Court's Access to Court Records Policy. A copy of this policy is displayed on the Court's website.

#### **Foetal Spectrum Disorder Action Committee**

The judiciary met with representatives from Health to discuss creative ways to respond to increasing concerns that arise when the Court is asked to sentence accused persons with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. A process is being created to facilitate cognitive functioning assessments for this disorder.

#### **FAIA Forms Committee**

Community Justice, the Government of Nunavut, and the RCMP worked with the judiciary to create information sheets for the public and new forms for *Family Abuse Intervention Act* Applications that will enhance procedural fairness.

## **Trial Certainty Committee**

This committee was created by the Senior Judge in an effort to improve the efficient use of court time in Iqaluit, the community in Nunavut with the largest charge volumes. The goal of the committee was to increase efficiency and trial certainty by better understanding the problems leading to trials collapsing on the scheduled trial date.

The Senior Judge sits with executives from Legal Aid and the Crowns Office on this committee.

The committee recognized that one issue affecting trial certainty is that in Iqaluit, unlike in other communities, there are no assigned teams of lawyers who follow a case from start to finish. This lack of file ownership leads to delay in processing cases. Many citizens were coming before the Court in Iqaluit for a first appearance, only to have their matter adjourned to another date because the accused had not met with a lawyer or had the opportunity to obtain and review disclosure.

To address this issue Legal Aid and Crown have agreed to assign teams of lawyers to follow files to completion. A new system has been developed for the Crown's Office to provide disclosure in sealed envelopes to Legal Aid prior to each accused person's first appearance in Court. This system is set up in conjunction with a new Legal Aid clinic system. Accused persons are now provided with information from police about the clinic, and are expected to seek legal assistance before appearing in Court. The clinics are held in advance of the three criminal court docket weeks in Iqaluit each month. The disclosure and clinic systems work together to improve processing time of criminal cases. Once an accused person arrives at Legal Aid the disclosure awaits them and the accused can begin planning for Court. Legal advice can be made available immediately.

## **Court Technology Committee**

The Committee worked toward the implementation of video court equipment in all of the Correctional Facilities in the Territory to allow procedural matters and some sentencing hearings to be conducted over video link on an expedited basis. By facilitating remote court appearances, the use of video-conferencing technology reduces case processing time and the length of time citizens are spending in remand custody. The Committee is looking to upgrade the Court audio recording equipment to meet the needs of the Court and its users.

Toward the end of 2013, the Court hired an Information Technology Specialist. In 2014, the Court plans to hire additional project managers to work with the Specialist and Court Technology Committee to develop the following programs to improve the Court's information technology needs.

These systems will greatly improve the Court efficiency and operations:

- A Court Information System (CIS) that will provide ready access to statistics through performance management tools. The CIS system will provide access to authorized stakeholders like lawyers, Corrections, and RCMP which will reduce the need for paper warrants and court orders. The CIS system will be able to provide user-friendly automated court orders for all matters before the court.
- A secure and integrated electronic filing system. The system will allow pleadings to be filed on line and stored electronically. The system will allow on-line searches by authorized users of all the filings currently before the Court.
- A secure on-line means for paying Court fees and fines.
- An electronic archive to store and back up all archived files.
- A multi-line recording system for use by the Justice of the Peace Court that will replace the Panda system currently used by that Court to record show cause hearings.
- The sound system in the Iqaluit Court House will be upgraded.
- The Court's video conferencing capabilities will be expanded into all three courtrooms in Iqaluit, and the Court's bandwidth will be upgraded to support two video courts running simultaneously.
- A portable video conferencing unit will be purchased and tested for use on Court Circuits where bandwidth and hard wiring are available to support the use of such a unit.
- A portable digital recording system will be purchased and tested for use on Court Circuits to ensure all Court proceedings are properly recorded.
- A universal electronic transcript system will be developed, as well as an electronic universal format and standards guide.
- Software that allows digital marking of audio and video taped statements used in the courtroom will be purchased and tested.
- A system to manage and track the maintenance and replacement needs of all critical information technology hardware used by the Court, such as laptops taken on Circuit Court will be developed.
- A user friendly template that can be accessed on the Court's website by members of the public and the bar for all court-filing purposes will be developed and implemented.

- A secure email network for the Justices of the Peace will be developed to enable secure communication between Justices of the Peace across the Territory.
- The IT Specialist will be responsible for producing an Annual Report to the Judiciary setting out the Court's compliance with the Canadian Judicial Council's *Blueprint for the Security of Judicial Information and Court Information Policy Framework to Accommodate the Digital Environment*<sup>3</sup>.

### **Nunavut Youth Justice Court Processing Times Action Committee**

In 2014, the Senior Judge plans to establish a committee to work to shorten the processing times from first to last appearance for youth charged with criminal offences that come before the Court. The Senior Judge will chair this committee, which will be made up of Directors from the Public Prosecution Service, Legal Aid, and Department of Corrections.

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<sup>3</sup> Documents online: <http://www.cjc-ccm.gc.ca/>.