

Your Visit to our Vancouver – 222 Main Street Courthouse Location

You are making an inquiry to visit our location at 222 Main Street. During your visit, you will be able to spend time in the Provincial Court. Most of the court cases in British Columbia are heard in Provincial Court, including all civil lawsuits for claims less than \$25,000 (“Small Claims”), about 50% of all family law cases, most traffic & bylaw matters, most criminal cases, and most cases involving young offenders. About 150 Provincial Court judges work in more than 80 locations throughout the province and hear in excess of 225,000 cases per year.

Cases heard in the Provincial Court fall into five main categories: Criminal; Youth Court; Small Claims; Family and Traffic and Bylaw. At the 222 Main Street location, the only cases that are heard are Criminal and they are adult criminal cases. The other types of matters are not heard here. Cases from Burnaby and Vancouver originate here.

At Vancouver Provincial Court, students will have the opportunity to observe: bail hearings (CR 101), sentencings in the disposition court (CR 102), sentencing hearings, trials (3rd and 5th floors), guilty pleas, preliminary inquiries, arraignment hearings, and trials in the Summary Proceedings Court. (CR 510).

The DTCV (Drug Treatment Court Vancouver) is part of the courthouse here at 222 Main Street (it is located on the 3rd floor, Courtroom 303), and it sits on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also, we are located very near to the DCC (Downtown Community Court) at 211 Gore Street.

Because of the nature of the matters heard there, 222 Main Street has a full time dedicated search gate and all people entering the building will be searched. **Therefore, on booked field trips to the Main Street courthouse, it is always best to not bring big bags or knapsacks.**

In the event of **an emergency evacuation**, follow the directions of the Sheriffs. Students will meet outside of 222 Main Street on the corner of Alexander and Main. There will be an alarm or notification for everyone to leave immediately and this is the designated meeting spot for students, teachers and our Program Coordinator.

For more information about the courts, please visit: <http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/>

You may also find the following link to the problem solving courts of interest:

<http://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/about-the-court/court-innovation/problem-solving-courts>

Below are some notes to keep in mind before making your inquiry. Please take the time to fully read the points below:

Bookings:

- Your booking is **not confirmed** until you hear from our coordinator. During busy seasons, we might ask you to reschedule, so please try not to solidify your plans before hearing back from us.
- We try to respond to inquiries as soon as possible, but please allow up to two business days for your inquiry to be confirmed by reply email.
- When making your booking, please include a contact email address that you regularly check, in the event that we need to follow up with you regarding your visit.
- Cancellations of bookings should be made at least one week in advance of the date, to allow us to provide proper notification to the speakers who have generously volunteered their time.

Speaker Sessions:

- Please be aware that any request for speakers cannot be guaranteed, as this request would be subject to the speakers' availability and could be cancelled with little or no notice.
- During busy school seasons, we can accommodate up to two speakers per group.
- It is recommended that **LINC or ELL** groups only book an **Orientation and Courtwatching** for their 1st visit to the court and choose speaker sessions only if they have advanced students or if it is part of a multiple-day visit. Speaker Sessions are meant as a Q&A between the students and the professionals and will not be appropriate for beginner or intermediate learners.
- If you have requested a speaker (judge, sherriff or lawyer), please come with questions prepared for the speaker. A list of potential questions for judges is provided as a separate document. The questions can be prepared ahead of time and written on a small sheet of paper or card.

Courthouse Protocol:

- Please review the separate document on Courthouse Protocol with your students to ensure that you will be in compliance with all rules of the court.

Thank you and we look forward to your visit!